The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

FRIDAY, 06 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Trump sued to block Alaska's count if the Republican lost; a week later Mississippi's trailing Republican tried the same move

BY MORT
The Beecordia Bureau

The concession died once this autumn, in Anchorage, and the undertaker's report said only that the cause was declined. That was 24 October: the Justice Department sued to block certification of Alaska's Senate seat, for one, with the condition the Republican lost it, and the complaint named not one ballot. Four federal probes into the matter later closed with zero charges. The body was buried without a cause of death, which should have been the end of it.

It was not the end of it. This week the same corpse turned up in Mississippi, wearing a different suit.

On 29 October, with what The Guardian called one week left before the vote, Scott Colom's headquarters in Corinth was busy the way headquarters get busy: volunteers phone-banking, staffers readying another day on the road, the candidate fresh off a press conference in a small city near the Tennessee border where the president had just campaigned for his opponent. Colom was asking Mississippi for a change. Earlier, on 12 October, a former president had rolled out a television ad doing the asking for him: "Mississippi, it's time for a change." The margin, when the counting started,

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THE WORD

$84 — 06 NOVEMBER 2026

On mandate

DEMOCRAT



13 POINTS

REPUBLICAN



MANDATE

"I bowl Thursdays. We took a night off the ERs by one pin, and our captain, a nice fella, ordered a trophy. A big one, with 'unprecedented' on the plate. I think about that trophy. A point and a half. 49.8 percent. The word was mandate. Then this week, thirteen points the other way, projected, the most in a midterm since 1974, and I hear he wasn't on the ballot. Sorry, one thing before you go. If a point and a half is a mandate, what do you call thirteen?" — Lou

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE LEDGER FILES AFTER THE VOTE

In the last nineteen days of the Cornyn-Paxton runoff, the law gave a quarterly-filing super PAC one day to report an ad and until fifty days after the vote to report the money it raised in those nineteen days.

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Accused of being a war criminal, Hegseth defends the Iran war instead and vows to stay

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

Secretary Pete Hegseth has an answer, and it has not changed since September. He will not back down.

On September 2, Senator Thom Tillis — a former member of the Senate Armed Services Committee — stood in front of cameras and asked President Trump to fire Hegseth over what Tillis called "inept management" of the military. The next day, Frank Kendall, who ran the Air Force until last year, told CNN the Pentagon under Hegseth had gone "dysfunctional." The Secretary did not answer either man. He had better things to do. Or — he had one thing to do, and it took him two months to get around to it.

That thing arrived on October 29, two months after Tillis asked for his job: Hegseth fired Brett Sylvia, the Joint Staff's top planner, over an alleged leak, with roughly a fifth of the senior officer corps slated to follow him out. This is called discipline. It is actually the Secretary deciding who gets removed before anyone else gets the chance to decide it for him.

Eight days before that firing, on October 21, current and former Pentagon officials were already telling The Telegraph they were prepared to "spill their

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Rule invoked to block one merger; its death pays $22 billion to a different one a month later.

BY MORT
The Beecordia Bureau

The estate of the media ownership cap opened for business this week, and the first individual check went out Friday, made out for $22 billion.

The cap itself died last month at the Federal Communications Commission, voted out 2 to 1, in the same week a coalition had invoked it in an attempt to stop a consolidation. The vote proceeded anyway. A rule still doing the work it was built for on the day of its own funeral is not a rule anyone can honestly call obsolete. It is a rule that was outvoted, which is a different animal.

The estate's first settlement came on October 6, when Paramount completed its takeover of Warner Bros Discovery, forming the conglomerate now operating as Skydance — the very merger the cap had been invoked to stop, and the merger that, once the cap was gone, nothing stopped.

In June 2025, the Walt Disney Company closed its purchase of NBCUniversal's stake in Hulu for $439 million — a sum that, set beside Friday's number, reads like bunk, the deposit on a parking garage.

Which brings the estate to Friday, and to Fox, and to Roku, and to $22 bil-

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Newsom commutes 548 death sentences by invoking the clause that hands hundreds back to four judges

BY LOU
One More Question

My nephew Ronnie is in his second year of law school and I have learned to let him finish his sentences. He came by the porch Thursday night in the rain, and the dog put a wet paw on his good shoe, and he didn't even look down, because he had already seen the wire copy on the railing and he wanted to know why I was reading the speech instead of the document. A constitution isn't a speech, he says; it's a list of locks and a list of who holds which key. Then he made me go get the notebook.

So. Thursday, Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, announced he is commuting every death sentence in the state — 548 of them — to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Hold on, I've got his words here somewhere, I had the page folded into the raincoat pocket, it's the only coat I own and everything lives in it — ah. Here. He said capital punishment is "morally wrong." Ronnie had no argument with that. I have no argument with that. Does anybody at this bar have an argument with that?

