The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SATURDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

California's billionaire tax loses twice: once at the ballot, once in Newsom's own measure.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On Tuesday, California voters rejected Proposition 40, the Billionaire Tax Act, a one-time 5 percent levy on the net worth of the roughly 250 Californians who hold enough of it to owe one. Decision Desk HQ's projection, released Saturday, put the no vote at 54 percent, the yes at 46. That result is the top of the filing. The rest of it is dated earlier.

On Oct. 9, Gov. Gavin Newsom endorsed Proposition 42. The measure was built to do two things at once: cancel, retroactively, whatever tax Prop 40 imposed, and prohibit, going forward, any tax on the ownership of financial assets or personal property in the state of California.

In a dispatch published Oct. 11, Debru Carthan, vice president of SEIU-UHW, the union leading the campaign for Prop 40, read the endorsement plainly: "He's showing California his true colors." The filing does not record what color that is. It records only that the governor of the state proposing the tax moved, by name, to cancel it.

On Oct. 27, Sen. Bernie Sanders totaled the other side of the ledger. Billionaires opposed to Prop 40 had put up $333 million to defeat it. Sanders

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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 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

... Continued on Page W84

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RESCUE IS A LOAN

One section of the federal passport rules refuses the book to a parent more than $2,500 behind on child support, and lets the State Department refuse it to an American who has not paid back the seat on the flight out of a war.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Right-wing press calls new socialist mayors unstoppable, evasive, then powerless, all within 72 hours

BY LOU
One More Question

I had a question I thought was already closed. A few days back I asked whether one newspaper could call a wave of new officials proof that socialism is winning and proof voters just rejected it — same outlet, same week, two different pieces. I wrote down: yes, apparently, both pieces ran the same hour on the sixth, one filed as news, one filed as opinion. I considered that settled. I'm sorry to say the same question came back Saturday, in a different shape, and I don't think it's closed at all.

Tuesday was the election. By Saturday, Fox News had a count: four of the nation's largest cities — Los Angeles and Washington joining Seattle and New York — now led by what it called socialist mayors, "affecting tens of millions" of people. That's the phrase. I copied it exact. The Washington Examiner, running the same day, took the Texas results and called them a matter of "national implications," reminding readers that the last time Democrats ran Texas, back in 1994, the party backed strict immigration enforcement and tax breaks for oil and gas and led the country in executions — a long way, it said, from where Gina Hinojosa stands now. Two papers. One week.

... Continued on Page A231

AI blamed for trillions lost, credited for trillions regained, charged with stealing $100 million.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 22, the S&P 500 lost 1.2 percent and the Nasdaq composite lost 2.6 percent, the worst day for stocks since July. The wire that day named the AI industry's own datacenter and chip costs as the cause. By November 3, those same shares had recovered the ground. A loss that week got a name and a number; the recovery got neither.

That night, voters in dozens of jurisdictions passed 44 ballot measures restricting data centers, citing power bills and jobs. By Thursday the market fell again, its worst session in eighteen months, and the president named the voters as the cause, calling it a sad thing to watch. The rout did not stay home. It reached Asia by Friday morning and London by afternoon, carrying the voters' name the whole way across.

By the close of that same Friday, the AI sector had climbed back the trillions wiped out two days before. No correction was filed. The blame that crossed two oceans on Thursday did not make the return trip on Friday; it stayed where it had been dropped, on the ballot box.

Then the weekend's filing arrived, and for once the ledger carried an item-

... Continued on Page F136

Justice Department abandons its own lawsuit against ballots the Supreme Court already let stand.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The lawsuit died this week in Washington, of a withdrawal its own authors filed. It was born on 24 October in Anchorage, when the Justice Department sued to block certification of Alaska's Senate race, but only if the Republican lost. The complaint named zero ballots. Four federal probes into a Democratic candidate who shared most of a Republican senator's name turned up zero charges. It is survived by its own strategy, filed anew in California; it was preceded in death, in Alaska, by the zero ballots it was built to find.

The family resemblance held. The Court's order came down ahead of the demand being met; lower courts had already ruled the same way. On Friday, the department asked the court to let it drop the case entirely.

Not a settlement. Not a negotiated withdrawal. Not even malarkey, really — just a request, filed by the department that filed the suit, to make its own case go away. The twenty thousand ballots the department asked California to set aside will be counted. The claim behind them — that each belonged to a noncitizen — was never tested at trial, and now it will not be. It was asserted,

... Continued on Page B53

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

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy 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 Whitmire runs; what 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 T31

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, November 6th, 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 Ortiz 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

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

BY MORT
The Records 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

"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

Right-wing press calls new socialist mayors unstoppable, evasive, then powerless, all within 72 hours

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"U-Haul spotted outside LA Mayor Karen Bass' mansion after Nithya Raman's victory", 7 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Fox News, the Washington Examiner and the New York Post each published a different verdict on the same week's left-leaning election winners.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's chance to get one clear account of what these winners will actually do slips, since the outlets reporting it cannot agree among themselves.

