The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Massie's petition hits exactly 218 signatures, the number he predicted in September, on schedule.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Count to 218 out loud. It takes about ninety seconds, assuming you don't trip on sixty-eight the way the House did for two months.

On September 1st, Representative Thomas Massie stood on the House floor and read off more than a dozen names he called Epstein "coconspirators." That was the first entry in the ledger: names, not signatures, but the same column.

By September 18th the signatures had started: four, Massie included. The headline on that story called him "convinced"; what the story itself reported was that he'd expressed confidence the petition would pass the House, with four Republican names signed so far. Speaker Mike Johnson had just sent the House home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterms. Four is not 218. It is four.

On September 25th the story moved off the count entirely and onto the contents: what the sequel bill, the Epstein Files Transparency Act II, would actually require the Justice Department to hand over. The signature line didn't move that week. The paperwork did.

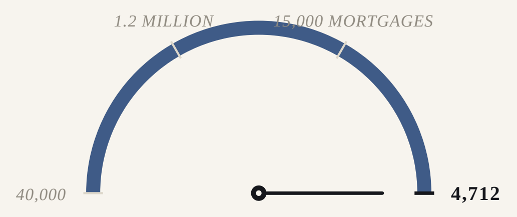
... Continued on Page F140

THE WORD

§89 — 11 NOVEMBER 2026

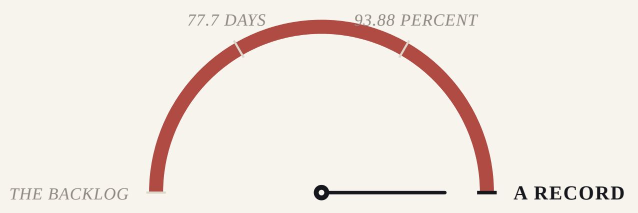
On the record

DEMOCRAT



4,712

REPUBLICAN



A RECORD

> *"No demonstration today. I brought three pieces of paper. The department's: 3.11 million claims, a record, about 60 percent approved. The inspector general's: 4,712 severe shortages, up from 2,959 two years before, and I'll say what they said, those are what facility officials report, and the department says it's no measure of vacancies. NPR's: 63 percent of veterans who got a loan modification came out with a higher payment. For Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans, 2 percent. Sorry, one thing before you go. The claim gets decided in 77.7 days. Who is in the chair at the clinic on day 78?"* — Lou

... Continued on Page W89

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

The house costs $15.5 million a year to run and $600 million this year to add a room; Congress voted on the first number.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Rubio bills taxpayers $1.2m to watch his son's walk-on role at running back

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Asked in October about his ambassador to Greece — reported to have asked a donor to settle a hundred-thousand-dollar American Express bill — the secretary of state declined to answer. He was not obliged to. Hold that, and take Wednesday's figure: more than one million two hundred thousand dollars of taxpayers' money, spent flying between Washington and Gainesville to watch the University of Florida play football, where Anthony Rubio has a walk-on role at running back. You are reaching for improper. Improper is a word about rules, and this story contains no rule. What the watchdogs question is necessity ... and necessity is nobody's condition to satisfy. It is a view a man takes of his own diary. What the office confers is a usufruct: the use and enjoyment of an asset its owner pays to keep. The owner is you. Nobody asked the purpose. Nobody has to. You paid for every flight.

... Continued on Page F140

Biden calls cancer treatment a success, then calls it reason enough to quit the presidency.

BY LOU
One More Question

I went down to the county building yesterday because my car registration renewal came back with the address line wrong — one letter off, "Ciar" instead of "Clair" — and the clerk at window four said that's not her department, that's data entry, and data entry is upstairs, except upstairs was closed for lunch. I sat on a bench by a vending machine that stopped taking five-dollar bills sometime last year and waited twenty minutes to hear the same thing from a different person. I wrote the case number on the back of a parking stub so I wouldn't lose it. It's still in my pocket. That's not what I meant to write about today. It just happened while I was thinking about something else entirely.

