The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Ex-aide calls Trump a 'baby,' then asks the people he accused to preserve their own records.

BY MITCH
Investigations

Calley Means quit the White House on October 22nd. The reason he gave that day, carried by both The Hill and the Washington Examiner, was food policy: the senior adviser to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the Make America Healthy Again agenda had stalled under the administration he was leaving.

Seventeen days of silence followed. It ended on November 8th, on Face the Nation, where Means told Margaret Brennan that President Trump "has been subverted by people that are beholden to special interests." The sentence named no one. Means was not a plaintiff. The office he now says subverted the president was, by then, already a defendant.

Means's next move went to that same office. The Hill reported he sent a formal records-preservation request to Wiles — a letter asking her to keep, not destroy, her own files on health-policy lobbying, the trail he says runs between the special interests and the president. It is the posture of a man who still believes the filing cabinet he is pointing at will hold still long enough to be opened later, by someone, eventually.

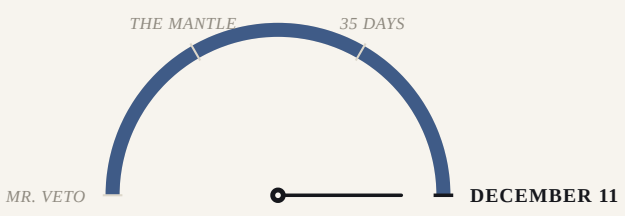
... Continued on Page A232

THE WORD

§87 — 09 NOVEMBER 2026

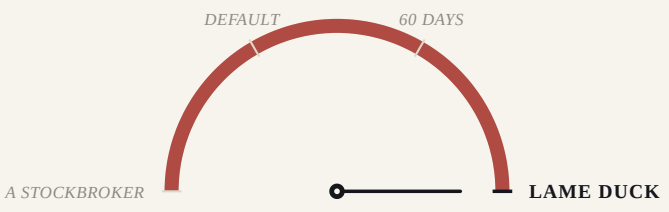
On lame duck

DEMOCRAT



DECEMBER 11

REPUBLICAN



LAME DUCK

"I rented from a fella who sold the building. He had till the first of the month, and that last week he signed a lot of paper. Legal, every sheet. I can't stop looking at a date, I'm sorry. December 11. That's when the money runs out this year. December 11, 2018, he said "I am proud to shut down the government." I checked it twice. His party had just lost the House. Thirty-five days. Sorry, one thing before you go. Fifty-five days for them, 803 for him. Which one is the lame duck?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W87

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE BADGE DECIDES

The bowling-alley lights were contracted to the cent, $252,876.34, escort extra; the passes that let 78 reporters in without an escort went dark the day after a post.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Agency dares Democrats to change the law they just won power to leave alone.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The chief lays the job on the table the way jobs start here: a mess with a running count, and a tool sitting in plain sight, unassembled. On October 25th, before a single ballot got counted, ICE confirmed its 60th custody death of this administration — Luis Sandoval, 48, found with a ligature around his neck inside the Folkston D. Ray Processing Center in Georgia.

The planner studies what's already standing. Tuesday the 3rd, voters handed Democrats the House, and on paper, a hand on the switch that funds the agency that had just posted number sixty. Houston found its own switch three days later, ordering its police to stop running interference for federal agents — proof a lever, pulled, moves something. Washington's new majority studied the same kind of lever and set it back down; the border Democrat set to chair the purse strings told Fox the same week there would be no defund push, full stop.

The tinkerer picks up the part sitting in plain sight: the statute itself, the one thing a House majority is actually built to rewrite. It's the part ICE's own New York chief handed back this week. Asked about lawmakers calling to

... Continued on Page T32

Senator tapes loyalty video for Republicans, immediately joins Democrats' list of officials fired for it

BY SAL
Staff Writer

Start with Monday.

Back up to September. Fetterman taped a video for the Republican Party's midterm convention in Dallas, telling delegates he would keep caucusing with Democrats while praising the Republican Dave McCormick and vowing to work with Trump. Four days after that tape aired, Rhode Island's Democratic primary voters fired their own governor, 62.5 percent to 37.5 percent at eighty percent counted, and in the same primary fired a sitting Providence mayor — two incumbents turned out in one week, the race Democratic primary voters had already used to punish officials for comparable outreach to the right.