WHAT'S NEXT. The record sets no further date for any of this to resolve; the only certainty on the calendar is that all three verdicts on the same winners ran within four days of Tuesday's election.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I had a question I thought was already closed. A few days back I asked whether one newspaper could call a wave of new officials proof that socialism is winning and proof voters just rejected it — same outlet, same week, two different pieces. I wrote down: yes, apparently, both pieces ran the same hour on the sixth, one filed as news, one filed as opinion. I considered that settled. I'm sorry to say the same question came back Saturday, in a different shape, and I don't think it's closed at all.

Tuesday was the election. By Saturday, Fox News had a count: four of the nation's largest cities — Los Angeles and Washington joining Seattle and New York — now led by what it called socialist mayors, "affecting tens of millions" of people. That's the phrase. I copied it exact. The Washington Examiner, running the same day, took the Texas results and called them a matter of "national implications," reminding readers that the last time Democrats ran Texas, back in 1994, the party backed strict immigration enforcement and tax breaks for oil and gas and led the country in executions — a long way, it said, from where Gina Hinojosa stands now. Two papers. One week....

...(cont) Won't say what they'll do. I read that one twice, because I wanted to be sure it was describing the same election the Fox piece called a threat to tens of millions, and it was. Same winners. Same week.

I went to the corner store Thursday for coffee, and the kid weighed the same bag three times because the scale kept disagreeing with itself — a pound, then fourteen ounces, then a pound and some change — and he read me each number like it settled the matter. I didn't argue with him. I just thought about it in the car on the way home, which doesn't love cold mornings any more than I do.

Because there's a third weighing. The Post, in the same batch of stories, ran separately that the winners down in Texas "can't actually turn the state blue" — no picnic, fulfilling any of it, is the phrase. So within one week, from outlets that generally agree with each other, the same class of newly elected official is: a nationwide emergency affecting tens of millions, a group too quiet to say what it wants, and a party structurally unable to deliver regardless. Three readings of one scale. I wrote all three on the same page and I still don't know which number the store wants me to walk out with.

Oh — excuse me, before you go. I didn't want to bring the number up again, I already did that once, but there's a dated item sitting right next to the others. Wednesday — three days before any of today's pieces ran — Janeese Lewis George, mayor-elect in Washington, one of the four cities in that tens-of-millions count, had already put out a legislative agenda and a transition plan. In writing. So I keep turning the number over, and I'm sorry, because I know I already used it: is tens of millions the size of the threat two papers needed the phrase to carry, or is it the number of people whose mayor-elect answered the question in writing before her neighbors in Los Angeles got called out for refusing to answer it at all? Tens of millions.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THIS WEEK THE SAME PAPERS CALLED THE NEW MAYORS A THREAT TO TENS OF MILLIONS, A group dodging every question about their plans, and, in Texas, winners who can't deliver on any of it. That isn't three different readings of one election, it's one script written so the reader stays afraid no matter which ending runs. Fear like that doesn't wait on the agenda the mayor actually files; the headline calling her a threat runs before the paperwork does; and by the time all three verdicts are in print — a threat, a dodge, no picnic — the one document in the building that hasn't changed all week is the ballot you already marked on Tuesday.

"They need you terrified of an unstoppable national takeover in one headline and relieved these same people can't accomplish a thing in the next — whichever fear keeps the page loading is the one that runs. Four cities, one election, three contradicting verdicts, from outlets that otherwise agree with each other — that's not confused reporting, that's a product built to keep you worried about people who haven't even been sworn in yet."

— Sal

"Look, nuance is allowed — a socialist mayor can absolutely be a five-alarm threat to tens of millions of people and also somebody who just hasn't returned our calls yet, those aren't contradictory, those are — actually, said out loud, those sound a little contradictory. We stand by all three stories independently, which is, I'm told, not the same as standing by them together."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *New York Post credits socialist wave for historic Democratic win, calls same win proof voters reject socialism.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 6 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

U-Haul spotted outside LA Mayor Karen Bass' mansion after Nithya Raman's victory

New York Post RIGHT § *20:39 EST*

Bass was spotted Friday for the first time since conceding defeat to Nithay Raman in the mayoral race.

Hinojosa's Californication of Texas will have national implications

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *05:00 EST*

When the Democrats last controlled Texas in 1994, the party supported strict immigration enforcement, generous tax breaks for oil and gas investments, and the state led the nation in capital punishment. More than 30 years later, the Democratic Party of Gov.-elect Gina Hinojosa is far to the left of her predecessors. Hinojosa has promised...

