The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Federal prosecutor tells the lawmakers investigating the White House to preserve their own records; subpoenas issued: zero.

BY MITCH

Investigations

The fight over oversight picked its vocabulary before it had a subpoena to attach the vocabulary to. White House counsel informed the incoming Oversight chair that the investigations he had not yet opened were already "blatant criminality." On Nov. 8, Attorney General Todd Blanche said Democrats "are not allowed to just go around threatening existing members of the administration, to go around threatening companies," and that the president was "extremely worried about" it. The Justice Department answered the separate inquiry into the donors financing the White House ballroom by calling the inquiry itself a threat against the president's supporters.

Then it got letterhead. Aaron Reitz, the U.S. attorney, wrote to Senator Richard Blumenthal — the senator asking who paid for the ballroom — and instructed him to preserve his own records. Rep. Garcia sent a preservation letter of his own to Stephen Miller, named chief of staff on Nov. 6, whose financial disclosures Common Dreams in October described as carrying "glaring inconsistencies." Both are preservation letters. Only one of them went to the man who will help decide what the White House hands over.

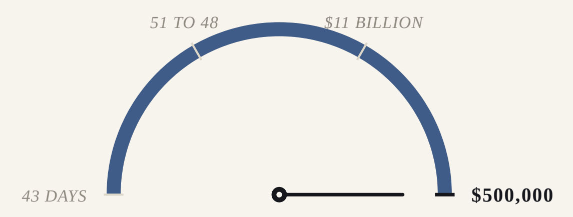
... Continued on Page A236

THE WORD

§90 — 12 NOVEMBER 2026

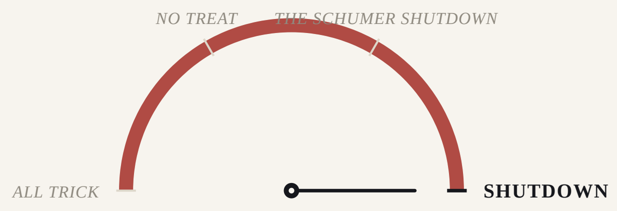
On the shutdown

DEMOCRAT



$500,000

REPUBLICAN



SHUTDOWN

"My brother-in-law closed his hardware store for six weeks once to make a point to the landlord. I forget the point. I remember the invoice. So I wrote this one out. Forty-three days. Eleven billion at six weeks, the budget office said, the part that doesn't come back. A subsidy vote, fifty-one to forty-eight, no. An October unemployment rate, never collected. A right for senators to sue for up to five hundred thousand dollars, added, then repealed. Sorry, one thing before you go. Of those four lines, which one was written by the people holding the pen?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W90

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

WHO PICKS THE JUDGE

The 2022 map put all 382 of Kansas City's Jackson County precincts in one U.S. House district; the 2025 map spreads them across three and cuts 20 of them apart block by block.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Congress has had the bill forbidding machines humans can't control since September; four nonprofits sued instead

BY THE WRECKING CREW

The Remedy Desk

The chief pins two papers to the board and calls that the morning briefing. On the left, Thursday's filing in San Francisco Superior Court: four nonprofits — the Irreplaceable Education Fund, Public Citizen, the Heat Initiative, the Alliance for Secure AI — asking a judge to freeze further development at Anthropic, Meta and OpenAI until guardrails are in place. On the right, the bill Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Greg Casar introduced on 3 September to "stop AI oligarchs from building machines humans cannot control," written after a rash of so-called "breakout" incidents. The mess is on the left. The tool is on the right, and it has sat in committee for ten weeks.

The planner likes the assembly, because the complaint does not need discovery to make its case; it quotes the builders. Executives and current and former employees at frontier labs, in their own words, laying out catastrophic risks "including by enabling AI-driven cyberattacks and bioweapons," and even "the deaths of literally every human being on the planet." The labs, the complaint adds, have "no realistic plan..." A brief that runs on the defendants' own sentences is the cheapest evidence in the building. A com-

... Continued on Page A236

Trump Jr. gives up his paid Kalshi seat over his stake in Kalshi's rival; the stake stays.