Then came this month. Democrats retook the Senate majority on the 3rd and 4th, a week that also produced the first Native American woman elected to the Senate, from Minnesota; the first openly gay man elected to the Senate, from New Hampshire; and the first Muslim senator, from Michigan. In New Hampshire, Chris Pappas beat John Sununu to hold the seat Jeanne Shaheen is vacating, keeping a seat a Sununu once held nearly two decades ago in

... Continued on Page A232

Trump says his deportation policy was too tough, then makes his longtime immigration adviser chief of staff.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The Lesson was born on a Tuesday, the third of November, when voters took both chambers of Congress away from the party holding the White House. It lived exactly as long as it took the President to read the result and reach for the man who wrote the policy voters had just punished.

By Friday the sixth, the reach landed: Stephen Miller, the longtime immigration adviser behind the administration's hard-line deportation program, was named White House chief of staff. Chuck Schumer said the move showed the President had "learned nothing from his historic defeat." Hakeem Jeffries went further, telling the Washington Examiner that Miller "should be eradicated like a malignant tumor" — not a sentence this column would choose, but one now on the record, dated the sixth of November.

Two days later, on Sunday, the Lesson died. The President sat for "60 Minutes" and told CBS News — the same network that would carry Jeffries to "CBS Mornings" the next day to discuss immigration reform, corruption, and the very appointment he had just condemned — that his deportation policy had been "too tough," and may have cost his party the election it had already

... Continued on Page T32

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

The second winter, a man watched the pass. Salt came, and no cart brought it.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Agency dares Democrats to change the law they just won power to leave alone.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



"NYC ICE chief fires back at far-left politicians seeking to abolish agency: 'Change the law'", 9 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

❦ THE FORECAST ❦

Kenneth Genalo, ICE's New York chief, told lawmakers calling to abolish the agency on November 9, 2026, to change the law instead. The border Democrat set to control ICE's funding had already ruled out any defunding push that same week.

Congress may hold hearings on the statute, members may file bills to rewrite it, and the chamber may adjourn without ever calling a vote, leaving the agency's funding, its custody deaths and its re-arrests of court winners to continue exactly as they have, untouched by the law anyone just dared anyone else to change.

THE LAW. Washington, 24 June 2011: the House Libya funding resolution failed 180 to 238, and the operation ran four more months unchanged.

Happened once. Ask Washington, 2011.

EARL

More of Earl's calls, and the score, on E7

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief lays the job on the table the way jobs start here: a mess with a running count, and a tool sitting in plain sight, unassembled. On October 25th, before a single ballot got counted, ICE confirmed its 60th custody death of this administration — Luis Sandoval, 48, found with a ligature around his neck inside the Folkston D. Ray Processing Center in Georgia.

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...(cont) The tinkerer picks up the part sitting in plain sight: the statute itself, the one thing a House majority is actually built to rewrite. It's the part ICE's own New York chief handed back this week. Asked about lawmakers calling to abolish the agency, Kenneth Genalo didn't defend the record — the dare was flat: change the law. Not reform it, not fund it differently. Write a new one, if the one on the books bothers you. The dare lands on a majority that just won the only chamber built to take it, and said within the same week it would not.

The muscle checks whether any tool actually got swung this month and finds one, in a different courtroom. On October 31st, Judge Jesse Furman ruled that the Justice Department's firing of prosecutor Maurene Comey had no cause behind it — a real check, landed. Legal veterans warn an appeal is likely, and say the ruling could still shape how other judges treat the next politicized firing. One tool, used once, holding for now, a different shape than the statute just dared into the open.

The pilot looks for who's flying the rest of it and finds the seat empty. An 8-year-old Haitian boy sits in federal custody this week after a routine check-in, in a system the new majority can fund, defund, or rewrite and has chosen, this week, to do none of the three.

"Democrats get the House and the purse strings and sit on both, so ICE's own chief hands them a third option, free: change the law. The catch: nothing filed, no bill, no vote — just pointing at the other guy's toolbox. That's how a count already past sixty, and an eight-year-old kid alone in federal custody, turn into a news cycle instead of a vote."

— Sal

"Look, the chief's not wrong — you don't like the statute, you change the statute, that's Civics 101, not a talking point. ICE just enforces what's on the books, they didn't write the asylum backlog or the court calendar — oh, except Congress is the one he's daring, and they just said they're leaving the law and the money alone. Did I say that? That's not landing the way I wanted."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Democrats win power to rein in ICE, immediately promise not to touch its money.* By The Wrecking Crew · the morning edition, 9 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: **The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them** *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

NYC ICE chief fires back at far-left politicians seeking to abolish agency: 'Change the law'

Fox News RIGHT § *10:20 EST*

Kenneth Genalo challenges lawmakers calling for ICE's abolition, saying they should change immigration law instead of demonizing federal agents.