Xavier Becerra and Nithya Raman won their elections — now they're dodging questions about the promises that got them there

New York Post RIGHT § *21:45 EST*

Xavier Becerra and Nithya Raman seem to think that they don't have a responsibility to tell the public what they plan to do in office, now that they have won their respective elections.

But: **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *MultiState Elections, 2026 special-election tracking*

Texas elected far-left leaders, but they can't actually turn the state blue

New York Post RIGHT § *20:13 EST*

Progressives who swept Texas' statewide offices Tuesday may have grand far-left-leaning plans for their state, but they'll have no picnic fulfilling their agenda.

But: **Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections** *MultiState Elections, 2026 special-election tracking*

4 of nation's largest cities now led by socialist mayors after Tuesday's election, affecting tens of millions

Fox News RIGHT § *05:00 EST*

Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., now join Seattle and New York City as top-20 U.S. cities led by DSA-affiliated socialist mayors in office.

Janeese Lewis George sets agenda after being elected as DC's first socialist mayor

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:52 EST*

Mayor-elect Janeese Lewis George is preparing to usher in a new era of Washington, D.C., politics, outlining an ambitious legislative agenda and transition plans Wednesday after winning the seat to become the city's first socialist mayor. Lewis George, 38, easily won Tuesday's general election, following her decisive victory in the June...

· Citizen-led ballot initiatives seek to limit electricity firms' political donations in Michigan *from the morgue, 3 Nov 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.

AI blamed for trillions lost, credited for trillions regained, charged with stealing $100 million.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"AI stocks climb after trillions wiped from market values", 6 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal prosecutors charged three men with using AI voice and image tools to impersonate corporate executives and steal money.

WHO GETS PAID. Investors in AI stocks, whose shares recovered the losses by Friday while the blame assigned to voters stayed put.

WHAT SLIPS. The public record never corrects the blame put on voters, even after the market recovered the losses days later.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, state lawmakers will do to these new data-center bans what Texas did after Denton's 2014 fracking vote: a statewide law stripping local control arrived 195 days later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 22, the S&P 500 lost 1.2 percent and the Nasdaq composite lost 2.6 percent, the worst day for stocks since July. The wire that day named the AI industry's own datacenter and chip costs as the cause. By November 3, those same shares had recovered the ground. A loss that week got a name and a number; the recovery got neither.

That night, voters in dozens of jurisdictions passed 44 ballot measures restricting data centers, citing power bills and jobs. By Thursday the market fell again, its worst session in eighteen months, and the president named the voters as the cause, calling it a sad thing to watch. The rout did not stay home. It reached Asia by Friday morning and London by afternoon, carrying the voters' name the whole way across....

...(cont) By the close of that same Friday, the AI sector had climbed back the trillions wiped out two days before. No correction was filed. The blame that crossed two oceans on Thursday did not make the return trip on Friday; it stayed where it had been dropped, on the ballot box.

Then the weekend's filing arrived, and for once the ledger carried an itemized number. The Southern District of New York unsealed an indictment: Jacob Soall, Sharon Hazan and Guy Sheetrit, charged with using the same technology — the one blamed for the crash and credited for the rebound — to alter the voices and faces of real corporate executives and attorneys, convincingly enough that real employees wired out more than $100 million, between 2024 and 2026. Soall and Hazan were arrested in Spain this summer, Sheetrit in the United Kingdom in September.

Run the two ledgers side by side, hon. The market ledger — trillions lost, trillions found — carries no line item, no name, no date you can hang a number on; it just moves, and the blame moves with it, one direction only. The indictment ledger has three defendants, a dollar figure, two countries of arrest, and a two-year window. Of the two numbers attached to artificial intelligence this week, only one of them can be entered into evidence, and it is not the trillions.

"They hang a market dip on regular voters Thursday, then the stocks climb back Friday and nobody walks the blame back — that kind of blame don't have an expiration date, it just sits on your record. Meanwhile the only guys who actually turned AI into real money did it by robbing payroll departments for a hundred million bucks. Tell me which ledger the people running this thing actually believe in."

— Sal

"The president was simply responding to market conditions in real time — voters made a choice, markets reflect choices, that's not blame, that's just, uh, correlation. And this indictment, three guys scamming company payrolls, that's a crime story, it's got nothing to do with the broader AI growth story — did I just call it a growth story? Forget I said that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Stocks rebound Friday; the blame assigned to voters Wednesday is not withdrawn.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 6 November 2026
- *Trump blames voters for crashing markets data-center backers warned them about.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Data-center backers warned voters they'd end up poor, then their own stocks lost $2 trillion by Thursday.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 5 November 2026
- *Trump warns data-center opponents they'll end up "backwards and poor," Nasdaq ends up backwards and poor instead.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 5 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~AI stocks climb after trillions wiped from market values~~

Investors bid up AI stocks on bets Democrats won't regulate them

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *16:06 EST*

Investors had been selling off tech shares in part due to concerns the Democrat election victory would mean slower AI development.