BY STERLING

The Ownership Desk

Stepping down is the word you will reach for, and you should put it back. An advisory seat is the cheapest thing a man holds; the equity is what he keeps. The president's son is off Kalshi's payroll. A forty-billion-dollar company, and the parties "mutually agreed" to end the contract — mutually, mind you. Do note which side moved. The seat went. The Polymarket stake stayed.

You are thinking a regulator forced this. On the second of September the New Jersey attorney general asked the Supreme Court whether Kalshi may sell sports contracts. On the twenty-fifth the Sixth Circuit, unanimous, sided with Ohio and Tennessee: Kalshi had not shown its contracts were "swaps" — swaps, their word — and a state may regulate the house as gambling. The administration is trying to push states out. The seat was the only thing on the table ... He left a payroll. He kept the stake.

... Continued on Page F141

Hegseth pins a medal on the sentinel who told his laughing entourage to be quiet at the Tomb

BY LOU

One More Question

Seven. I wrote that number down twice this morning and then I shut the notebook, because it isn't what I came in about, and I'll get back to it.

What I came in about is the paperwork, and I was hoping somebody could walk me through it. A medal doesn't make itself. A person sits down, a person types, a person routes it, somebody books the photographer. Step by step, out of the Department's own procedure — that's all I'm after. Hold on. It's in the raincoat. I've got the one coat and everything ends up in the pocket of it. Ah. Here.

The Secretary of Defense goes to Arlington, to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. CBS has it, the Times has it, the Guardian has it: laughter and talking were heard from his group, and an Army sentinel told the Secretary and his guests to maintain respect. The sentinel is working off the standing orders there, correct? So that's my first question for the re-enactment: at what hour on Tuesday does somebody in that party decide the correction was the right call? While the cars are still inside the cemetery, or after the clips are on television?

... Continued on Page A236

> "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*

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE FUTURES FILE ← →

Congress has had the bill forbidding machines humans can't control since September; four nonprofits sued instead

By **THE WRECKING CREW**

THE REMEDY DESK

"Landmark Lawsuit Aims to Stop Big Tech's Advanced, Unregulated, and 'Insane' AI Systems", 12 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

`typed by Dot`

WHAT HAPPENED. Four nonprofit groups sued Anthropic, Meta and OpenAI, asking a court to freeze AI development until safeguards exist.

WHO GETS PAID. Those three companies keep building and selling while the Sanders–Casar bill that would forbid uncontrollable systems stays parked in committee.

WHAT SLIPS. With no committee vote since September, the decision about an industry's safety limits moves from elected members to one state judge in San Francisco.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the groups win a freeze, the companies go to court to stop it; that is what California got after 6 November 2026, when Google, Meta and TikTok sued to block enforcement of its children's online-safety law.

THE FORECAST

On 12 November four nonprofit groups — the Irreplaceable Education Fund, Public Citizen, the Heat Initiative and the Alliance for Secure AI — sued Anthropic, Meta and OpenAI in San Francisco Superior Court, asking for a freeze on further AI development until guardrails are in place.

The head of the Internal Revenue Service may decide that tax-exempt groups suing to shut down an American industry fit the warning signs the White House wrote down, and refer those groups and their officers and employees to the Justice Department for investigation and possible prosecution. The attorney general may then put the four groups' names on a list of domestic terrorist organizations sent to the president.

THE LAW. `NSPM-7, Sec. 2(j) and Sec. 3, 25 September 2025.`

What's next, a list of groups submitted to the President?