· Maurene Comey ruling offers hope of check on Trump's assault on rule of law *from the morgue, 31 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.

Senator tapes loyalty video for Republicans, immediately joins Democrats' list of officials fired for it

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

"Democrat Chris Pappas defeats John Sununu in race for New Hampshire Senate seat", 4 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Palestinian American writer filed the first primary challenge against Senator John Fetterman for 2028.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The senator's own caucus loyalty, which the party's primary voters now treat as a question to be settled at the ballot box.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, Moor is not the last challenger Fetterman draws before 2028; that is what happened in Rhode Island, where a governor and a mayor both lost their primaries the same week for comparable outreach to the right.

❦ THE FORECAST ❦

A sitting Democratic senator taped a video for the Republican Party's midterm convention in September, vowing to work with Trump. On 9 November, Ahmed Moor filed the first primary challenge against him for 2028.

The attorney general may recommend the term apply to a group whose politics the administration finds hostile to traditional American views, and refer its donors to the Internal Revenue Service for investigation.

THE LAW. NSPM-7, Sec. 1 and Sec. 2(j), 25 September 2025

What's next, ___?

EARL

More of Earl's calls, and the score, on E7

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

> Start with Monday.
>
> Back up to September. Fetterman taped a video for the Republican Party's midterm convention in Dallas, telling delegates he would keep caucusing with Democrats while praising the Republican Dave McCormick and vowing to work with Trump. Four days after that tape aired, Rhode Island's Democratic primary voters fired their own governor, 62.5 percent to 37.5 percent at eighty percent counted, and in the same primary fired a sitting Providence mayor — two incumbents turned out in one week, the race Democratic primary voters had already used to punish officials for comparable outreach to the right....

...(cont) Then came this month. Democrats retook the Senate majority on the 3rd and 4th, a week that also produced the first Native American woman elected to the Senate, from Minnesota; the first openly gay man elected to the Senate, from New Hampshire; and the first Muslim senator, from Michigan. In New Hampshire, Chris Pappas beat John Sununu to hold the seat Jeanne Shaheen is vacating, keeping a seat a Sununu once held nearly two decades ago in Democratic hands. The week handed the party a slate of new names to run on.

Five days after that majority was called, before anyone had finished writing headlines about historic firsts, Moor announced his bid against the one incumbent the party had not put on that list. The sequence runs tape, then two firings, then a new Senate majority stocked with firsts, then a challenger — in that order, on the record, with no step requiring anyone to guess at what Fetterman meant. He said it himself, on camera: keep the caucus, work with Trump, praise the man running against his own party.

The desk has watched this arithmetic before. One senator tapes a message of comity for the other side's convention. Two Democratic incumbents who tried something similar lose their primaries inside the same week. A third officeholder, the one who made the tape, draws his first challenger before the next Senate's gavel has even settled into its new majority. Nothing here required a leak, a whistleblower, or an anonymous source — every beat ran on a public filing, a vote count, or a camera that was already rolling.

Moor is not running against an abstraction. He is running against a tape, and the tape has two names already sitting next to it in the same primary season. That is enough time to find out whether a third name joins them, or whether this one turns out to be the exception the pattern has been waiting for.

"Fetterman didn't get primaried because he reached across the aisle — he got primaried because the aisle is where two other Democrats already lost their jobs this fall, and he walked over anyway with a camera rolling. That's not bad luck, that's a pattern with his name finally on it. The tape doesn't go away because the caucus card still says D."

— Sal

"A senator reaching across the aisle to find common ground is what voters say they want, right up until the moment they get it. Fetterman said he'd keep caucusing with Democrats — that's the whole ballgame, that's loyalty, nothing else matters. Although, come to think of it, maybe I shouldn't be the one explaining what loyalty means this week."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Republicans, Democrats and ABC agree the ads are taxpayer money; Trump agrees too — with his PAC's money.* By Ruth · the supper edition, 7 October 2026
- *ICE signs $16.7 million contract for gloves its own Army study found cause 'excessive' fear in test subjects.* By Mitch · the noon edition, 7 October 2026
- *Trump's own Senate pick says the pep rally cost him votes; Trump confirms it by not denying it.* By Chip · the milkman edition, 1 October 2026
- *Fetterman says he has no reason to leave Democrats, weeks after cutting an ad for their Republican rival.* By Chip · the wee small hours edition, 29 September 2026
- *Republican senators ask Trump to end the war some of them voted four days earlier to keep alive.* By Sal · the midnight edition, 29 September 2026
- *Fetterman says he has no reason to leave the party he keeps quitting on tape and by vote.* By Sal · the early evening edition, 28 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Democrat Chris Pappas defeats John Sununu in race for New Hampshire Senate seat

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:22 EST*

Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) won the New Hampshire Senate race Tuesday night, keeping a seat held for almost two decades by retiring Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in Democratic hands.

