*The Single-Column Edition*

# FROM EACH

◊ THURSDAY, 05 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

## *El Sayed Wins Mandate on Palestine, Says Trump 'Can Read the Tea Leaves' Next Day*

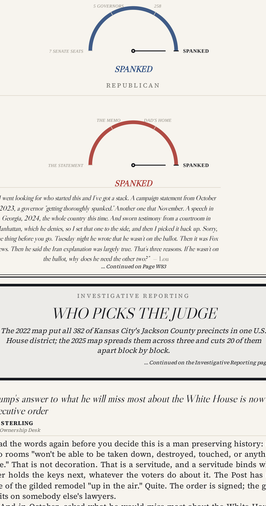
**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

My buddy Marcus loads trucks for a moving outfit on weekends, cash job, and I rode along with him in October because my own truck — the one with the fan belt that's been promising to go any day now — was in no shape to help anybody move a couch. Marcus has a rule: whatever you load first goes against the cab wall, and whatever you load last is standing right at the door when you open it up at the other end. So the couch goes in first, way up front, because nobody needs the couch until the house is set up. The TV goes in last, right by the door, because that's the first thing everybody wants plugged in. Here's the thing about a truck packed that way — you can open the door and swear the whole load is a television. It isn't. The couch is still in there. It's just four hours further back.

I bring this up because I've been trying to find a clipping about a Senate race in Michigan, and I can't put my hand on it, but I wrote some of it down. Let's see here.

A day short of four weeks before anybody in Michigan cast a ballot, the Washington Examiner was writing that October 7th and Israel were going to

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*"I went looking for who started this and I've got a stack. A campaign statement from October 2023, a governor 'getting thoroughly spanked.' Another one that November. A speech in Georgia, 2024, the whole country this time. And seven summers from a courtroom in Manhattan, which he denies, so I set that one to the side, and then I picked it back up. Sorry, one thing before you go. Tuesday night he wrote that he wasn't on the ballot. Then it was Fox News. Then he said the Iran explanation was largely true. That's three reasons. If he wasn't on the ballot, why does he need the other two?" — Lou*

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

## *WHO PICKS THE JUDGE*

*The 2022 map put all 383 of Kansas City's Jackson County precincts in one U.S. House district; the 2025 map spreads them across three and cuts 20 of them apart block by block.*

*... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page*

## *Trump's answer to what he will miss most about the White House is now an executive order*

**BY STERLING**
*The Ownership Desk*

Read the words again before you decide this is a man preserving history: the two rooms "won't be able to be taken down, destroyed, touched, or anything else." That is not decoration. That is a servitude, and a servitude binds whoever holds the keys next, whatever the voters do about it. The Post has the fate of the gilded remodel "up in the air." Quite. The order is signed; the gold waits on somebody else's lawyers.

And in October, asked what he would miss most about the White House, he talked about the office. Not the country. The office.

There is a figure for a chair. McMahon's office told Congress the secretary's furniture is worn out and "cannot be configurationally or aesthetically integrated"; roughly $43,000 is budgeted. Forty-three thousand ... for furniture, because the old furniture cannot be integrated. She had said the relocation would save taxpayers $4.8m a year. She is seeking to shutter the department.

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## *Data-center backers warned voters they'd end up poor, then their own stocks lost $2 trillion by Thursday.*

**BY RUTH**
*The Money Desk*

On September 1, the president told data-center opponents they would end up backwards and poor. On September 2, his commerce secretary called the public's worry about the industry's electricity and water bills "propaganda," and left no number in the record to counter it. Seventeen days later, on October 22, the Nasdaq composite had already fallen 2.6 percent in a single session, and the correction the sector would flirt with was already filed in the tape, before a single ballot that week was cast.

On Tuesday, voters in at least 38 jurisdictions passed bans or restrictions on data centers anyway. By Thursday, the Nasdaq composite had fallen 5.5 percent, its worst day in 18 months, erasing its entire post-midterm rally and landing the index more than 10 percent below its recent record high — correction territory, the state the sector first touched two weeks earlier. The S&P 500's decline was its worst since the April 2025 tariff announcement, and the correction that began October 22 did not pause for the vote — it widened on contact with it.