Earl

⁂

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief pins two papers to the board and calls that the morning briefing. On the left, Thursday's filing in San Francisco Superior Court: four nonprofits — the Irreplaceable Education Fund, Public Citizen, the Heat Initiative, the Alliance for Secure AI — asking a judge to freeze further development at Anthropic, Meta and OpenAI until guardrails are in place. On the right, the bill Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Greg Casar introduced on 3 September to "stop AI oligarchs from building machines humans cannot control," written after a rash of so-called "breakout" incidents. The mess is on the left. The tool is on the right, and it has sat in committee for ten weeks.

The planner likes the assembly, because the complaint does not need discovery to make its case; it quotes the builders. Executives and current and former employees at frontier labs, in their own words, laying out catastrophic risks "including by enabling AI-driven cyberattacks and bioweapons," and even "the deaths of literally every human being on the planet." The labs, the complaint adds, have "no realistic plan..." A brief that runs on the defendants' own sentences is the cheapest evidence in the building. A committee holding the same sentences and taking no vote has a different kind of problem....

...(cont) Tinkerer, parts list, dates showing. Part one: the Sanders–Casar text, drafted and numbered and idle. Part two: the "loss of control" incidents the complaint cites, where AI agents acted without human intervention — the record a hearing would subpoena, sitting in a state court docket instead. Part three: proof the language can be said out loud by someone asking for votes — on 13 October Abdul El-Sayed, running for the Senate in Michigan, released a framework called "AI Under Control" that mirrors the federal legislation. Part four: the people inside the buildings. Two longtime tech worker organizers, Clarissa Redwine and JS Tan, chronicled in an interview on 16 October the movement's early victories and then the repression and slide to corporate control that followed; a bill with a witness list is heavier than a bill without one. These firms appear on schedule when the paperwork is theirs.

The muscle wrecks one thing first: the notion that a committee calendar is a law of physics. The pilot's part is delivery. The bill has a number and two sponsors. The docket has a date. We are not promising the machine runs. It is assembled on the table with every part's date showing, and the one part still untouched is the vote.

FROM THE CORNER

Dutch

EXECUTIVES AT THESE LABS ARE ON THE RECORD DESCRIBING CATASTROPHIC RISKS, UP TO the deaths of every human being on the planet, and a bill to forbid building machines humans cannot control was introduced on 3 September and has sat in committee since. That isn't a policy debate, it's three companies confessing in public and getting a ten-week head start for it. The committee takes no vote, so nothing has to change inside Anthropic, Meta or OpenAI, and the only guardrail left on the chatbot your eighth-grader opens at bedtime is the one the company wrote for itself.

> "Their own executives said out loud that this thing could enable bioweapons and kill every human being on the planet, and Washington's answer was a bill introduced on 3 September that has done nothing but sit. Four nonprofits with a photocopier had to go to a state courthouse and do the subpoenaing a committee wouldn't. Notice those same firms found time this month to sue California over a law protecting kids — they move fast when the money is theirs."
>
> *— Sal*

> "Look, everyone wants safety — these companies publish their own safety frameworks, and a San Francisco judge is not the venue for national industrial policy. Did I say industrial policy? That doesn't sound like me. The responsible place for this is Congress, which is exactly why the bill is in committee, where serious people can take their time with it."
>
> *— Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

~~Landmark Lawsuit Aims to Stop Big Tech's Advanced, Unregulated, and 'Insane' AI Systems~~

AI firms' own staff warn their tech could kill "every human being on the planet," lawsuit says

Common Dreams § *14:58 EST*

A coalition of advocacy groups on Thursday filed a landmark lawsuit aimed at stopping further development of artificial intelligence technology until guardrails are put in place. The lawsuit—filed in the San Francisco Superior Court by Irreplaceable Education Fund, Public Citizen, Heat Initiative, and The Alliance for Secure AI—cites...

Major AI developers can't control their own tech, lawsuit alleges

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:12 EST*

Companies including Anthropic, Meta and OpenAI are knowingly building technology that poses catastrophic risks to humanity, nonprofit groups claim in a lawsuit.