US midterms bring a wave of historic firsts as minorities win key races

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *11:51 EST*

US midterms bring a wave of historic firsts as minorities win key races: The first Native American female senator in Minnesota, the first openly gay male senator in New Hampshire, the first Muslim senator in Michigan and the country's first Black female governor in Georgia. FRANCE 24's Elitsa Gadeva has more.

First challenger enters race for Fetterman's seat in 2028

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:17 EST*

Less than a week after Democrats retook the Senate majority, a challenger has just thrown his hat in the ring to oust one of their most controversial members. Ahmed Moor, a Palestinian American writer and businessman, announced a bid to unseat Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) on Monday, marking the first challenge to Fetterman as questions...

· Fetterman appears at RNC midterm convention in surprise video *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman, already at odds with his party, makes surprise video for GOP convention *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Dem senator delivers surprise video at Republican convention backing McCormick *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman Praises McCormick, Vows To Work With Trump In Pre-Recorded Midterm Convention Video *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman says he'll still caucus with Democrats after video appearance at GOP midterm convention *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman teases where his true loyalty lies after surprise appearance at GOP convention *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Watch: Democratic Sen. John Fetterman addresses GOP midterm convention in video *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman appears in video praising McCormick at GOP midterm convention *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee loses Democratic primary to former CVS executive *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Incumbents fall in Rhode Island primaries: 3 takeaways *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Dem incumbent becomes first sitting governor to lose primary since 2018 *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Helena Foulkes wins Rhode Island Democratic governor primary, NBC News projects *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Rhode Island's Dan McKee becomes first elected governor to lose primary since 2014 *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Democratic socialist ousts Providence mayor in primary *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Rhode Island governor projected to lose Democratic primary to former CVS executive *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Bernie Sanders-endorsed challenger defeats Providence mayor in a Democratic primary *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman's Surprise GOP Convention Video Angers Democrats *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman praises 'great friend' McCormick in surprise midterm convention video *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Fetterman Praises Trump in Convention Video *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Pa. Democrat John Fetterman delivers surprise message at Republican midterm convention *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· This Governor Could Lose His Primary. A Bridge May Be to Blame. *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· Rhode Island governor trails challenger in new Democratic primary poll *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· "Mop Up Michigan": Donavan McKinney on Democratic Socialism, Corporate Money & His Primary Upset *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2026*

· Eight House Democrats vote to condemn and denounce socialism and the DSA *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Vulnerable Democrats vote to denounce socialism amid midterm pressure *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Rahm Emanuel shuts socialists out of Democratic tent: 'Run as a separate party' *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· Fetterman: Democratic Party has 'socialism problem' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Fetterman 2028 primary threat looms as Democrat Chris Deluzio says he 'might' run *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Pennsylvania Democrat blasts Fetterman as 'lazy trust fund baby' *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Democrats split on how to counter Trump's midterm convention *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Dan McKee becomes first governor in 8 years to lose primary *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Chris Deluzio On John Fetterman: "A Failure Of Leadership" *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Dems descend on posh island getaway packed with deep-pocketed donors as midterms close in *from the morgue, 6 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.

THE ADMISSION

Trump says his deportation policy was too tough, then makes his longtime immigration adviser chief of staff.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Stephen Miller, Trump's incoming chief of staff, pledges 'total devotion' to the president", 7 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told 60 Minutes on November 8 his deportation policy was too tough and cost Republicans the midterms.

WHO GETS PAID. Stephen Miller, the policy's architect, gets the chief of staff job two days after Trump disowns the policy.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters took away the party's majority to punish this policy; the answer was promoting the man who wrote it, not changing it.

WHAT'S NEXT. The Supreme Court agreed October 1 to hear a challenge to indefinite immigration detention, with no argument date set yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Lesson was born on a Tuesday, the third of November, when voters took both chambers of Congress away from the party holding the White House. It lived exactly as long as it took the President to read the result and reach for the man who wrote the policy voters had just punished.