Three men charged in US with using AI to impersonate CEOs and steal millions

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:20 EST*

Men allegedly impersonated voices and images of executives to convince employees to send large payments Three foreign nationals were arrested and charged with using AI to allegedly impersonate corporate CEOs and attorneys to steal over $100m, according to an indictment that was newly unsealed by the US Department of Justice. According to...

· Sharp drops for AI stocks overwhelm markets worldwide as oil prices jump *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

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THE PATTERN

Justice Department abandons its own lawsuit against ballots the Supreme Court already let stand.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Courts Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters", 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department asked a court Friday to dismiss its own lawsuit against 20,000 disputed California ballots.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the same citizenship-based ballot challenge gets filed in a different state next cycle; that is what Washington's election order got after 25 March 2025: partly enjoined within a month, blocked further by June, and its citizenship-proof provisions permanently struck down by 24 June 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The lawsuit died this week in Washington, of a withdrawal its own authors filed. It was born on 24 October in Anchorage, when the Justice Department sued to block certification of Alaska's Senate race, but only if the Republican lost. The complaint named zero ballots. Four federal probes into a Democratic candidate who shared most of a Republican senator's name turned up zero charges. It is survived by its own strategy, filed anew in California; it was preceded in death, in Alaska, by the zero ballots it was built to find.

The family resemblance held. The Court's order came down ahead of the demand being met; lower courts had already ruled the same way. On Friday, the department asked the court to let it drop the case entirely....

...(cont) Not a settlement. Not a negotiated withdrawal. Not even malarkey, really — just a request, filed by the department that filed the suit, to make its own case go away. The twenty thousand ballots the department asked California to set aside will be counted. The claim behind them — that each belonged to a noncitizen — was never tested at trial, and now it will not be. It was asserted, litigated up to the Supreme Court, lost there, and withdrawn before any court reached the merits a second time. That is the shit of it — a federal agency can put a number on twenty thousand voters, lose at the Supreme Court, and still retire the case without ever having to make its number match a name.

Alaska's version asked a state to hold a certification hostage to an outcome. California's asked a state to hold 20,000 of its own residents' ballots out of a count on the department's word alone. Both died the same way: not disproven in open court, just taken back before a judge could rule on the merits a second time. The pattern survives its own members. There is no reason, on this record, to expect it retired with California.

In lieu of flowers, the department that files these suits should publish, in every case, the list of ballots or voters the suit named — before a court has to ask, and before the suit is dropped.

"They sue to hold the count hostage, and the second the Supreme Court says no, they drop the case like it never happened — no apology, no accounting of the twenty thousand people they tried to erase. This is the same play run twice in two weeks, Alaska then California, and the only thing that changes is which state eats the legal bill. Next time it's your county's ballots on that list, and by the time a court rules, they'll have already quit and moved on to the next one."

— Sal

"Look, the department was just protecting election integrity, making sure every ballot that gets counted is a legal one — that's not political, that's the job. And dropping the case isn't losing, it's — well, the Supreme Court did rule against us, twice now, so maybe it's — did I say "us"? I meant the department. I don't work there. I just believe in the process."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *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 morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Grand conspiracy probe has spent three lead prosecutors since September and filed zero charges* By Lou · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Trump demands decoy's 3,600 votes be reassigned, not recounted, to the real Dan Sullivan* By Mort · the morning edition, 5 November 2026
- *Justice Department's clause for a narrow Republican loss meets a narrow Republican loss, exactly as drafted.* By Mort · the evening edition, 5 November 2026
- *GOP's mid-decade maps backfire into a dummymander, leaving Democrats holding the pen.* By Mort · the evening edition, 5 November 2026
- *Texas and Missouri redraw maps to dodge voters, voters redraw them back; Georgia's governor takes the hint.* By Mort · the morning edition, 4 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*

Courts Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters
Truthout § *09:18 EDT*

A judge ordered Homeland Security to stop sending agents door to door in nine key states to hunt for "voter fraud."

~~DOJ dismisses lawsuit over California's 20,000 disputed ballots~~

Trump administration drops ballot lawsuit the Supreme Court already blocked
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *21:32 EST*

The Justice Department (DOJ) requested Friday to dismiss its lawsuit against California, which sought to make the state's election officials set aside roughly 20,000 ballots for voters the federal government alleged were not U.S. citizens. The Supreme Court already ruled against the Trump administration in an emergency order ahead of...

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*

DOJ dropping suit over alleged noncitizen ballots
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:39 EST*

The Justice Department moved to dismiss its own lawsuit that sought to stop California from counting roughly 20,000 ballots it alleged went to noncitizens.