What I was thinking about was September 8th, a Tuesday — hold on, let me find where I wrote it down, it's in here somewhere... here. "Worked as intended." That's Joe Biden, September 8th, about his prostate cancer treatment. I wrote the phrase down at the time because it struck me as an unusual way to describe a cancer treatment — like the illness had a schedule and the treatment caught it on time. Intended. That's the word I kept.

... Continued on Page A235

Justice Department's Republican-loss clause fires a second time in three weeks, right on schedule.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The crew chief pulls the blueprint back out. On 23 October the order went to the Justice Department: sue to block Alaska's certification, but only if the Republican lost. On 24 October the suit was filed, before a single Alaska vote had been counted, a clause built for one outcome and no other. The Alaska lawyer tasked with defending the result could manage only one line about what the suit asked for: not even possible. That was 31 October.

The planner flips to the next state on the list. By 6 November, lawyers for both sides were trading sharp letters over ballot-counting procedure — the same kind of pre-certification skirmish the Alaska clause was built to host, now running on a second map, against a second trailing Republican.

The tinkerer lays the parts on the table and nobody has to guess what they're for: a legal posture keyed to the loser's party rather than the loser's conduct, a set of lawyers who arrive before the count is final rather than after, a Friday deadline that exists to be argued against rather than met. None of it is new machinery. It is the Alaska kit, reassembled on new ground.

The muscle swings first at the premise, not at a filing nobody has shown

... Continued on Page A235

> "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*

Rope in hand, a man holds the crossing.
By night the far path grows smooth.

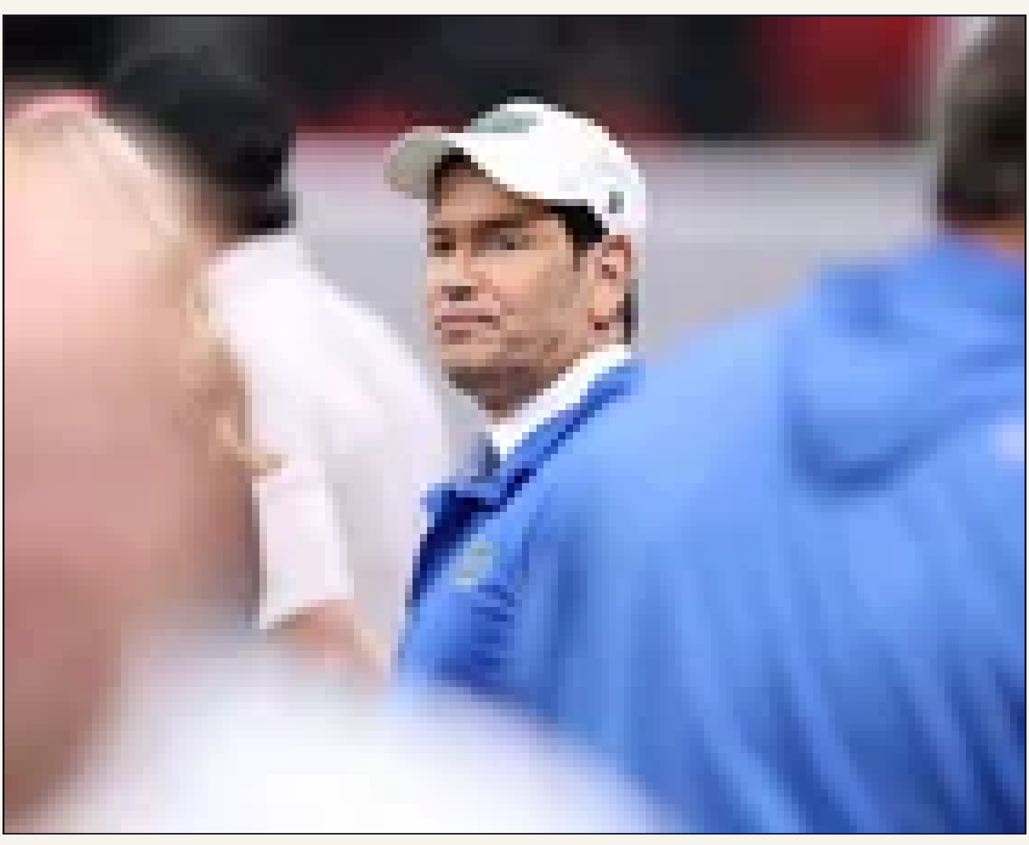
ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