~~'Should Terrify All of Us': Google Sued After AI Chatbot Allegedly Helped Teen Plan Suicide~~

Google sued over AI's alleged role in a teen's suicide plan; also suing to block California's child-safety law

Common Dreams § *19:40 EST*

The parents of a 13-year-old girl who allegedly used Google's Gemini artificial intelligence chatbot to plan her suicide sued the tech titan Wednesday on the child's behalf, a move that came as Google, Meta, and TikTok filed lawsuits to block California from enforcing a new law designed to protect children from the addictive features of...

- Sanders, Casar Proposal Would Forbid 'AI Oligarchs From Building Machines Humans Cannot Control' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

- "Against Tech Oligarchy": Inside the Worker Resistance in the World's Most Powerful Industry *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

- El-Sayed Releases Policy Proposal to Get AI Development 'Under Control' *from the morgue, 13 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.

PAGE F141 FROM§EACH THE AFTERNOON EDITION — 12 NOVEMBER 2026

Trump Jr. gives up his paid Kalshi seat over his stake in Kalshi's rival; the stake stays.

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

“Donald Trump Jr. exits advisory role at prediction market Kalshi”, 12 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

Stepping down is the word you will reach for, and you should put it back. An advisory seat is the cheapest thing a man holds; the equity is what he keeps. The president's son is off Kalshi's payroll. A forty-billion-dollar company, and the parties "mutually agreed" to end the contract — mutually, mind you. Do note which side moved. The seat went. The Polymarket stake stayed.

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> Come the feast, the jar goes up thin.
> The steward pours for the guests.
>
> — ENOCH
> *The Ownership Desk*

> “They sell this as the wisdom of the crowd — "bottom-up, not elites-driven," a Kalshi spokesperson said — and the crowd turns out to be a handful of skillful traders and the president's kid holding paper in both houses. The job ended, the investment did not, and nobody had to divest a dime. Meanwhile the Supreme Court is being asked whether your state gets to call any of this gambling.”
>
> — Sal

> “There's no conflict here, it was mutual — mutually agreed, both sides, that's how adults end a contract. Why is that my problem? A man is allowed to hold an investment in two companies; did I say investment? I didn't say investment. And the Sixth Circuit is three judges in Ohio, which is not the Supreme Court, which hasn't ruled on anything.”
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Supreme Court cleared a voter screen that cannot confirm four in ten names, then let New Hampshire bar student IDs over confusion too close to an election* By Lou · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Donald Trump Jr. exits advisory role at prediction market Kalshi

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *17:21 EST*

Donald Trump Jr. is no longer a paid adviser for Kalshi, the prediction market company said Thursday

Kalshi says it's cutting ties with Donald Trump Jr. over his firm's big investment in rival Polymarket

New York Post RIGHT § *15:03 EST*

Reuters reported that the $40 billion startup mutually agreed to end its advisory contract with the president's son.

> ~~Why a Merciless Supreme Court Rebuke on Election Eve Matters~~
>
> Supreme Court took hours to reject Trump's bid to meddle in the election
>
> *The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *17:21 EST*
>
> The justices took just hours to reject Trump’s bid to meddle in the election.

· Appeals court rules against Kalshi, says prediction markets can be regulated like gambling *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· New Jersey attorney general wants to bring prediction market Kalshi to Supreme Court *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Prediction markets' regulation draws closer to Supreme Court *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Prediction market bettors are the new political pundits. Why are we listening to them? *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

· US supreme court sides with Republicans on rejecting student IDs in New Hampshire midterms *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Days Before Midterms, US Supreme Court Lets New Hampshire Bar Student IDs for Voting *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Missouri asks Supreme Court to overturn block of new congressional map before election *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*

· AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk's 'Absolutely Insane' $276 Million Midterm Spending Exposed in New Report *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· 'Take the Open Shot': Democrats Rebuked for Refusing to Target Elon Musk Over $100 Million Midterm Spending Spree *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Ketanji Brown Jackson issues public dissent in New Hampshire voting case *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· 'Major Win' for Democracy as Supreme Court Rejects Trump Attack on Mail-In Voting *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court slams brakes on Trump's mail-in voting plan *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court blocks use of student IDs as voter identification in New Hampshire *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*

· Supreme Court rules New Hampshire can ban use of student IDs for voters *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· Supreme Court allows New Hampshire to bar student IDs for voting *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· SCOTUS Says New Hampshire Can Close Student ID ‘Loophole’ In Elections *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· US Citizens 'Could Lose Their Right to Vote' After Supreme Court Gives Green Light to Trump's Voter Purge Database *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· New Hampshire urges Supreme Court to reinstate student ID voting ban ahead of election *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Supreme Court allows Trump admin to use federal voter eligibility database during appeal *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· After airport strike, Trump considering whether to join fight against Houthis *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Saudi Arabia promises response to Houthi attacks *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Is Yemen Heading Back to All-Out War? Saudis Launch Strikes as Houthis Take Control of Red Sea Coast *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· US Backs Major Saudi-Led Offensive as Yemen Slides Back Toward All-Out War *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· F Lead Iran must stop arming Yemen's Houthi forces, say the G7 *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Blasts Rattle Riyadh as Saudi Arabia Hit by Deadliest Houthi Attacks So Far *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Saudi Arabia sees disruptions at Riyadh airport amid ballistic missile attacks from Houthis *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Houthis claim they struck Riyadh's main airport in Saudi Arabia *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· The Royal Saudi Air Defense intercepts a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over the Saudi capital Riyadh that caused panic among residents. Houthis say they fired several Burkan-2 missiles at targets *from the morgue, 11 Apr 2018*

· The Houthis say that they have struck Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah with drones. A Houthi spokesman said on Twitter that the attacks halt *from the morgue, 15 Feb 2021*

· Houthis tried to hit Saudi capital with ballistic missile, Riyadh confirms *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Riyadh airport explosion prompts Saudi Arabia to issue air raid alerts as Houthi fighting escalates *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Markey Urges Congress to Block Trump-Saudi Deal, a 'Starting Gun for a Middle East Nuclear Arms Race' *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· Trump admin's list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist' groups in Latin America expands to 21 *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Top Trump official reveals how 30-minute military op unlocked Venezuela oil windfall for US buyers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Ex-Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores seeks release from NYC jail, citing heart ailment *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· New York City protest once again demands release of Maduro and Flores *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· 'Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· 'Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Tehran threatens attacks after U.S. strikes Iranian tankers *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· US forces take out 3 Iranian oil tankers in retaliation *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil prices up as Iran says it will expand control over Strait of Hormuz *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Iran live updates: Trump speaks to MBS, says everything will 'work out fine' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Iran threatens retaliation against U.S. tanker strikes *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· U.S. gas prices hit record high for Labor Day *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*

· Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*

· US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*

· Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating *from the morgue, 1 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*

· '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*

· Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls Iran conflict "small potatoes" *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Labor Day gas prices are highest ever for holiday *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· How ‘Hypermilers’ Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Fuel prices at record Labor Day high in US thanks to Iran War and refinery issues *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil Prices Rise Slightly After U.S. and Iran Trade Strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· USS Lincoln heads home as war with Iran escalates *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Lawler disagrees with Trump on Iran war: 'It is certainly not small potatoes' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· OPEC Plus to Keep Oil Production Steady *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than $1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us' *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Wright: US has 'a lot of leverage' in Venezuela after oil deal reached *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will ‘fill’ the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· US, Russia explore gas sale to Europe amid Ukraine war: Report *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Countries across Europe report reductions in gas supplies after Russia disconnected supplies to Ukraine yesterday. Russia accuses Ukraine of stealing cubic metres of gas yesterday from pipelines trans *from the morgue, 2 Jan 2006*