By Friday the sixth, the reach landed: Stephen Miller, the longtime immigration adviser behind the administration's hard-line deportation program, was named White House chief of staff. Chuck Schumer said the move showed the President had "learned nothing from his historic defeat." Hakeem Jeffries went further, telling the Washington Examiner that Miller "should be eradicated like a malignant tumor" — not a sentence this column would choose, but one now on the record, dated the sixth of November....

...(cont) Two days later, on Sunday, the Lesson died. The President sat for "60 Minutes" and told CBS News — the same network that would carry Jeffries to "CBS Mornings" the next day to discuss immigration reform, corruption, and the very appointment he had just condemned — that his deportation policy had been "too tough," and may have cost his party the election it had already lost. He did not walk back the appointment. He walked back the premise and kept the man. Hogwash, confessed on camera, is still hogwash.

The record had warned him this was coming. A midterm scorecard filed the Monday before, the second of November, noted that the last major immigration reform law passed in 1996, that a narrow Republican majority hadn't managed to codify this one in two years of trying, and that after Tuesday, codifying it by any majority gets harder to answer than easier. Which made Friday's promotion a bet placed not on Congress but on the courts. The Supreme Court had agreed on the first of October to hear a challenge to indefinite immigration detention; by the fourteenth, the Guardian reported the administration's immigration and deportation policies would be tested alongside a climate suit and a gun case sometime in the Court's coming term — no date certain, just a count of signature policies now waiting their turn.

The Lesson died Sunday, five days old, survived by the architect it was buried for hiring, and by a leader of the opposition party who had already said, on the record, what he thought should happen to that architect. In lieu of flowers, the family asks only that you read the quote from the sixth before you read the quote from the eighth, and notice which one the President acted on.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

THE PRESIDENT MADE STEPHEN MILLER, THE LONGTIME IMMIGRATION ADVISER BEHIND his deportation program, chief of staff on Friday, then told "60 Minutes" two days later that the same program was too tough and cost his party the election. That isn't a correction, it's a laundering operation: the apology buys back the suburban vote while the promotion hands the actual machine to the man who built it, so the walk-back and the appointment are the same press release wearing two faces. He tells the country the sorting went too far, and the guard relaxes; he hands the sorting pen right back to the man who invented the categories, and the sorting speeds back up; the next envelope marked good or not good lands in your mailbox, with your own name on it.

"He tells you the policy was too tough, like that's an apology, then hands the pen right back to the guy who wrote it — that's not regret, that's a receipt for who's actually in charge. Hakeem Jeffries can call Stephen Miller a tumor on television all he wants; words on CBS don't unstaple a chief-of-staff appointment. The man who built the machine now runs the building it's housed in, and the only thing that changed Sunday was who got to feel better about it."

— Sal

"Look, the President heard the voters loud and clear, that's what leadership looks like — he said the policy was too tough and he's reaching across the aisle for a bipartisan deal on legal status for the good ones. Promoting Stephen Miller? That's just keeping the guy who knows the file, continuity of government, very standard practice. Did I just call Stephen Miller "the guy who knows the file"? That's not landing the way I wanted it to."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *'Zero chance' promise dies at three weeks; chief of staff's wife leaves the air three days later.* By Mort · the morning edition, 9 November 2026
- *Pundit says new chief of staff will thrive against hostile media his office is already sued for banning.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
- *Trump promotes aide Jeffries will refuse to work with four days into Democrats having the power to refuse* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
- *Three weeks after saying there was "zero chance" he would remove his chief of staff, Trump gave the job to the aide who pledged "total devotion."* By Chip · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Stephen Miller, Trump's incoming chief of staff, pledges 'total devotion' to the president
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *10:15 EST*
Hardline aide offers 'unwavering commitment' to president amid fears White House will double down on far-right immigration agenda Stephen Miller, Donald Trump 's most controversial aide and the architect of his sweeping immigration crackdown, has lavished praise on the president after his appointment as White House chief of staff. In his...

But: The UN torture rapporteur found ICE's planned electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture'; ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
Meet Stephen Miller, Trump's new chief of staff: 5 things to know
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *13:22 EST*
President Trump announced Friday that longtime White House aide Stephen Miller would be his next chief of staff, replacing Susie Wiles — who has served in the role since Trump returned to office. Miller is an immigration hardliner and Trump loyalist who has been with the president since he launched his first campaign. The promotion...

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*
Trump replaces Susie Wiles with Stephen Miller
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *11:15 EST*
President Trump picked Stephen Miller to replace Susie Wiles as his new White House chief of staff after a dismal midterm performance for Republicans.