· Supreme court rules against Trump over bid to force California to set aside ballots *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

· Supreme Court rejects Trump request for California to set aside ballots from alleged noncitizens *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2026*

· Trump ask to set aside 'Decoy Dan' Alaska Senate ballots 'not even possible': attorneys *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Peltola repeats denial of ballot-stacking reports, stays silent on federal probe *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump prosecutions under Biden set precedent for DOJ's Alaska 'Decoy Dan' probe, ex-FEC chair says *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Murkowski snubs Trump-backed Alaska candidate, endorses Democrat for governor *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate trace *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Facing an electoral wipeout, Trump goes after the system *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Corey Lewandowski Always Found His Way Back to Trump. Until Now. *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

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

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

· DOJ demands that California counties help identify noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – live *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· DoJ sues to block certification of Alaska Senate results if Republican incumbent loses *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump-Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump on the Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one that said, "do it"' *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele *from the morgue, 14 Dec 2020*

· US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *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*

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· Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

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· 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*

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

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



“Houston Police to Stop Alerting ICE During Traffic Stops”, 6 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. On November 6, 2026, Houston's mayor ordered police to stop notifying ICE during routine traffic stops.

WHO GETS PAID. Texas Democrats, who just won the governor's mansion, get the political credit for the policy shift.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Houston's policy holds, Texas could try to preempt it the same way; that is what Denton, Texas got after its November 2014 fracking ban: the governor signed a law six months later barring local bans statewide.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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 Whitmire runs; what 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."...

...(cont) The tinkerer built the mechanism from parts already on the shelf. One phone call, redirected. One standing instruction, amended. One danger standard, set by the mayor on the record. That is the whole apparatus — an existing discretion, pointed somewhere else.

The muscle went after the old structure first. Abbott's order had stood as the backdrop for the department's old habit, cooperation as the default setting. Abbott lost his seat Tuesday. The order he signed stayed on the books, technically, and Whitmire moved anyway. Fox News framed it as the mayor bolting early, acting before any new administration was even sworn in. Call it early. Either way, the discretion moved the same week the governor's mansion did.

The pilot flew it to where it lands: a department that will keep making routine stops, every one of them now a choice about whether a call to ICE happens at all. Houston didn't wait for a new statute, a new court ruling, or a new line item. It used the keys that were already in the drawer, the week the locks on the mansion changed hands.

That's the whole caper.

🍺

“The mayor didn't need a new law or a new dollar. The power to make this call was sitting inside his own department the whole time, and he only picked it up the same week Democrats took the governor's mansion. That's the real story here: nobody needed permission from Austin, they just needed the nerve to use what they already had.”

— Sal

🚬

“This is a city choosing which federal laws it feels like enforcing, and that undermines — well, it's the exact same lever Governor Abbott's own cooperation order used, just pointed the other way. And the mayor's office says they're still handing over anyone who "poses a danger," so this isn't open borders, it's a sorting rule. Did I just defend a sorting rule? Forget I said that.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

But: **Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** *NBC News, May 2026*

Houston Police to Stop Alerting ICE During Traffic Stops

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *16:47 EST*

Mayor John Whitmire has instructed Houston police to stop notifying immigration agents when they encounter someone without legal status during routine street stops.

But: **Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** *NBC News, May 2026*

Houston to limit police cooperation with federal immigration authorities

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *14:29 EST*

Mayor said only immigrants that ‘pose a danger’ would be referred to ICE, after Democrats gain control of governor’s seat The mayor of Houston on Friday said the city would limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities, heralding “a new model” of immigration enforcement after Democrats won power in Texas for the first time in...

~~Houston mayor bolts early from ICE cooperation after blue wave crashes in Texas~~

Houston mayor blocks police from reporting nonviolent immigrants to ICE, defying Abbott's order

Fox News RIGHT § *14:35 EST*

Houston Mayor John Whitmire bars police from notifying ICE during nonviolent stops despite defeated Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's order.

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

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

“Cornell faculty declares ‘no confidence’ in school leaders in fallout from alleged gang-rape”, 6 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's faculty senate voted no confidence, 75 to 50, in the administration on November 6, 2026, over its handling of an alleged fraternity gang rape.

WHO GETS PAID. Cornell's board of trustees, which voted confidence in President Michael Kotlikoff the same day.

WHAT SLIPS. The faculty's formal rebuke is the normal check on university leadership, and it slips because the trustees who actually hire and fire the president overruled it hours later.

WHAT'S NEXT. Nothing further is scheduled yet. The civil lawsuit the former student filed over the alleged 2024 gang rape is still pending, and no criminal charges have been brought.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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, November 6th, 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 Ortiz 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....