Here's where he slowed me down. Same wire page, a couple of inches under the governor's sentence: "The state Supreme Court will have the final say

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Trump's gilded remodel is now a national monument that still needs Congress's permission to be one

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Three rooms. Not one — three: the Oval Office, the Outer Oval Office, and the Cabinet Room, all of them a "national monument" by proclamation this week. You are thinking of cliffs and battlefields. Think of carpet. The designation protects no canyon; it protects a decorating scheme from substantial changes by whoever sits in the room next. Asked in October what he would miss most about the White House, he spoke about the office. Not the country. The office. Then came an order making the remodel permanent, and after it the proclamation making it a monument — and ABC reports he indicated the proclamation would have to be ratified by Congress. Ratified. A thing that declares itself permanent and then applies for permission … and until the permission arrives, the gold stays up. That is the handsome part of the drafting. The encumbrance operates from the day of signature; the ratification is for later. Three rooms of the working executive, held in perpetuity against the people who come next. The gold stays.

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Tesla recalls nearly every Cybertruck, then kills it for a robotaxi and a flying car, neither shipped.

BY MORT
The Beecordia Bureau

Cybertruck, the stainless-steel pickup Tesla promised would survive a sledgehammer swing, dies next year at Gigafactory Texas. Chief executive Elon Musk announced Friday that production will wind down around the middle of 2027 to make room for the Cybercab. By the company's own telling, this is a retirement, not a failure. The sledgehammer, in the end, was never the problem.

The adhesive was. In March of last year the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ordered a recall covering 46,000 Cybertrucks — nearly every one on the road — after regulators found an exterior panel could detach while the vehicle was moving, because the structural adhesive holding it on was, in the agency's flat language, ineffective. A truck built to outlast the apocalypse could not keep its own skin on past its first year. That is not snarkery; that is the recall notice.

Cybertruck leaves no children, in the biological or vehicular sense, and no trade-in value worth discussing. It is survived by the Cybercab, the robotaxi its maker says will carry Tesla to "domination" of the ride-hailing busi-

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Grand conspiracy probe has spent three lead prosecutors since September and filed zero charges

BY LOU
One More Question

My nephew is in his second year of law school, and this term they handed him an assignment: pick a live federal case, follow it all semester, turn in a file. He picked this one. He keeps the lawyers on a sheet of notebook paper at the front of the file, which I thought was a nice piece of bookkeeping, and the trouble he brought out to the porch Sunday is that he's running out of lines, because every few weeks he has to cross a name off and write a new one under it. He wanted to know from me whether that was normal. He takes my opinion seriously, God help him, so I said I'd go through what I had.

Here's what I had. Hold on. It's in here somewhere. Ah, here.

Fox News, the week of September: "Joseph diGenova and Victoria Toensing from his Justice Department role investigating the alleged 'Grand Conspiracy' surrounding the Trump-Russia investigations." Next morning CBS filed it in — diGenova had been "tapped by Attorney General Todd Blanche to supervise the 'grand conspiracy' investigation targeting Obama- and Biden-era officials," and he told CBS he had resigned. That's the first name my nephew crossed out. And here's the question he asked me, which I could not answer for him:

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Gas slides toward $4 a gallon, rebounds the same day Iran claims new attacks on ships.

BY RUTH
The Morning Desk

The Congressional Budget Office priced the Iran war at nearly forty billion dollars in July and called its own number conservative. The Pentagon's own figure, given to Congress on August 13, was just over forty-two billion. Last week the Pentagon's figure was forty-seven point one billion, a rise of five billion dollars in two and a half months with no line items to show for it. That is the war's ledger. The pump runs a separate set of books, and for one Friday this week the two appeared to meet.

Start where the pump's book opens. In August, for the first time ever, AAA recorded gas above four dollars a gallon every day in the month, averaging four-oh-eight, ninety cents higher than the year before. Diesel went further: on September 11 it hit six dollars a gallon, a record, on supply constraints the reporting tied directly to the war. Those were the costs entered against the war. By Friday, gas was on track to fall back below four dollars for the first time since that August run, and the relief was tied in the reporting to hope that the midterms would push Washington and Tehran toward a deal.

The relief did not survive the news cycle that reported it. The same day,

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"Read the page top 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

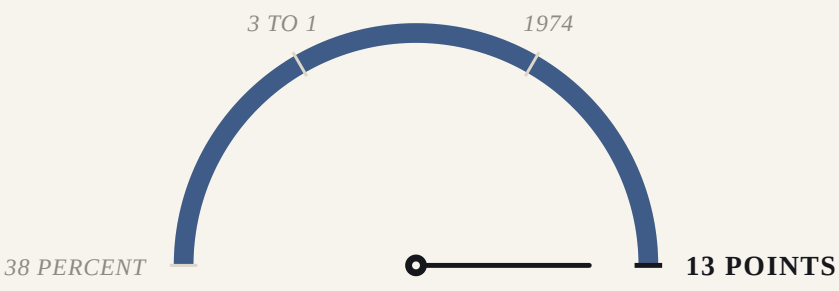
At first light the dog got up.
The fox heard the chain fall.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