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
In Elevating Stephen Miller, Trump Doubles Down on Hard-Line Agenda
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *12:23 EST*
The new White House chief of staff is responsible for some of the most provocative policies of President Trump's second term, as well as an aggressive approach to executive power.

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Jeffries says Stephen Miller 'should be eradicated like a malignant tumor' after White House promotion
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *16:49 EST*
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) swiftly condemned President Donald Trump's decision to elevate Stephen Miller to White House chief of staff, calling the longtime immigration adviser a "dangerous xenophobe" and demanding his removal from the administration. "Stephen Miller is a dangerous xenophobe and reckless extremist who...

~~As US and Israel Plot Iran Escalation, Regional Powers Scramble to Avert It~~
US and Israel are plotting an Iran escalation. The region is scrambling to stop it.
Truthout | *11:53 EDT*
Saudi, Pakistani, and Turkish leaders met with Iranian officials in Tehran, signaling their reticence to renew the war.

~~'Power of the Purse': Schumer Indicates Democrats Will Defund Trump's Illegal Iran War~~
Democrats plan to defund Trump's illegal Iran war - once they're in power, next year
Common Dreams | *16:52 EST*
Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday indicated that his party will defund President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran when it takes over as the majority next year. While speaking with reporters, Schumer (D-NY) was asked how Democrats planned to end the war, which Trump launched without congressional authorization in...

Iran unveils 'We will kill Trump' banner – but US president may now be tempted to resume bombing
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *09:07 EST*
Iran celebrates its claimed role in 'regime change' amid pressure on Trump to 'finish the job' with attack US midterms live – latest updates Iran this week unveiled a huge billboard and banners over Enqelab Square in central Tehran. The billboard pledged in English: "We will kill Trump" – elevating the degree of personal animus with...

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Trump says deportation policy 'too tough' in push for bipartisan deal handing legal status to 'good' illegal immigrants
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *08:40 EST*
President Donald Trump said on Sunday his immigration policy hurt the Republican Party in the midterm elections, and pressed Democrats to make a bipartisan deal with the White House that could offer legal status to "good" illegal immigrants. Trump stood by his administration's effort to seal the border and target violent illegal...

CENTCOM announces task force to blockade Iranian ground transit routes
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *14:16 EST*
U.S. Central Command announced on Saturday a new task force designed to blockade Iranian ground transit routes used to transport illegal shipments. Task Force Iron Gate will work with U.S.

~~Stephen Miller named White House Chief of Staff~~
After historic midterm losses, Trump installs immigration crackdown's architect as chief of staff
France 24 | MAINSTREAM | *07:14 EST*
Following historic Republican losses in the midterm elections, Donald Trump has replaced his chief of staff, Susie Wiles, with her deputy Stephen Miller, the architect of his administration's immigration crackdown. Wiles had been seen by some as a stabilising force in the White House, but with Democrats now controlling both chambers of...

Trump told '60 Minutes' his immigration policy was too tough. Then he promoted Stephen Miller.
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *08:59 EST*
In a "60 Minutes" interview, President Trump acknowledged his immigration policy may have been "too tough" and could have impacted the midterm results. CBS News' Aaron Navarro reports, and Camilo Montoya-Galvez has more on Stephen Miller's promotion to White House chief of staff.

~~It's Miller time! but who is Trump's new chief of staff?~~
The architect of Trump's toughest immigration policies now runs the White House
RTÉ | MAINSTREAM | *09:13 EST*
US President Donald Trump has promoted Stephen Miller, the architect of some of his toughest policies on immigration and other domestic issues, to run his White House, but who is the he?

But: ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on electric shock gloves a UN torture rapporteur found incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
For Stephen Miller, Election Defeat Is No Reason to Back Down on Immigration Crackdown
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *13:29 EST*
The president's new chief of staff has already demonstrated his intention to forge ahead with an agenda that many voters rejected.

But: Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours — on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
Iran downplays new U.S. task force aimed at disrupting land routes
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *22:35 EST*
The U.S. did not say whether any military action would be involved in preventing weapons technology or sanctioned items from entering Iran.

Iran live updates: Saudis say Houthi missiles targeted Riyadh, Aramco tower damaged
ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *07:10 EST*
President Donald Trump announced "major combat operations" against Iran on Feb. 28.

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
President Trump: Forget the midterms and finish the job in Iran
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *13:00 EST*
The war will only end by returning to the first objective Trump dropped from his list: the collapse of the fanatical, barbaric Tehran regime.

