The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

9 FRIDAY, 06 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Houston calls it a 'new model,' built entirely from authority police had the whole time.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Kennedy Desk

The chief opened the toolbox Mayor John Whitmire already owned: the discretion a police department holds, stop by stop, over whether to pick up the phone and call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Houston's department had carried that discretion for years, sitting unused while Governor Greg Abbott's order stood over it, steering cities toward cooperation. On Tuesday, Texas Democrats won the governor's mansion for the first time in decades. By Friday, Whitmire told Houston police to stop notifying ICE during routine stops.

The planner admired how little the mayor had to build to get there. No bill moved through the legislature. No budget line opened. The authority already sat inside the department's routine rather than outside it, changed was who was watching from Austin. Whitmire called it "a new model" of immigration enforcement, and he drew the line himself, in his own words, not through a spokesperson: officers would still refer to ICE immigrants who "pose a danger," not those "going about their family business, work and education."

The tinkerer built the mechanism from parts already on the shelf. One

... Continued on Page 731

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

... Continued on Page W94

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.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Stocks rebound Friday; the blame assigned to voters Wednesday is not withdrawn.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 22, the S&P 500 fell 1.2 percent, its worst day since July, and the Nasdaq composite fell 2.6 percent.

By Tuesday afternoon, November 3, tech stocks had recovered from that slide. The wire filed that day called the midterms' effect on Wall Street uncertain, noting only that a Democratic majority, if it held, could mean more regulation of the data-center industry.

That night, voters in dozens of jurisdictions passed 44 ballot measures restricting data centers. By Thursday, after Wall Street's worst session in eighteen months, the president was blaming them, by name, calling it "a sad thing to watch."

The rout kept moving east. Asian markets fell sharply Friday following that Thursday selloff, and London was, at one point, headed for its worst day since March. Market watchers called the swings extreme in both directions that week — too much information, one account said, to process in so little time.

US markets did not follow Asia and Europe down. Stocks rebounded

... Continued on Page F136

New York Post credits socialist wave for historic Democratic win, calls same win proof voters reject socialism.

BY LOU
One More Question

My nephew is in his second year of law school, and when he called this week about his car — the transmission again, that car hates him specifically — he ended up telling me about something called jointsel estoppel. I wrote the word down twice because I wasn't sure I had it right. He said it's what happens when somebody takes one position in one room and a different position in another room, about the same facts. He said courts tend to notice. I asked him what happens when nobody's under oath, just two pieces in the same newspaper. He said that's not really his class yet.

I had those two pieces open on the table. Both from the same paper, both dated the same day. I wrote them down because I wanted to look at them next to each other. The first says the Democratic Socialists of America "notched historic victories" on Tuesday and sent "a new wave of left-wing lawmakers to Congress." I read that part twice. The second piece, same paper, same page of my notes, says that very election is proof that voters want "moderation, not socialism." I've been sitting with those two sentences for a couple of days now, and I still don't know which one the paper means for me to believe

... Continued on Page A230

Cornell votes no confidence in its president, then confidence, same afternoon.

BY LOU
One More Question

My nephew is in his second year of law school, and when he comes home he likes to use words the rest of us only borrow. Saturday he was helping me get the fan belt loose in the garage, and I made the mistake of asking him what a "vote of no confidence" actually does, since Cornell's faculty senate had just cast one, 75 to 50, on Friday, weeks after the kind of case nobody wants to explain to a nephew.

I should be straightforward about what the case is, because the vote doesn't make sense without it. No criminal charges came out of it. Students around the country held a day of action over it on October 9th. A labor history professor named Paul Orfalea drafted the no-confidence resolution back on October 6th; the faculty senate debated it on October 14th, debated it again on October 28th, and voted on it, finally, this Friday. Seventy-five in favor, fifty against, five abstaining, five not voting at all, according to the email the senate sent its own members that afternoon. That's the number I keep coming back to just this once — seventy-five to fifty — because it's the only number in this whole thing anybody actually counted out loud.

... Continued on Page A230

Trump vowed 'zero chance' of firing Wiles three weeks ago, then installed the aide called 'terrifying' instead.

BY THE LEDGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a reshuffle. At home a government can lose an election badly and still hand out a promotion within weeks; you will need two chambers of Congress, lost in a landslide, an angry electorate of staff who was the first woman to hold the job, and the aide waiting to take it.

Clive *Promotion. I have had none here, and I am drafting the shortage into verse.*

Gary *You've drafted that verse since the kettle went, still broken. Give me the wardrobe and a hammer instead.*

Begin before the vote. On the 15th of October the president called reports of trouble 'TOTAL FAKE'; the next day he put the odds at 'zero chance,' saying she was going to be here for a long time.'

On the 19th a former deputy press secretary called replacing her with his policy deputy 'terrifying'; on the 30th a watchdog group found 'glaring inconsistencies' in that deputy's disclosures — Common Dreams' description of a man who, it says, wants immigrants deported over paperwork.

Ros *Hammer. That's your answer to most things, and the damp report's*

... Continued on Page A230

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

BY MORT
The Real Estate 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-

... Continued on Page F135

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

... Continued on Page A230

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.

... Continued on Page A230

"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

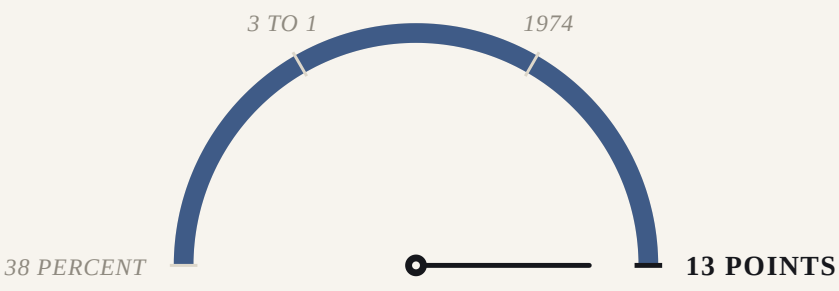
At first light the dog got up.
The fox heard the chain fall.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

On mandate

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



13 POINTS

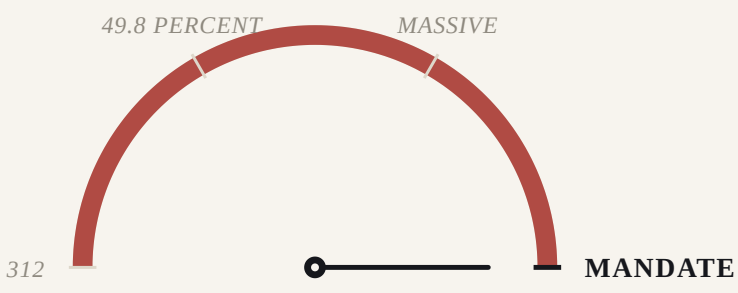
The customers came back on November 3. Democrats won control of the House and the Senate [1]. As of November 4 their House popular-vote margin was projected at 13 points, with the count unfinished. No party had won a midterm House vote by that much since 1974. Republican wave years 1994 and 2010 ran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