What moved the market that day wasn't the ballots — it was the filing. The

*... Continued on Page F118*

## *Hegseth declares his impeachment dead on arrival, days after Democrats won the House majority that could revive it.*

**BY THE SMOCKING CREW**
*The Kennedy Desk*

The chief opened the job sheet and said what she says whenever someone claims there is no fix on hand: the wrench is already in the box. On September 2, Senator Thom Tillis, Republican of North Carolina, went to the cameras and told the president to fire Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over what he called inept management of the military. A senator has a hearing room and a microphone; the Secretary serves at the president's pleasure, not the Senate's.

Representative Thomas Massie carries a different tool. On September 15, he filed eight articles of impeachment against Hegseth, citing a war on Iran that Congress never authorized and a run of boat strikes abroad that international law experts have called unlawful. The assembly was sound: built on the floor, filed in the record, ready for a majority to pick up. By September 23, The Hill called the standoff a dilemma — vote before the midterms, or let the question outlive the current House. Nobody picked it up.

Hegseth answered the senator's question on October 29 by firing somebody, just not himself. Lieutenant General Brett Sylvia, the Joint Staff's top

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## *Blakeman calls Stefanik 'do-nothing' weeks after not doing the one thing he owes: refunding $360,000 to donors.*

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

I want to start with something that has nothing to do with any of this, except that it does, so bear with me.

My brother-in-law moved apartments on Saturday, and I went to help, which mostly meant standing in the driveway while two professionals loaded a truck. Halfway through, the dresser they'd set in first started sliding when the mattress went in on top of it at an angle. Nothing fell. But I watched the two of them stand there a good two minutes arguing about whose fault it would have been. The one on the ramp said the other one should have strapped the dresser down before the mattress went in. The other one said the ramp guy set the dresser too close to the wall to strap it. Neither one of them looked at the truck. Neither one of them asked whether six rooms of furniture was ever going to fit on a sixteen-foot truck in the first place. That wasn't the argument they wanted to have.

I bring it up because I spent Wednesday night with a stack of clippings — on the porch, not the kitchen table, my wife wanted the table back — trying to understand how a party that just lost the way this one lost spends its first

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## *Supreme Court needs twelve days to weigh a student ID, Trump's own midterm request just hours*

**BY MITCH**
*Investigations*

The docket does not editorialize; it just sits there, dated, so we count.

Entry two, September 25th: six to three, the justices lifted a lower court's hold on the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database, clearing Homeland Security to keep screening state voter rolls for citizenship while the underlying case runs its course on appeal. The database was built to check benefit eligibility; Common Dreams reports it is known for flagging naturalized citizens. The screening continues, unexamined again.

Entry three, September 5th, filed and still sitting: Missouri asked Justice Kavanaugh to overturn its own state supreme court's block on a new congressional map. The docket does not yet show a ruling.

Entry four, October 23rd: the Court sided with the Republican National Committee and told New Hampshire it could bar student identification cards at the polls. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented alone, writing that when an election is looming, she would not disturb the status quo for voters already registered. The majority disagreed. Twelve days, counting to Election Day, was ruled time enough for county clerks to stop accepting an ID they

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## *Examiner thanks Stevens for the betrayal her own party is still condemning.*

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

I want to tell you about the toll plaza on 94 first, because I sat in the cash line behind a fellow long enough Tuesday to work something out, and it turns out to be the whole story. Two lanes, side by side, same bridge. The car in the transponder lane crossed for two-fifty. The car in the cash lane — same bridge, same minute, close as I could tell — paid four dollars. Nobody's lying about either number. Both of them are right. It's just a question of which lane you were standing in when the gate counted you.