But: Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours - CNN counted 53 separate such promises *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
Trump drops major bombshell about ending the US war with Iran
New York Post | RIGHT | *17:09 EST*
President Trump stated that Iran is seeking a deal to end its eight-month war with the U.S., noting an agreement "could happen." Tehran confirmed ongoing diplomatic contacts through Qatari mediators, though recent talks yielded modified proposals without a formal breakthrough. Meanwhile, as global economic impacts mount and fears grow...

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Trump's elevation of Stephen Miller a middle finger to millions of voters
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *08:00 EST*
Architect of Trump's far-right immigration agenda is now most powerful unelected figure in government – it suggests White House is moving to a war footing Donald Trump just gave the middle finger to millions of American voters. Any other president who suffered the kind of drubbing at the polls that Trump did this week might have felt at...

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
Democrats blast Trump's decision to make Stephen Miller his chief of staff as president defends picking loyal 'MVP' - as it happened
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *22:02 EST*
This live blog is now closed. Stephen Miller, architect of Trump's immigration crackdown, to become White House chief of staff Sign up for Breaking News US email Donald Trump will begin the day in Washington today. He has closed door meetings for much of the day, and will take part in a Diwali celebration at the White House at 1:30pm ET.

Hakeem Jeffries on immigration reform, tackling corruption and more
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *09:19 EST*
Hakeem Jeffries joins "CBS Mornings" to discuss immigration reform, last week's midterm results, President Trump's promotion of Stephen Miller, corruption and more.

· A midterm scorecard on the border and immigration *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

· Immigration, climate, guns: key Trump policies to be tested at supreme court *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Supreme court to hear case challenging Trump's immigration detention policy *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Stephen Miller, Who Wants Immigrants Deported Over Paperwork, Has 'Glaring Inconsistencies' in His Disclosures *from the morgue, 30 Oct 2026*

· Former Trump aide: Prospect of replacing Wiles with Stephen Miller 'terrifying' *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Trump throws cold water on report Wiles is on thin ice *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Centcom commander says naval blockade cost Iran $25B in oil revenue *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· US military disables ship attempting to bypass Strait of Hormuz blockade *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Trump hints at post-midterm strikes on Iran: 'You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks' *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will be put away very soon: "One way or the other" *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

· Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· US, Iran race to revive Qatar talks as Trump weighs new strikes after midterms *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Iran's president says Iran would return to ceasefire deal if the US does *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump admin threatens Iran with 'consequences' as allies convene amid threats of post-election escalation *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump and Netanyahu Need to Choose Victory on Iran *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump Issues New Mass Murder Threat, Warning Iran of 'Biggest Attack of Them All' *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump denies Axios report that he offered Iran sanctions relief *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will end 'soon' *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will end "soon" as Qatar pushes for U.S.-Iran deal *from the morgue, 30 Oct 2026*

· Donald Trump claims 'Iran war will end very soon' as midterm rallies heat up – US politics live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Iranian dissident reacts to Trump's promise to either annihilate Iran or make a post-election deal *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats 'big decision' at UN on whether he'll 'annihilate' Iran or make deal *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*

· Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· 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*

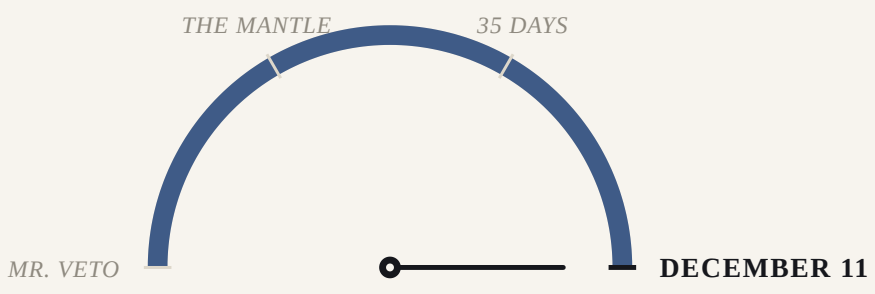
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§87 — 09 NOVEMBER 2026