The futures file ← →

Rubio bills taxpayers $1.2m to watch his son's walk-on role at running back

By **STERLING**

THE OWNERSHIP DESK



“Marco Rubio reportedly spent over $1.2m of taxpayer money traveling to son’s football games”, 11 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Secretary of State Marco Rubio billed taxpayers for frequent flights to watch his son's college football games.

WHO GETS PAID. Rubio gets the trips at no cost to himself, paid out of the State Department's travel money.

WHAT SLIPS. Nobody outside his own department decides whether an official trip was needed, so the only check left is a watchdog asking about it in the press.

WHAT'S NEXT. Nothing on the calendar requires anyone to review the trips. The report is public and the State Department has set no date to answer it.

Asked in October about his ambassador to Greece — reported to have asked a donor to settle a hundred-thousand-dollar American Express bill — the secretary of state declined to answer. He was not obliged to. Hold that, and take Wednesday's figure: more than one million two hundred thousand dollars of taxpayers' money, spent flying between Washington and Gainesville to watch the University of Florida play football, where Anthony Rubio has a walk-on role at running back. You are reaching for improper. Improper is a word about rules, and this story contains no rule. What the watchdogs question is necessity … and necessity is nobody's condition to satisfy. It is a view a man takes of his own diary. What the office confers is a usufruct: the use and enjoyment of an asset its owner pays to keep. The owner is you. Nobody asked the purpose. Nobody has to. You paid for every flight.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE SECRETARY OF STATE SPENT MORE THAN $1.2 MILLION OF TAXPAYER MONEY FLYING between Washington and Gainesville to watch University of Florida football, where his son has a walk-on role, and ethics watchdogs say they question whether the trips were necessary. That is not a travel budget, that is a season ticket with a flight crew and a press office. The money leaves your paycheck before the check clears, it reaches the State Department as travel, and it lands as a seat at a Gainesville kickoff on Saturday, while the bill for watching that same game sits on your kitchen table with your name printed on it.

> The steward holds the key. Each night the steward tastes the oil.
>
> — ENOCH
>
> *The Ownership Desk*

“They tell you there is no money for your kid's school, and the country's top diplomat is running a $1.2 million shuttle to Gainesville so he can watch a walk-on carry the ball. Nobody broke a rule, and that is the whole point — the travel money was set up so nobody has to say what the trip was for. You cover the gas to work; you cover his kickoff too.”

— Sal

“Nobody has alleged a violation here, nobody, and you'll notice the story says ethics watchdogs "question necessity," which is not a finding, it's a mood. The job follows the man wherever he lands — did I say the job pays for the landing? That doesn't sound like me. Every secretary of state travels; this one happens to have a kid on a roster, and you want to make that a scandal.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Tennessee asks court to shield execution drug supplier from the lawyers of the woman it failed to kill* By Sterling · the evening edition, 11 November 2026
- *Tennessee, after failing to kill Christa Pike, warns that one drug label could halt its executions* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 10 November 2026
- *Pentagon's livestreamed execution moves ahead in December, even though the president isn't "particularly enthusiastic" about it.* By Mort · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Speaker says he just wouldn't watch the execution the UN already warned is torture.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 13 October 2026
- *Government calls its livestreamed execution optional, then a restoration of American values, then something to be happy about.* By Lou · the evening edition, 11 October 2026
- *Homeland Security defends livestreamed execution that no official admits ordering* By Chip · the morning edition, 11 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Marco Rubio reportedly spent over $1.2m of taxpayer money traveling to son’s football games~~
>
> Rubio spent enough on football flights to cover classroom supplies for 1,340 teachers
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *11:47 EST*
>
> Ethics watchdogs question necessity of the US secretary of state flying between DC and Gainesville so often Marco Rubio , the US secretary of state, has emerged as a superfan of the University of Florida ’s football team, spending more than $1.2m of taxpayers’ money on frequent personal trips to watch them play, a report published on…

· Marco Rubio brushes off questions about Kimberly Guilfoyle pressing donor to pay credit card *from the morgue, 8 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.