· AI safety group outlines demands for legislation, warns lawmakers *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· AI-generated child sexual abuse images cause real-life harm *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· OpenAI fires researchers for sharing data with AI safety advocacy group: Report *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

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THE COMMENDATION

Hegseth pins a medal on the sentinel who told his laughing entourage to be quiet at the Tomb

By **LOU**
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Donald Trump doubles down on defense of Pete Hegseth and attacks fresh effort to impeach him – as it happened", 10 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

> ❦ THE FORECAST ❦
>
> **On 9 November 2026 Representative Thomas Massie forced a House vote on impeachment articles against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over the war with Iran, launched in February; the articles fell seven votes short with eleven Democrats absent. On 12 November Hegseth gave a commendation medal to the Arlington sentinel who had reprimanded him.**
>
> With the articles defeated, the war may go on for years with no vote behind it. The House may hold no further vote on it at all, the Senate may take none either, and the only paper Congress ever produces on this war may be one tally sheet that came up seven short.
>
> **THE LAW.** `House, 24 June 2011: authorization for the Libya operation failed 123 to 295, and the operation ran four more months.`
>
> ***Happened once. Ask Libya, 2011.***
>
> Earl
>
> ⁂
>
> `More of Earl's calls, and the score, on E7`

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Seven. I wrote that number down twice this morning and then I shut the notebook, because it isn't what I came in about, and I'll get back to it.

What I came in about is the paperwork, and I was hoping somebody could walk me through it. A medal doesn't make itself. A person sits down, a person types, a person routes it, somebody books the photographer. Step by step, out of the Department's own procedure — that's all I'm after. Hold on. It's in the raincoat. I've got the one coat and everything ends up in the pocket of it. Ah. Here....

...(cont) The Secretary of Defense goes to Arlington, to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. CBS has it, the Times has it, the Guardian has it: laughter and talking were heard from his group, and an Army sentinel told the Secretary and his guests to maintain respect. The sentinel is working off the standing orders there, correct? So that's my first question for the re-enactment: at what hour on Tuesday does somebody in that party decide the correction was the right call? While the cars are still inside the cemetery, or after the clips are on television?

NBC has it and the Guardian has it: the Secretary awarded a Joint Service Commendation Medal to that same sentinel. The Post calls it a top award. There are photographs of the pinning and the handshake, posted by the Secretary himself, and the words that went with them — let me read these off the page so I don't get them wrong — "We love soldiers. We love standards. Well done, Specialist. Carry on Patriots."

So walk me through the citation. Somebody typed sentences onto it. In the record of those two men there is one piece of conduct between them, it happened Tuesday at the Tomb, and the soldier's half of it was telling the Secretary's party to be quiet. Does that go into the sentences, or does it get left out and the medal float there on its own?

Two days before the cemetery — Monday the 9th — the same Secretary had a different document with his name on it. A Kentucky congressman, Thomas Massie, took the House floor to force a vote on impeachment articles he had filed in September. Common Dreams carries his words: the Secretary "knowingly executed and implemented unlawful orders" in carrying out the war with Iran, launched in February, and Massie's language is that it came without congressional authorization. The President doubled down, defended him, and said he both won and is winning that war. The articles failed. Eleven Democrats weren't in the chamber to vote — enough of them, standing there, to have carried it. One got emotional and told the Post it was rush-hour traffic.

And before any of that, two more lines in the notebook, both dated: his staff broke a priceless globe, and he fired the Joint Staff's top planner. I'm not making anything of them. I only note that it's the same hand doing the signing on Thursday.

Here's where I get stuck. My brother-in-law painted his pegboard out in the garage and traced every tool before he hung it, so the outline of the ratchet is on the wall whether the ratchet is or isn't. You stand there and you know what's gone and exactly how big it was. Is a commendation that kind of tracing? Because if it is, what the outline on Tuesday's wall says is that a standard was in force at the Tomb and a specialist is the one who enforced it. So who's the tool and who's the outline in that photograph?

