The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

WEDNESDAY, 04 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

OpenAI exec calls skipping chatbot health advice 'malpractice'; five weeks later a user who took it is dead

BY MITCH
Investigations

Start with the quote, because the plaintiffs will. On September 29, at the Make America Healthy Again Summit in Washington, Felipe Millon, who runs OpenAI's Government Go-to-Market division, told the room that it ought to be considered "medical malpractice" to skip consulting a chatbot for health advice. A company that sells the product does not usually get to set the standard of care for using it, but there it is, on the record, from the executive whose job is selling it to governments.

The outlet's report carries the illness, the chatbot's schedule, and the death; it does not give a dated timeline connecting them, and neither will this column. What it gives is enough.

On November 1, the Guardian reported that the woman's parents — she is named in court filings as Bowen Wan — had sued OpenAI. The suit says the chatbot provided a tapering schedule meant to reduce her anti-seizure medication. That is the complaint's own description of the product doing, allegedly, exactly the thing its executive had called malpractice to avoid skipping. All together now — read the two documents side by side, the September

… Continued on Page H15



INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

The house costs $15.5 million a year to run and $600 million this year to add a room; Congress voted on the first number.

… Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

CVS keeps the insurer and the benefit manager, spins off 9,000 pharmacies; you keep the 13 percent

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will have been told this is a retreat. It is not. CVS Health spent a decade gathering the insurer, the benefit manager and nine thousand pharmacies, and on Wednesday it announced the pharmacies go out as CVS Pharmacy. Note what stays. Aetna stays. Caremark stays. The hundred and seventeen billion keeps the half that writes your premium and the half that prices your drug; the shops with the queue in them go. A divestiture is not a defeat — divestiture, mind you — it is the holder deciding the pieces are worth more apart. And the hour? KFF, on 31 October: the average premium on Healthcare.gov up thirteen percent for 2027, after twenty-six the year before. An analyst's count on 9 October: up to twelve million Americans without coverage since the start of the second term … and nobody divests a lapsed policy. The split is the decade finishing. You keep the thirteen percent.

… Continued on Page F134

Texas and Missouri redraw maps to dodge voters, voters redraw them back; Georgia's governor takes the hint.

BY MORT
The Roccesis Bureau

Here lies a strategy, born in the Texas and Missouri legislatures sometime in 2025, dead at the count on Tuesday.

Missouri's trouble started in court, not at the ballot box. The legislature drew a congressional map in 2021, then drew a second one in 2025 reaching for the same result, and on September 25 the U.S. Supreme Court's own conservative majority let a lower ruling against that second map stand — the third time the courts had struck it down. Lawmakers then asked voters directly: Proposition A would have let the legislature pass yet another set of lines. Voters said no Tuesday, the fourth rejection, the first one by ballot instead of bench.

Texas tried the quieter version — new lines meant to hold seats the party already had. One of those seats held the opposite answer. Voters sent a Democrat to the 9th district, the one redrawn specifically to keep it Republican. By October 5 the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee had already added six more races to its target list under the new maps, and by October 26 the Washington Examiner was putting seven more set

… Continued on Page B12

The clause Justice drafted only for a Republican's narrow loss now describes Tuesday's results exactly.

BY MORT
The Roccesis Bureau

The clause died of relevance this week, or started living, depending on how a count goes.

It was born of language lawyers write to cover an outcome they do not expect to need: a Justice Department lawsuit that would move to block Alaska's certification only if Sen. Dan Sullivan, the Republican, came up short by a narrow margin. The order to file it came from the president on 23 October. The filing itself followed, undated in the record that reaches this desk, written for a margin not yet drawn.

The week around it filled in fast. On 27 October the Senate was already bracing for a floor fight over whether to seat Mary Peltola, the Democrat, should she win. On 29 October Alaska's governor, Mike Dunleavy, ordered his state police to investigate her campaign over a second candidate also named Dan Sullivan, a Democratic recruit Republicans called a decoy. The next day Peltola said she knew nothing about it, and The Hill asked whether Senate Majority Leader John Thune would seat her anyway. By 1 November, Sen. Tim Scott, asked point-blank whether he would accept the results if

… Continued on Page B12

Record $442 million in campaign cash fails to save Texas Republicans; Montana bans it the same day.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The filing cabinet doesn't editorialize. It just adds. On October 7, independent trackers added up every billionaire family's midterm giving and got $1.7 billion from 172 households, a total with no name yet attached to the top of it.