Biden calls cancer treatment a success, then calls it reason enough to quit the presidency.

By **LOU**

ONE MORE QUESTION

“Biden says he wouldn't have run for a second term in 2024 if he knew he had cancer”, 11 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Biden said his cancer treatment worked in September, then said in November he would have quit instead of running.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters who cast ballots in the 2024 campaign never got either sentence in time to weigh his fitness for another term.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing or disclosure deadline is set; the only scheduled event is whatever limited stop his book tour makes next, per his November 8 update.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I went down to the county building yesterday because my car registration renewal came back with the address line wrong — one letter off, "Ciar" instead of "Clair" — and the clerk at window four said that's not her department, that's data entry, and data entry is upstairs, except upstairs was closed for lunch. I sat on a bench by a vending machine that stopped taking five-dollar bills sometime last year and waited twenty minutes to hear the same thing from a different person. I wrote the case number on the back of a parking stub so I wouldn't lose it. It's still in my pocket. That's not what I meant to write about today. It just happened while I was thinking about something else entirely.

What I was thinking about was September 8th, a Tuesday — hold on, let me find where I wrote it down, it's in here somewhere... here. "Worked as intended." That's Joe Biden, September 8th, about his prostate cancer treatment. I wrote the phrase down at the time because it struck me as an unusual way to describe a cancer treatment — like the illness had a schedule and the treatment caught it on time. Intended. That's the word I kept....

...(cont) Then came November 8th, three days before the thing I'm actually filing today, when he told the public, promoting the memoir, that the diagnosis had slowed him enough that the book tour would run limited stops, and that his doctors "continue to be encouraged." Still moving. Still on schedule, by his account.

Then the 11th. This week. Promoting that same memoir, three days after that last tour update, he said that if he'd known about the cancer while he was president, he wouldn't have sought a second term — he'd have resigned the office outright and skipped the race altogether, is what he's saying now.

There's a toll plaza on the way to my sister's, three lanes — cash, card, and the one with the little transponder box on the windshield — and all three lanes measure the same stretch of road. Same entrance, same exit. I've paid that one toll and gotten two different final numbers for the identical trip, once on the dashboard readout and once on the statement that arrived in the mail three weeks later, and nobody at the authority has ever explained to me why one trip produces two totals. I bring it up because I think I've got a version of the same problem sitting in front of me, except I don't know yet how you'd measure what's between these two readings.

So: does a cancer treatment that succeeded leave behind a man who, holding the same information two months later, says he'd have walked away from the Presidency instead of running again? Which sentence would the voters casting ballots in 2024 have needed in hand — the one about the treatment, or the one about the office — when the only form in front of them that year didn't have a box for either one?

Oh — before you go. One more thing occurred to me, standing here with the stub still in my pocket, and I'm sorry, because I already made you sit through this word once today. He used it just the once, in September, to describe the cancer. I hadn't planned on needing it again, about the office — except isn't a decision to walk away from a second term, arrived at after the fact, its own kind of intended?

> “Same guy, same diagnosis, two completely different verdicts two months apart — in September it "worked as intended," by November it was bad enough to end a presidency. That's not an update, that's the whole ration of truth we were given about the man with his finger near the button, and it came out on a book tour schedule instead of a national one.”
>
> — *Sal*

> “Look, nobody writes a cancer diagnosis with a press release attached — the man's being honest now, which frankly is more candor than you get from most people in that job. ...more candor than most people in that job ever give you — yeah, I hear it, I hear how that lands next to the September quote. Strike that last part.”
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Biden says prostate treatment worked as intended, says he'd have resigned had he known he had it* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 11 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Biden says he wouldn't have run for a second term in 2024 if he knew he had cancer

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *15:29 EST*

Joe Biden says he didn't know he had cancer while he was president and wouldn't have sought a second term if he'd already been diagnosed

Biden gives heartbreaking update on cancer ahead of memoir release

New York Post RIGHT § *18:52 EST*

Former President Joe Biden revealed on Sunday that his prostate cancer diagnosis has slowed him down and he’ll only be able to make limited appearances to promote his upcoming presidential memoir. Biden, who announced his cancer diagnosis last year after he left the White House, wrote on X that his doctors “continue to be encouraged”...