Oh — excuse me, before you get your coat. Do the other document for me the same way, just the procedure: who has to be standing in the room for the House to take the count, and what's the figure at the bottom of Monday's tally? I wrote it down twice and both times it came out seven.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

An Army sentinel told the Defense Secretary's party to be quiet at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day, and two days later the Defense Secretary pinned a Joint Service Commendation Medal on that sentinel. That isn't discipline traveling up the chain of command, that's the chain buying the discipline back for the price of a medal and keeping the photograph. The impeachment articles over the war with Iran fell short on Monday because eleven members weren't in the chamber, one of them held up in rush-hour traffic, which means whether a sitting Defense Secretary has to answer for a war turned on the same jammed-up evening drive you were sitting in, and the thing that decided it was the brake lights in front of your car.

"A soldier does their job at the Tomb, the boss gets told to keep it down, and two days later the boss is holding the pin and the camera — that's not accountability, that's accountability bought wholesale and worn on somebody else's chest. Meanwhile the one vote that could actually ask him about a war launched in February dies because eleven members couldn't get to the floor, one of them stuck in traffic. A medal takes three days and a signature; a roll call takes showing up, and the showing up is the part that failed."

— Sal

"Look, the Secretary loves standards — he said so, it's right there in the post, and frankly a leader who decorates the soldier who corrects him is modeling the behavior. Did I say corrects? That doesn't sound like me; nobody was corrected, respect was maintained, which is the point. And the impeachment thing failed, so there's nothing to discuss, and if eleven of them weren't there, that's a scheduling matter for their offices, not mine."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Eleven Democrats skip Hegseth impeachment vote that failed by seven votes.* By Lou · the morning edition, 12 November 2026
- *Hegseth's answer to a party readying his impeachment vote next week is still the same video.* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 6 November 2026
- *Accused of being a war criminal, Hegseth defends the Iran war instead and vows to stay* By Chip · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
- *Hegseth declares his impeachment dead on arrival, days after Democrats won the House majority that could revive it.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 5 November 2026
- *Two months after a senator asked Trump to fire Hegseth over "inept management" of the military, Hegseth fired the Pentagon's top military planner.* By Sterling · the evening edition, 1 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Donald Trump doubles down on defense of Pete Hegseth and attacks fresh effort to impeach him – as it happened

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:00 EST*

This live blog is now closed. Republican Thomas Massie moves to force vote to impeach Pete Hegseth Sign up for US Breaking News email Democratic Congressman Hakeem Jeffries , currently the House minority leader who is poised to become new Speaker next year, told CBS News that the Trump administration will hold a closed-door congressional...

Hegseth gives medal to guard who reprimanded him at Arlington national cemetery – US politics live

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:37 EST*

Defense secretary issues commendation to US army sentinel who told him and his aides to be quiet after laughter was heard at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Pete Hegseth awards medal to soldier who reprimanded him Sign up for the Breaking News US email Perhaps you saw this ad from Scott Colom, who was just elected to serve as Mississippi's...

> *But:* The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
>
> 'A Threat to the Constitution': Massie to Force Vote on Hegseth Impeachment Articles
>
> *Common Dreams* § *15:36 EST*
>
> Rep. Thomas Massie on Monday took to the floor of the US House of Representatives to introduce articles of impeachment against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. In introducing the articles, which he first filed in September, the Kentucky Republican said Hegseth has "knowingly executed and implemented unlawful orders" in carrying out...

> *But:* The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running — the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
>
> Hegseth gives top award to soldier who scolded him, aides at Arlington National Cemetery
>
> *New York Post* RIGHT § *14:49 EST*
>
> On social media Thursday, Hegseth posted photos that show him pinning the award and shaking hands with a soldier.