...(cont) My nephew said the vote is "symbolic," which is the word every outlet used for it, and symbolic, he explained, means it does not remove anybody from a job. It expresses an opinion. I asked him whose opinion changes anything, and he said that's not a legal question, that's a different major.

What I wanted him to explain, and what I'm not sure he could, was this: the same day, the Cornell board of trustees backed President Michael Kotlikoff. Not next week. Not after a review. The same Friday the faculty said no confidence, the body that actually employs the man said the opposite — confidence — about the same administration, over the same case, in the same building, more or less. Is a word still doing its job when two different rooms down the hall from each other use it to mean the opposite thing on the same afternoon?

My nephew didn't have an answer for that one either, which I respected him for, because I didn't have one either. I just had the belt, and the wrench, and the fact that the same wrench loosens a bolt turned one way and tightens it turned the other, and nobody would call that wrench broken for doing both. Is "confidence" more like that wrench, or is it more like the belt — a thing that's either on there holding the engine together or it isn't, with nothing in between?

The dog wanted out around then, so we stepped onto the porch for a minute. When we came back to the garage, I asked him one more thing, because I'd almost let it go without asking. On October 4th, before any of the votes, before the lawsuit had even finished causing its first round of outrage, Kotlikoff told the Guardian he'd take "a serious look" at fraternities on campus. That was more than a month before his own board sat down and voted him their confidence.

So — excuse me, one more question before you head out — did that serious look ever finish? Because I went back through what's in front of me, and I don't see where anybody reported that it did. If a review hasn't come back yet, what exactly did the board have in front of it when it decided, on the same day the faculty said no, to say yes?

“They used the same word, "confidence," twice in one building on the same Friday, and made it mean opposite things depending on who was getting asked. The faculty don't hire that president and they don't fire him — the trustees do, and the trustees said keep him, same day. That's not two sides disagreeing, that's the people who actually own the place telling everybody else their vote was for the record and nothing more.”

— Sal

“Look, the board isn't overruling the faculty, they're exercising independent fiduciary oversight, which is a completely different function from a symbolic resolution — did I say "independent"? The same body that's backing him now is the body that hired him, so maybe "independent" isn't — forget I used that word. The point is the board has a duty to stability that a senate vote doesn't carry, and that's not a dodge, that's governance. Probably.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Cornell faculty declares ‘no confidence’ in school leaders in fallout from alleged gang-rape

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:46 EST*

Faculty senate passed resolution expressing deep discontent with school’s response to alleged fraternity rape Cornell University’s faculty senate approved a resolution on Friday declaring “no confidence” in the school’s top leaders, a symbolic gesture reflecting deep discontent on campus in the wake of a former student’s lawsuit saying...

~~Cornell Faculty Passes Vote of No Confidence Over Handling of Sexual Assault Case~~

Cornell faculty revolt: administration mishandled a rape allegation.

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *17:47 EST*

The largely symbolic vote serves as a sharp rebuke of campus leadership’s handling of an explosive rape allegation that put the university in the national spotlight.

Cornell faculty senate votes no confidence in university leadership

The Washington Post MAINSTREAM § *16:11 EST*

The symbolic vote comes in the aftermath of sexual assault allegations made by a former student.

Cornell faculty senate votes no-confidence in school's leadership

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *17:25 EST*

Following the alleged gang rape of a student, Cornell's faculty senate passed a no-confidence resolution condemning the school's handling of sexual violence on campus.

Cornell Faculty Senate passes no-confidence vote over Jane Doe case, but board of trustees backs president

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:09 EST*

The Cornell University Faculty Senate on Friday passed a no-confidence vote against the university administration and President Michael Kotlikoff after allegations of gang rape at a campus fraternity roiled the country. The symbolic vote, which passed with 55 percent support while 7 percent of the body abstained, marks the latest stage...

Cornell's Faculty Senate votes "no confidence" in administration

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:35 EST*

Cornell University's Faculty Senate approved a resolution expressing no confidence in the university's administration, including Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff and other administrators.

Cornell faculty senate issues no confidence vote on administration’s handling of sexual assault

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *15:54 EST*

Members of the Cornell University faculty senate on Friday issued a vote of no confidence on the administration’s ability to manage the response to an alleged sexual assault at a fraternity house in 2024, according to the university.

· Cornell faculty prepare no-confidence vote against administration *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Cornell Faculty Senate preps for no confidence vote on president after Jane Doe's allegations: What to know *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· "Entire System of Cornell University Failed Her": Jane Doe Gang Rape Case Enrages Campus Community *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Cornell president vows ‘serious look’ at fraternities in wake of rape allegations *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

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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 RECORDS BUREAU

"Fox completes $22B acquisition of streaming giant Roku", 6 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Federal Communications Commission repealed its media ownership cap, clearing the way for Fox to buy Roku.