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Justice Department's Republican-loss clause fires a second time in three weeks, right on schedule.

By **THE WRECKING CREW**
THE REMEDY DESK

"Lawyers descend on Mississippi as vote counting continues in razor-thin Senate race", 6 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department's Alaska clause, which sues to block certification only on a Republican loss, met its second contested Senate race in Mississippi.

WHO GETS PAID. Senate Republicans, who keep contesting a seat Hyde-Smith is losing at the ballot box, are the buyer the clause serves.

WHAT SLIPS. Mississippi's Friday count deadline, the point where the voters' tally becomes final, is what slips if the procedural fight runs past it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If lawyers keep contesting procedure past Friday, Mississippi's vote count misses its own certification deadline — that is the date already on the calendar this week.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The crew chief pulls the blueprint back out. On 23 October the order went to the Justice Department: sue to block Alaska's certification, but only if the Republican lost. On 24 October the suit was filed, before a single Alaska vote had been counted, a clause built for one outcome and no other. The Alaska lawyer tasked with defending the result could manage only one line about what the suit asked for: not even possible. That was 31 October.

The planner flips to the next state on the list. By 6 November, lawyers for both sides were trading sharp letters over ballot-counting procedure — the same kind of pre-certification skirmish the Alaska clause was built to host, now running on a second map, against a second trailing Republican....

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The muscle swings first at the premise, not at a filing nobody has shown yet. No Mississippi suit is in the receipts. What is in the receipts is the shape such a filing would need to take if anyone tried it — the Alaska lawyer's own words describe the fit, not the fact. The frame is sitting there built, reusable, waiting only on a final count that doesn't hand a Republican the seat.

The pilot checks the instruments Cook Political Report logged back on 25 September: Democrats already favored in 208 House seats to the Republicans' 205, a majority tilting before Mississippi's ballots finished landing. By 11 November, 99 percent of those ballots were in, Colom's lead intact, and the lawyers who showed up on 6 November were still standing on the courthouse steps.

The question the crew was hired to answer was never whether a loss-triggered clause like Alaska's gets used once.

"That clause wasn't written for Alaska — it was written for any Republican who loses, and it just found its Mississippi. Same lawyers showing up early, same Friday deadline to run out the clock on, same party building the exit ramp for itself before the race is even over. Watch where it fires next."
— Sal

"Nobody's blocking anything in Mississippi — there's no suit, there's just lawyers reviewing procedure, which is their job, standard stuff. And the Alaska filing, that was about ballot irregularities, a totally separate legal — did I say irregularities? There's no irregularities. Forget I said that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department says man who plotted attack on British air base directed it from a New York jail* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 10 November 2026
- *A lawsuit written to activate only with a loss is still waiting for one.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 10 November 2026
- *The Justice Department's suit triggered only on a narrow Republican loss; Mississippi's trailing Republican filed second.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 9 November 2026
- *The Justice Department sued to block Alaska's certification before a single vote was counted, naming no ballots, triggered only by a narrow Republican loss.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Lawyers descend on Mississippi as vote counting continues in razor-thin Senate race~~
Texas and South Carolina already flipped blue. Mississippi could be next.
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:51 EST*

Democratic and Republican lawyers and groups trade sharp legal letters about procedures for counting ballots in tight race Where Trump and Republicans lost the midterms – a visual analysis of the key states Democrat Scott Colom is on the verge of winning a Senate seat in Mississippi in a stunning upset, but ballots are still being...