I bring that up because I've got a page here on Representative Haley Stevens of Michigan, and I keep coming back to the two lanes. On Sunday, November 1st, she endorsed Mike Rogers, the Republican running for the Senate seat her own party had already decided to give to Abdul El-Sayed. The Hill had that one the same day: "Haley Stevens endorses GOP's Mike Rogers in Michigan as Democrats fume." Same Sunday, the Republican National Committee put out a line — I wrote it down — "Michigan should take notice." Same Sunday, her chief of staff resigned. The Examiner carried that.

And late that same Sunday night — not a week later, the same night — she

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## *Musk's $450 million bet on Republicans pays out a $400 million loss and dozens of lost races.*

**BY THE LODGERS**
*The Euro Desk*

Today we are making the costliest loss in American politics, which is not a dish you reorder in the same week, so I shall go slowly. You will need the twenty biggest political donors in the country, one of them putting in nearly four hundred and fifty million dollars alone, a slate of Republican candidates he backed, and a Tuesday to lose it on.

Begin on the thirty-first of October, when the Guardian priced him at four hundred and forty-six million dollars — half a dozen SpaceX rocket launches, or, at the Tesla Diner in Los Angeles, thirty-one point nine million cheeseburgers.

**GARY** *Cheeseburgers. I have been measured against a sandwich before, by this house, and I did not come out ahead either.*

By the second of November the figure had company. The top twenty donors in the country had put in two billion dollars between them, and Musk, at nearly four hundred and fifty million of it, was the single largest funder of the midterms, by a wide margin over anyone else.

**ROS** *Largest funder by a wide margin. We've had a landlord like that. Wide*

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

*— Sal*

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

*— Chip*

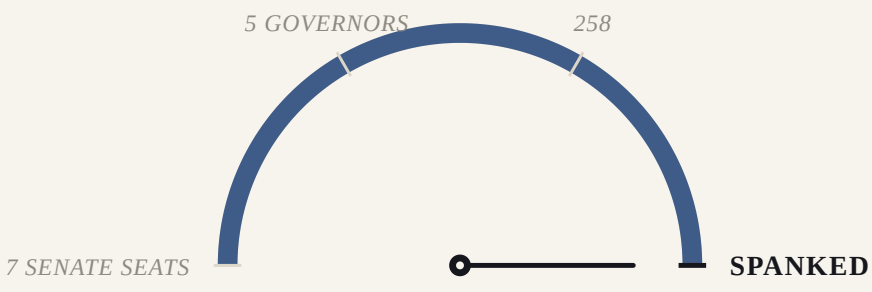
At first light the dog got up.
The fox heard the chain fall.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

# On the spanking

BY LOU
*The Word*

DEMOCRAT




## *SPANKED*

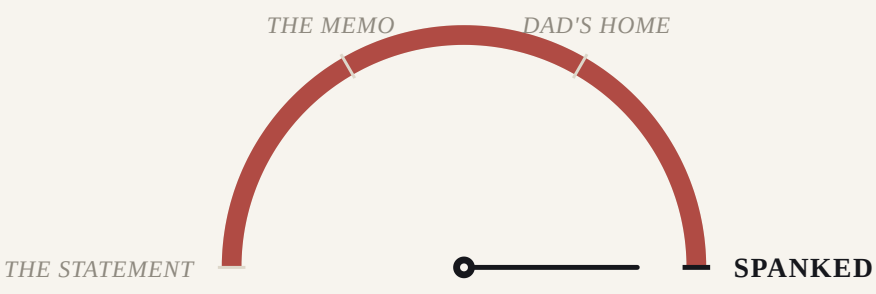
On Tuesday the country answered. Democrats take the House and the Senate in January, NBC News projects. They flipped seven Senate seats: Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. They flipped five governorships. An NBC analysis on Wednesday put them at 258 House seats at least, a figure that can still move a few seats [1]. Early exit polls had his approval at 38 percent [2]. The Dow rose more than 1,500 points Wednesday [3].