WHO GETS PAID. Fox Corporation gains Roku's streaming platform and advertising reach for its sports and news programming.

WHAT SLIPS. The federal review a coalition once used to challenge media mergers no longer exists, so no outside check stops the next one.

WHAT'S NEXT. If consolidation continues unchecked, local news coverage keeps thinning; that is what the record shows nationwide after 2020: when a local paper closes, the town's borrowing costs rise 5 to 11 basis points, about $650,000 a bond issue.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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....

...(cont) 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 billion — the third mega-merger of its kind in a month, and the only one of the three the dead rule was never even asked to block. By the time those papers were signed, there was no rule left standing to ask.

The media ownership cap is survived, then, by two new conglomerates built in the weeks since it died: one, Skydance, raised from a merger the cap had been invoked to stop and failed to; the other, Fox-Roku, raised from a merger the cap was never asked to stop at all. It is preceded in death by the public-interest standard, and followed, so far, by no hearing, no second vote, and no inheritance tax.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that the public comment period be reopened before a fourth check clears.

"They killed the rule the same week it was being used to stop a buyout, and look who's standing at the door when the body's still warm — not the company that filed the complaint, Fox. Twenty-two billion dollars, cash, for Roku, a month after Paramount already walked through that same busted door for free. You don't need to ask for deregulation anymore, you just need to be close by when it happens."

— Sal

"Consolidation isn't a dirty word, it's efficiency — Fox-Roku means better ad targeting, more investment, a stronger American media company competing with the streamers. The market decided this, not some backroom deal — well, it was a 2-1 vote at one commission, but two beats one, that's just arithmetic, that's not a conspiracy. Did I say "the market decided"? Three people decided. Same thing, basically."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Newsom commutes 548 death sentences by invoking the clause that hands hundreds back to four judges* By Lou · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Newsom commutes all death sentences under a constitution barring the worst ones without four judges' sign-off.* By Lou · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Court excuses fossil fuel companies from paying for climate damage; Washington bills tribes $470 million instead.* By Mort · the evening edition, 2 November 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Fox completes $22B acquisition of streaming giant Roku

New York Post RIGHT · *11:20 EST*

Fox Corp said Friday that it completed its $22 billion acquisition of streaming giant Roku, in a major move to bolster the broadcaster's advertising business, as well as grow the online reach of its sports and news programming.

· Paramount completes takeover of Warner Bros, creating media behemoth Skydance *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· The Walt Disney Company closes a deal to acquire NBCUniversal's stake in the streaming service Hulu for $439 million, completing its acquisition of Hulu. (AP) (Variety) *from the morgue, 10 Jun 2025*

· 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*

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· 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.

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

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Newsom death penalty move 'impossible to view outside a political lens': Geragos", 6 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. California's governor commuted all 548 death sentences in the state to life in prison without parole.

WHO GETS PAID. The governor collects the credit for ending executions in California; a defense attorney said on the record that the move is impossible to view outside a political lens.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the four-justice rule holds, hundreds of those cases go to the state supreme court before any of those sentences change, and that review is the next thing on the calendar.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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?...

...(cont) 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 in hundreds of those cases." Ronnie had me read that out loud, twice, and then he explained the clause the way you'd explain it to a man holding a dog's leash: in California, for somebody convicted of a felony twice, a governor's clemency needs the state supreme court to recommend it, four of the seven justices concurring. That isn't Ronnie talking, that's the page he pulled up on his phone. And it wasn't only Ronnie — a district attorney told a paper the same day that the commutation faces a legal hurdle, and a criminal defense attorney went on television and said the move was impossible to view outside a political lens. The moral case and the sign-off are printed on the same day, in the same story, about the same 548 people. How does a man read both of those and know which one he signed?

I went through my own clippings after Ronnie left, because he says you date everything. In September an editorial page called the governor's deference to Kamala Harris "a masterstroke" — their word, not mine, I wrote it down because I had to look it up. On October 2, Tennessee halted all of its executions after Christa Pike was left in critical condition. On October 20, the governor of Alabama commuted one death row sentence. One. A name, a signature, and a sentence that was different the next morning.

Now the part I actually understand, because it's in my garage. The opener on the big door is mine. I bought it, I hung it, I pay for the current it draws. My wife's father, when he lived with us, ran a slide bolt through the track on the inside, because he didn't trust the opener, and he was right not to. So I stand in the driveway in the rain and press my own button, and the motor hums, the chain pulls, the door lifts an inch and a half and stops, because his bolt is in the track and the bolt doesn't know whose button it is. The door isn't up. It isn't down either. It has been announced. And if I tell you my car got out Friday morning, you'd be right to ask whether the door went up or whether I just heard the motor from the driveway.