On mandate

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



13 POINTS

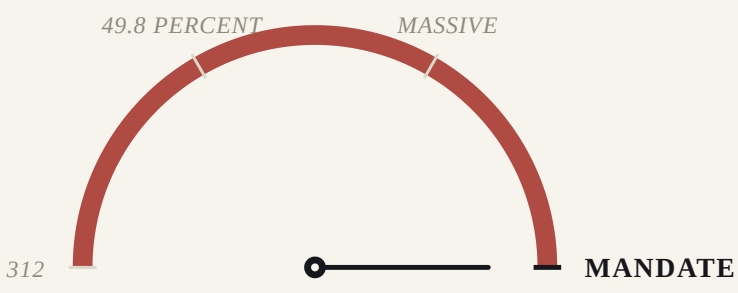
The customers came back on November 3. Democrats won control of the House and the Senate [1]. As of November 4 their House popular-vote margin was projected at 13 points, with the count unfinished. No party had won a midterm House vote by that much since 1974. Republican wave years 1994 and 2010 ran 6.8 [2].

The voters said why, to the Fox News Voter Poll. Trump's approval stood at 38 percent. By nearly 3 to 1, more said they cast a House vote to oppose him than to support him. About two-thirds said his tariffs hurt the national economy. About 6 in 10 called the Iran war the wrong decision [3]. He had spent weeks telling them to pretend he was on the ballot [4]. Afterward: "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE" [5]. Democrats will fall short of the two-thirds needed to override a veto [6]. His term, and the nuclear codes, run to noon on January 20, 2029 [7].

SOURCES

1. Democrats won control of Congress — Al Jazeera, 4 November 2026 ↑
2. "13 points: the projected Democratic popular vote margin"; 1974 the last time either party won by that much in a midterm; 6.8 points in 1994 and 2010 — Yahoo News, 4 November 2026 ↑
3. Fox News Voter Poll: 38 percent approve; "nearly a 3-to-1 margin"; about two-thirds said tariffs hurt the national economy; about 6 in 10 said the Iran war was the wrong decision — Fox News, 4 November 2026 ↑
4. Trump "spent weeks telling voters to pretend he's on the ballot" — NBC Washington, 4 November 2026 ↑
5. "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE" — Yahoo News live coverage, 4 November 2026 ↑
6. Democrats "fall short of a two-thirds majority that would be needed to override presidential vetoes" — NBC News live blog, 4 November 2026 ↑
7. Twentieth Amendment: presidential terms end at noon on January 20 — National Archives ↑

REPUBLICAN



MANDATE

Give the word its due: both parties use it. Joe Biden claimed a "mandate for action" on 51.3 percent. Al Gore declared a "mandate for change" for a ticket that won 43 percent [1]. On November 6, 2024, Donald Trump took the word further: "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate" [2]. A month later he improved it: "we won by so much. The mandate was massive" [2]. His incoming press secretary wrote that "the fake news is trying to minimize President Trump's massive and historic victory to try to delegitimize his mandate" [1].

Now the receipt. He won 312 electoral votes, about 49.8 percent of the popular vote and a margin of about 1.5 points [1]. He finished under half, on the second-narrowest popular-vote margin in 60 years [2]. The margin was a point and a half. The adjective was unprecedented.

SOURCES

1. Trump about 49.83 percent, a 1.55-point margin, 312 to 226 in the Electoral College; "mandate for action," "mandate for change"; the press secretary-designate's statement — Anchorage Daily News, 29 November 2024 ↑
2. "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate"; "we won by so much. The mandate was massive"; under 50 percent, the second-narrowest margin in the last 60 years — NPR, 16 December 2024 ↑

“I bowl Thursdays. We took a night off the Elks by one pin, and our captain, a nice fella, ordered a trophy. A big one, with "unprecedented" on the plate. I think about that trophy. A point and a half. 49.8 percent. The word was mandate. Then this week, thirteen points the other way, projected, the most in a midterm since 1974, and I hear he wasn't on the ballot. Sorry, one thing before you go. If a point and a half is a mandate, what do you call thirteen?” — Lou

🍺

“Mandate. Beautiful word. Sounds like something a judge hands you. You know what it means in plain English? It means he got 49.8 percent and would like you to stop asking. A point and a half, and the man called it unprecedented. So the same customers came back this week with a thirteen-point return slip, and now he wasn't on the ballot. Nobody takes delivery of the mandate and refuses the invoice unless he knew what was in the box. He still has the veto pen. He still has the codes.”

— Sal

🚬

“A mandate is less a number than a feeling, and the president's feeling was historic; this week's result is a separate feeling, held by other people, and I'd caution against reading one as a comment on the other.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