The ledger kept running. By October 23, filings put his total past $442 million, after another $76.8 million landed in his super PAC in a single month. By October 31, the Guardian had converted the number into units a reader could feel: $446 million buys half a dozen SpaceX rocket launches, or 31.9 million cheeseburgers at the Tesla Diner, priced to the cent. The precision is the point; nobody rounds a number that size unless they are proud of it.

On Tuesday, the invoice came due. Democrats took both chambers of Congress, and took them running, competitive races, long-shot races, and the pivotal Texas seats Musk had specifically funded to clear a path for his own confirmation. By Wednesday morning he had posted a joke about his own election-interfering space lasers not working. Markets opened with SpaceX and Tesla stock both down, and some of the Democrats he had just lost to were already naming him as a subject for next year's oversight

… Continued on Page F134

Iran sides with Vance over Trump on why Republicans lost the midterms

BY LOU
One More Question

Let me just lay the dates out, in order, and we'll see what we see.

The Guardian had it from Qatari mediators.

November 1st. The Hill catches Vice President Vance in Weatherton, Texas, what the paper calls "testing a 2028 campaign message, as the President keeps up almost daily midterm rallies.

November 3rd. The votes get counted.

November 4th. The Daily Caller runs the same five words under a headline calling it the Vice President carving his own path.

November 4th. CBS News reports the President now acknowledges the war's role in his party's defeat, and says he would have done it anyway.

November 4th. The Hill again — Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the speaker of Iran's Parliament, on the record: "Conscience or the cost of living, Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message."

That's the order. I don't have anything to add to the order. I just have the order.

I've got a glovebox in my car — the one with the fan belt that complains on

… Continued on Page A228

Johnson vowed to stay on 'heaven forbid' Republicans lost; they lost both chambers; he bowed out by morning.

BY LOU
One More Question

October 12th. House Speaker Mike Johnson tells CBS News he plans to remain the Republican leader in the House even if the GOP loses the majority. Asked point-blank whether that could happen, he says: "heaven forbid." CBS runs the interview twice that day under two different headlines, and the Washington Examiner, same day, has him saying he expects his colleagues would ask him to keep leading the conference. October 29th. The Hill reports Johnson's hints have rattled the party's leadership outlook and raised fresh questions about the GOP's future. November 4th. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise will run for minority leader, The Hill reports, citing a source familiar with his plans. House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan announces, in his own words, that he's running for the same job. Johnson tells his own staff – not the cameras, his staff — that he won't run for minority leader at all. The same day, Johnson tells reporters Republicans will retake the House in 2028 and "finish the job."

I laid those out flat because that's how they came in, one behind the other, and I didn't want to get in the way yet. But I kept turning them over, and

… Continued on Page A228

Susan Collins declares independence from Trump four weeks before Maine declares it from her.

BY MORT
The Roccesis Bureau

Susan Collins' Senate seat died Tuesday, three decades old, after a long battle with timing.

It is survived by a line delivered in a Tuesday debate on October 7. Troy Jackson, the Democrat who would go on to unseat her, told Collins she was "like an arsonist who helped set the fire, and then she wants credit for bringing a cup of water to put it out" — this about the $50 billion relief fund she had touted for a healthcare crisis Jackson said she'd paved the way for. The line survives her. It will be read aloud at debates she is no longer invited to.

Between those two facts sat a third. On September 22, ProPublica published a story Common Dreams described as uncovering a "sprawling pay-to-play operation" centered on Collins; Jackson responded by saying she "delivered millions in taxpayer dollars for a corrupt donor bankrolling her campaign" and called it "corruption of the highest order." Three weeks after that, on October 14, Jackson stood in Biddeford and noted that Collins had voted to funnel tens of millions of dollars to ICE a little over a month before one of its officers killed 25-year-old Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero on that town's

… Continued on Page B12

"Read the page to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen."

— *Sal*

"Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet."

— *Chip*

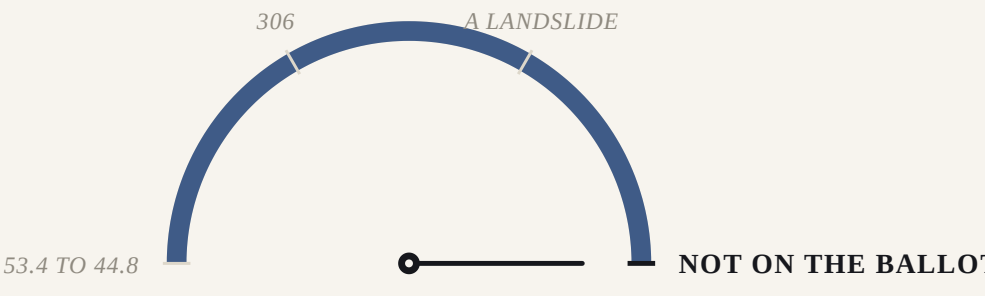
At first light the dog got up.
The fox heard the chain fall.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