But: In special elections, Democrats have retained 10 points more of their previous turnout than Republicans *Ballotpedia, 26 February 2026*
Mississippi Senate race leans Democratic as Colom's lead grows
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:41 EST*

The Senate race in deep-red Mississippi remains unresolved, as Democrat Scott Colom has mounted a surprisingly competitive challenge to incumbent Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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."

~~Colom rips 'unlawful attack' after Hyde-Smith demands ballot preservation in Mississippi~~
National Republican committee, not Hyde-Smith, told 82 counties to isolate ballots
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:44 EST*

An attorney for Mississippi Democratic Senate candidate Scott Colom said Republican efforts to separate particular ballots are illegal under state law and should not be followed, according to a letter sent to county election commissioners Thursday. The letter comes in reaction to the National Republican Senatorial Committee's request to...

Mississippi Democrat's lead continues to widen as race remains uncalled
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:13 EST*

Mississippi Democrat Scott Colom extended his lead against Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) in the Senate race, outpacing her by just over 1,800 ballots. Initially, the election was a lot closer, with Colom leading the incumbent by fewer than 100 votes.

Democrat Scott Colom adds to lead in Mississippi Senate ballot counting
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:29 EST*

The Democrat in Mississippi's Senate race expanded his narrow lead over the incumbent senator Wednesday, possibly giving Democrats yet another seat to pad their majority. Democrat Scott Colom now leads Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) by just more than 1,800 votes, according to Decision Desk HQ, with a smattering of remaining ballots being...

A look at Mississippi election facility as the race leans Democratic
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:02 EST*

The Senate midterm race in deep-red Mississippi is leaning toward Democrat Scott Colom as 99% of the vote is in. Colom is in the lead against Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith, but the clock is on to get those votes counted by Friday. Mark Strassmann reports, and Bruce Mehlman, a founding partner of Mehlman Consulting, has more...

· Cook Political Report projects Democrats will take control of the House as races shift *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· 'Mississippi matters': Scott Colom aims to turn Mississippi blue *from the morgue, 29 Oct 2026*

· Obama rolls out ad for Dem Scott Colom in Mississippi Senate race *from the morgue, 12 Oct 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*

· 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*

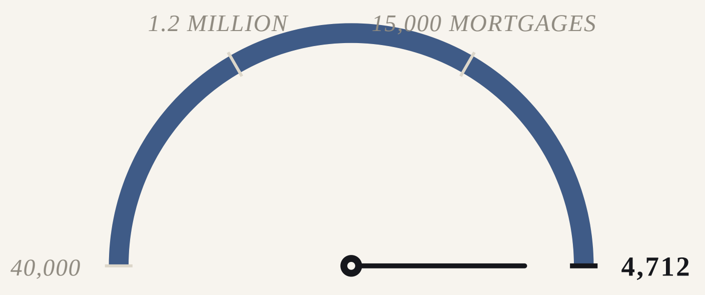
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§89 — 11 NOVEMBER 2026

On the record

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



4,712

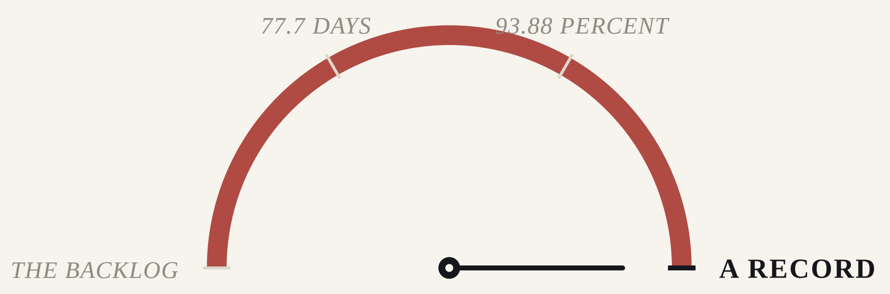
The other ledger. A Senate Democratic report counted more than 40,000 employees gone from the VA in fiscal 2025, 88 percent of them from health care, including 1,000 physicians and 3,000 registered nurses; the net loss was closer to the secretary's goal of 30,000 [1]. The report estimates that 1.2 million veteran patients have lost their VA provider, and that requests for a second look at claims rose 44 percent [2].