On lame duck

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



DECEMBER 11

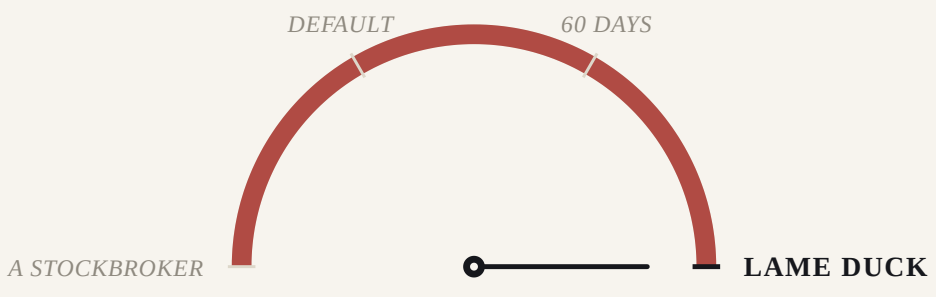
The stopgap runs out on December 11 [1]. The calendar has a memory. In November 2018 his party lost the House [2]. On December 11, 2018, on camera: "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck" [3]. That shutdown ran 35 days and ended on the deal already rejected [4]. The Congressional Budget Office put the cost at $11 billion [5].

He is not the lame duck in this picture. Before the vote he said, "I guess I'll become Mr. Veto" [6]. After it he posted a red cap reading VETO, and Democrats will fall short of the two-thirds to override [7]. The pardon power, on Jamie Raskin's list of oversight targets, has one exception in the text: impeachment [8][9]. Congress has 55 days left from today. He has 803. He has the nuclear codes for all of them.

SOURCES

1. The continuing resolution expires December 11, 2026 — Holland & Knight, October 2026 ↑
2. Democrats took the House majority in November 2018 — Wikipedia, citing the Clerk of the House ↑
3. "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck" — CNN, 11 December 2018 ↑
4. The 35-day shutdown ended with no wall money, on the deal previously rejected — NBC News, January 2019 ↑
5. The partial shutdown cost about $11 billion — Congressional Budget Office, 28 January 2019 ↑
6. "I guess I'll become Mr. Veto" — Newsweek, November 2026 ↑
7. The VETO cap; Democrats short of a two-thirds majority — NBC News live blog, 4 November 2026 ↑
8. Raskin named pardons among potential oversight targets — The Conversation via WLRN, 4 November 2026 ↑
9. Article II, Section 2, the pardon clause — National Archives ↑

REPUBLICAN



LAME DUCK

The term began as a finance word. In the 18th century the London Stock Exchange used it for a broker who defaulted on his debts [1]. The Constitution has been trying to shorten the condition since the Twentieth Amendment set January 3 for the new Congress [2]. The session is scheduled to open today and run toward Christmas [3]. Republicans stay in charge until the new Congress is seated [4].

What it can still do: the debt limit, which Majority Leader John Thune said "could come in the lame duck" [3]. Health department nominees Republicans need confirmed before Democrats take charge [4]. A third reconciliation package, discussed before the election, to fund the Iran war and give states up to $10 billion for stricter voting rules [3]. And a Supreme Court seat, should one open, though neither Alito nor Thomas had announced plans to step down as of November 4. Thune in June: "You're talking about basically 60 days post-election in the lame duck… I certainly wouldn't rule that out" [5]. The duck still votes.

SOURCES

1. 18th-century London Stock Exchange use, a stockbroker who defaulted — Wikipedia, Lame duck (politics) ↑
2. Twentieth Amendment: terms of Senators and Representatives end at noon on January 3 — National Archives ↑
3. The November 9 start; the debt limit; a third reconciliation package — No Labels ↑
4. Republicans in charge until January; HHS nominees — STAT News, 4 November 2026 ↑
5. Thune, June 2026, to Punchbowl News; neither Alito nor Thomas has announced plans to step down — LifeNews, 4 November 2026 ↑

"I rented from a fella who sold the building. He had till the first of the month, and that last week he signed a lot of paper. Legal, every sheet. I can't stop looking at a date, I'm sorry. December 11. That's when the money runs out this year. December 11, 2018, he said "I am proud to shut down the government." I checked it twice. His party had just lost the House. Thirty-five days. Sorry, one thing before you go. Fifty-five days for them, 803 for him. Which one is the lame duck?" — Lou

🍺

"Lame duck. Sounds harmless, right? Little limp, little quack. You know where it comes from? The London Stock Exchange. A broker who couldn't pay his debts. So it means somebody busted who's still on the floor, trading. That's Washington till January 3. Fifty-five days, the same gavels, a debt limit, talk of money for a war and up to ten billion for state voting rules. And down the street a man with a red hat that says VETO. He's no duck. He's got 803 days and the codes. Watch the wallet on the way out."

— Sal

🚬

"A lame-duck session is simply Congress at its most unburdened, freed from the distraction of voters, and I would expect its work to reflect that."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