On Loser

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



NOT ON THE BALLOT

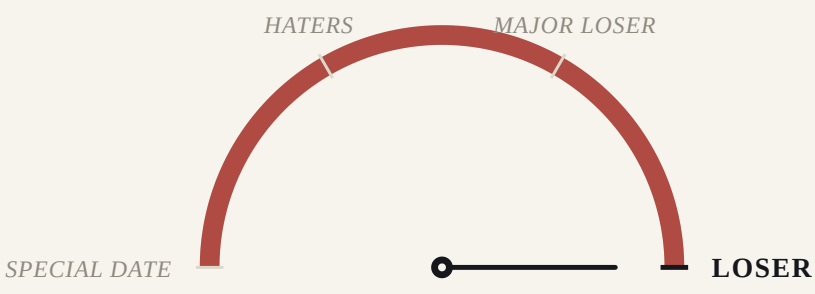
Now the other column. In 2018, his first midterm, the House vote went 53.4 to 44.8 against his party, and the House went with it [1]. In 2020 he finished on 232 electoral votes to Joe Biden's 306, a total he had called a landslide when he won by the same amount in 2016 [2].

And a year ago today, on the night of November 4, 2025, with the returns going against his party, he posted the explanation himself: "TRUMP WASN'T ON THE BALLOT, AND SHUTDOWN, WERE THE TWO REASONS THAT REPUBLICANS LOST ELECTIONS TONIGHT" [3]. He attributed it to pollsters. He was not on Tuesday's ballot either. The explanation is a year old and still in the drawer, and this morning's count is on the front page, held against what he did in every race in 2024. He picked the word. He picked it on September 11.

SOURCES

1. 2018 House vote: Democrats 53.4 percent, Republicans 44.8 percent, and Democrats took the majority — Wikipedia, citing the Clerk of the House ↑
2. Biden set to finish with 306 electoral votes, "a total Trump called a landslide when he won by the same amount in 2016" — Associated Press via Fox 13 ↑
3. Truth Social post of 4 November 2025, attributed by Trump to "Pollsters" — Gray News/AP ↑

REPUBLICAN



LOSER

Give the word its due: it is a whole theory of politics in two syllables. The country divides into people who win and people who do not, and he says which. On the morning of September 11, 2013, he wrote: "I would like to extend my best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th." It stayed up two years, until he led the Republican field, then vanished [1]. By September 2016 one count had 43 of these greetings [2]. In April 2025 the chair of the Federal Reserve became a "major loser," and the Dow fell 971.82 points [3].

In October 2023 his former chief of staff, the retired general John Kelly, said in a statement that Trump "rants that our most precious heroes who gave their lives in America's defense are 'losers' and wouldn't visit their graves in France"; his campaign called the stories debunked and made up [4]. That is the arrangement. The word works for as long as the man holding it stays off the list.

SOURCES

1. "I would like to extend my best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th"; the original tweet of 11 September 2013 vanished in 2015 with Trump leading the Republican field — CBS News ↑
2. 43 tweets addressed to "haters and losers" counted by 9 September 2016 — Bustle ↑
3. Dow down 971.82 points, 2.48 percent, after Trump called Powell a "major loser" — CNBC, 21 April 2025 ↑
4. John Kelly's statement of October 2023, confirming comments The Atlantic reported in 2020, and the Trump campaign's reply — NBC News ↑

“I looked up the word. I've got a tweet from September 11th, a Fed chair, and a statement from a retired general about graves in France. Forty-three tweets by 2016 alone, and I'm sure I missed some, I'm slow. Sorry, one thing before you go. A year ago today he said Republicans lost because he wasn't on the ballot. So when he's off the ballot, they lose, and that's his explanation. I keep reading that one. He wasn't on this one either.” — Lou

“Loser. That's the whole vocabulary. Two columns, winners and losers, and one guy holding the pencil. And you know what I noticed? The pencil doesn't write his name. He gets 232 electoral votes, that's not a loss, that's a theft. His party takes a beating a year ago today, that's because he wasn't on the ballot. He wasn't on the ballot Tuesday either. Funny how that works. Go look at the front page, then tell me who taught you that word.”

— Sal

“The president uses "loser" as a term of art, in the competitive sense, and I'd caution against reading it as a comment on anyone in particular, including anyone who may or may not appear in this morning's numbers, which are preliminary, and which he was not on.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