Dad's statement came in parts. "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE" [3]. Fox News "bears the responsibility" [3]. The vice president blamed the Iran war, and he called that "largely true" [3]. Then he posted a red cap reading VETO [1]. Democrats will fall short of the two-thirds it takes to override one [1]. The gavels change hands January 3, in 59 days. He keeps the veto. He keeps the nuclear codes for 807.

*SOURCES*

1. Control of both chambers, the seven Senate flips, five governorships, the estimate of at least 258 House seats, and the VETO cap, with Democrats short of two-thirds — NBC News live blog, 4 November 2026 ↑
2. Early exit polls put Trump's approval at 38 percent — CBS News, 4 November 2026 ↑
3. The Truth Social post of 3 November, "bears the responsibility," "largely true," and the Dow's rise of over 1,500 points — Yahoo News live coverage, 4 November 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN




## *SPANKED*

Give the word its due: it was theirs first. In October 2023 his campaign sent the press a statement headed "DeSanctus Campaign Gets Spanked on CNN," in which the governor of Florida was "getting thoroughly spanked" [1]. That November a campaign memo read "DeSantis Gets Spanked on FOX News" [2]. In October 2024, in Duluth, Georgia, Tucker Carlson widened the program to the country: "You've been a bad little girl, and you're getting a vigorous spanking right now" [3].

There is one more entry, under oath. In May 2024 Stormy Daniels testified in Manhattan that she looked at a magazine with him on the cover and said, "Someone should spank you with that" [4], and then did, "right on the butt" [5]. He denies the whole story [6]. The judge said some of the testimony "would have been better left unsaid" [7]. That is a statement, a memo, a stage and a witness stand. On Tuesday it came back with a count.

*SOURCES*

1. "DeSanctus Campaign Gets Spanked on CNN" and "getting thoroughly spanked," Trump campaign statement to the media — Mediaite, 28 October 2023 ↑
2. Campaign memo headed "KISS OF DEATH: DeSantis Gets Spanked on FOX News and on the Campaign Trail" — Uproxx, 29 November 2023 ↑
3. Tucker Carlson at a Trump campaign event in Duluth, Georgia, 23 October 2024: "You've been a bad little girl, and you're getting a vigorous spanking right now" — TheWrap ↑
4. Daniels's testimony of 7 May 2024 on the magazine with him on the cover: "Someone should spank you with that" — Fox News ↑
5. Daniels testified she "spanked" him "right on the butt" — ABC News via Good Morning America, 7 May 2024 ↑
6. "He denies the whole story" — Associated Press via PBS NewsHour, May 2024 ↑
7. Judge Juan Merchan declined a mistrial and said some testimony "would have been better left unsaid" — Mother Jones, 7 May 2024 ↑

*“I went looking for who started this and I've got a stack. A campaign statement from October 2023, a governor "getting thoroughly spanked." Another one that November. A speech in Georgia, 2024, the whole country this time. And sworn testimony from a courtroom in Manhattan, which he denies, so I set that one to the side, and then I picked it back up. Sorry, one thing before you go. Tuesday night he wrote that he wasn't on the ballot. Then it was Fox News. Then he said the Iran explanation was largely true. That's three reasons. If he wasn't on the ballot, why does he need the other two?”* — Lou

🍺

“Spanked. And before anybody writes in, it's not our word. It's theirs. Go look. His campaign put it in a press statement in 2023. In 2024 Tucker Carlson stood up at a rally in Georgia and told the whole country Dad's coming home and it's getting a vigorous one. So the country goes to its room and thinks about what it did for two years. Tuesday it came downstairs. Seven Senate seats. Texas. Dad's statement is he wasn't home. And Wednesday the Dow goes up fifteen hundred points. I'm not saying those two things are connected. I'm saying the guy next to me bought a round.”

— Sal

🚬

“I'd push back on "spanked" as a characterization of what was, in fairness, a preliminary count, and I think we can all agree that kind of language has no place in our politics, outside of a campaign statement, where it is a metaphor, and a rally, where it was also a metaphor.”

— Chip

*The Word today —* 👍 👎