Oh — excuse me, before you go. One thing and I'll leave you to your drink. The announcement says all 548. The page says the court decides hundreds of them. So Friday morning, in those hundreds, which sentence are those men serving — the one he announced, or the one they had on Wednesday? And how many people have to sign before that question has an answer?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

NEWSOM ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT ALL 548 DEATH SENTENCES IN CALIFORNIA become life without parole because capital punishment is morally wrong, and the same wire page says the state supreme court has the final say in hundreds of those cases, with a district attorney already on the record that the move faces a legal hurdle. That is not clemency for 548 people; it is one press conference and several hundred requests addressed to four of seven justices, with the governor's name on the announcement and their signatures on the outcome. Because the announcement takes effect the moment it is read out and the hundreds take effect only if four justices concur, the thing that changed this week is the governor's record; because his record is what changed, it gets spent in the next campaign; and the only piece of that you will ever hold in your hand is the ballot envelope with your name printed on the front.

"He says capital punishment is morally wrong and he's right, and then the same wire page says the state supreme court has the final say in hundreds of those cases — so the part that cost him nothing is the part that actually happened Thursday. Five hundred forty-eight people got a sentence announced and a signature pending, and the governor of Alabama managed one commutation in October with a name attached to it. Tennessee stopped executing people last month because an execution left Christa Pike in critical condition; that's what's sitting on the other side of this paperwork while we argue about whose career it helps."

— Sal

"Look, he commuted 548 sentences, that's historic, that's the biggest — did I say historic? That doesn't sound like me. The point is the state supreme court has the final say in hundreds of these cases, which is the process working exactly as written, and if four justices decline then that's the court's call, not the governor's, so nobody can say he didn't do it. He did it. He announced it. What happens next is a separate story, and frankly I don't know why you people keep printing them on the same page."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Newsom commutes all death sentences under a constitution barring the worst ones without four judges' sign-off.* By Lou · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Court excuses fossil fuel companies from paying for climate damage; Washington bills tribes $470 million instead.* By Mort · the evening edition, 2 November 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Newsom death penalty move 'impossible to view outside a political lens': Geragos

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:00 EST*

California criminal defense attorney Mark Geragos said California Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D) move to commute all death-row sentences in his state was political. Geragos joined NewsNation's Jesse Weber on Thursday and said the California governor's move to commute the sentences of 548 inmates facing execution could be viewed as a political...

California governor to grant clemency to all 548 death row inmates in state

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *09:54 EST*

California's governor Gavy Newsom announced Thursday that he will commute all death sentences in the state to life without the possibility of parole. He said that "capital punishment is morally wrong." The state Supreme Court will have the final say in hundreds of those cases.

Newsom Commutes All 548 Death Sentences in California

Truthout § *11:01 EST*

The governor altered the sentences of people facing the death penalty to lifetime imprisonment without parole.

· Abolish the death penalty now! *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

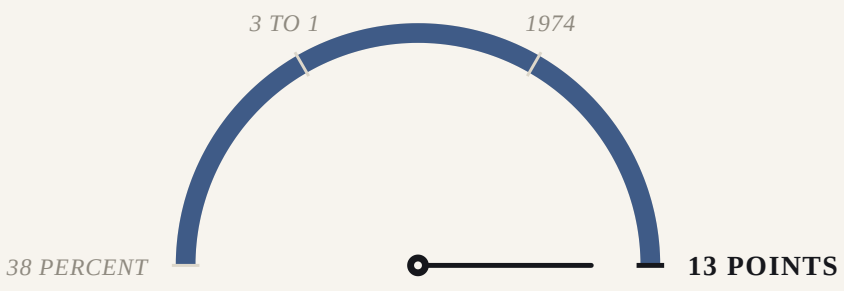
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§84 — 06 NOVEMBER 2026

On mandate

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



13 POINTS

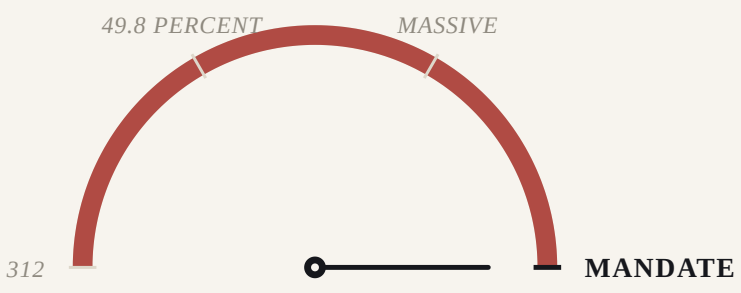
The customers came back on November 3. Democrats won control of the House and the Senate [1]. As of November 4 their House popular-vote margin was projected at 13 points, with the count unfinished. No party had won a midterm House vote by that much since 1974. Republican wave years 1994 and 2010 ran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