In September the inspector general reported 4,712 severe occupational staffing shortages, up from 2,959 in fiscal 2024 [3]. The watchdog says these reflect officials' perceptions, not verified vacancies; the department calls the report unreliable and cites vacancy rates of 15 percent for doctors and 9 percent for nurses [4]. The VA ended its mortgage rescue on May 1, 2025, and more than 15,000 veterans have since seen a modified payment rise at least $150 a month; the department says that program put the whole home loan system at risk [5]. All 139 facilities reported shortages [4]. Those are the buildings the country sends them to.

SOURCES

1. More than 40,000 employees lost in fiscal 2025; 88 percent from the Veterans Health Administration; 3,000 registered nurses and 1,000 physicians; net loss closer to the goal of 30,000 — Government Executive, 22 January 2026 ↑
2. 1.2 million veteran patients estimated to have lost their VA provider; requests for a second look at claims up 44 percent — Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, ranking member's report, 22 January 2026 ↑
3. 4,712 severe staffing shortages in fiscal 2026 against 2,959 in fiscal 2024 — Military Times, 15 September 2026 ↑
4. All 139 facilities reported shortages; findings reflect officials' perceptions, not verified vacancies; the department's reply and its 15 and 9 percent vacancy rates — Government Executive, 16 September 2026 ↑
5. VASP ended 1 May 2025; more than 15,000 veterans saw modified payments rise at least $150 a month; 63 percent against 2 percent for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; the department's reply — NPR via KUOW, 30 October 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



A RECORD

The day belongs to the people who served, so the department's numbers go first, and they are good ones. In fiscal 2026 the VA processed 3,111,399 disability claims, past the 3,000,734 it set the year before, and about 60 percent were approved [1]. In July the backlog, claims pending more than 125 days, fell below 70,000 for the first time since February 2020, down more than 74 percent since January 2025, and the average claim took 77.7 days [2].

The department reports 93.88 percent accuracy, its highest in three years, and plans to add more than 2,000 processors in fiscal 2027 to the 13,000 it has [3]. "VA is putting veterans first by making major improvements in claims processing volume, speed and accuracy," Secretary Doug Collins said [3]. A faster answer is a debt being paid, and today is the day to say so. About 5.5 million veterans received service-connected disability benefits as of 2024 [3].

SOURCES

1. 3,111,399 disability claims in fiscal 2026 against the prior record of 3,000,734; about 60 percent approved — Stars and Stripes, 16 October 2026 ↑
2. Backlog below 70,000 for the first time since February 2020, cut by over 74 percent since 20 January 2025; backlogged means pending more than 125 days; 77.7-day average — American Legion, 8 July 2026 ↑
3. More than 2,000 hires planned for fiscal 2027 on top of 13,000 claims employees; 93.88 percent accuracy; about 5.5 million veterans receiving benefits as of 2024; the Collins quotation — Military.com, 30 October 2026 ↑

“No demonstration today. I brought three pieces of paper. The department's: 3.11 million claims, a record, about 60 percent approved. The inspector general's: 4,712 severe shortages, up from 2,959 two years before, and I'll say what they said, those are what facility officials report, and the department says it's no measure of vacancies. NPR's: 63 percent of veterans who got a loan modification came out with a higher payment. For Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans, 2 percent. Sorry, one thing before you go. The claim gets decided in 77.7 days. Who is in the chair at the clinic on day 78?” — Lou

“Veterans Day. I'm putting the act down. One word, and I'll read it straight: record. The department set one, three point one one million claims, and that's money reaching people who earned it, so say so. Then read the other record. Thirty to forty thousand employees gone in a year, depending who's counting. Four thousand seven hundred twelve severe shortages, reported from all hundred thirty-nine facilities. Fifteen thousand veterans with a mortgage payment up at least a hundred fifty a month. A parade is one day. A nurse is a payroll line, every day. That's where you find out what the holiday means.”

— Sal

“The department would point out that its claims numbers are real and that it puts its vacancy rates below most other health systems, and on this one day I will leave its case at that, beside the rest of the record.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