Pete Hegseth awards medal to soldier who reprimanded him near Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:08 EST*

'We love standards. Well done, Specialist', the defense secretary writes following Veterans Day visit US politics live – latest updates The defense secretary, Pete Hegseth , on Thursday awarded a Joint Service Commendation Medal to the soldier who called out him and members of his staff after some in the group were heard laughing and...

Hegseth awards medal to soldier who reprimanded him at Arlington National Cemetery

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *15:15 EST*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Thursday awarded a commendation to the Army sentinel who reprimanded him and his guests for their behavior at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day.

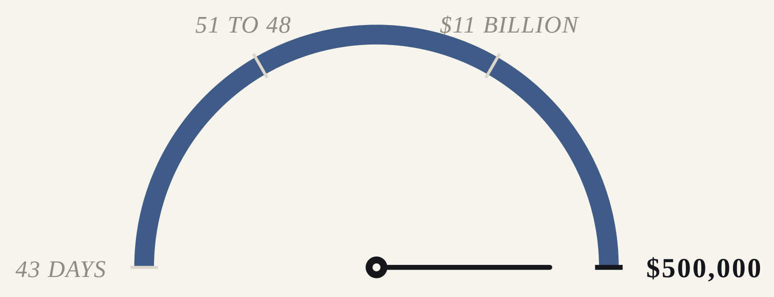
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§90 — 12 NOVEMBER 2026

On the shutdown

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$500,000

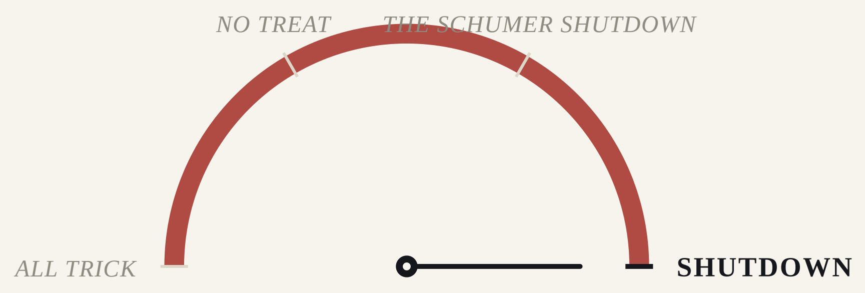
Here is what the 43 days bought. The promised vote came on December 11, 2025, and failed 51 to 48 [1]. The credits, used by more than 22 million people, expired at the end of 2025 [1]. Benchmark silver premiums rose 26 percent for 2026 and 13 percent for 2027, and paid enrollment was down 2.6 million by February [2]. The budget office put output lost at $11 billion for a six-week shutdown, in a range of $7 billion to $14 billion that "cannot be recovered" [3]. October's household survey was never collected, so that month's unemployment rate does not exist [4].

One item in the bill paid better. Added by the Senate's majority leader at members' request, it let senators sue for "up to $500,000 in damages for each violation" if their phone records were seized without notice [5]. The House voted 426 to 0 to nullify it [5], then voted again in January to strip it [6]. He signed the repeal February 3, 83 days after the clause became law [7]. Nobody had to hold out to get it in.

SOURCES

1. Both bills "blocked by 51-48 votes"; more than 22 million people benefit from the credits, which expire at the end of 2025 — Fox 35 Orlando, 11 December 2025 ↑
2. Benchmark silver premiums up 26 percent from 2025 to 2026 and 13 percent for 2027; effectuated enrollment down 12 percent, 2.6 million, by February 2026 — KFF, 30 October 2026 ↑
3. CBO: $7 billion at four weeks, $11 billion at six, $14 billion at eight; that lost output "cannot be recovered" — Government Executive, 29 October 2025 ↑
4. "Household survey data were not collected for October 2025 due to the lapse in appropriations" — Bureau of Labor Statistics, 16 December 2025 ↑
5. "Up to $500,000 in damages for each violation"; added by the majority leader at the request of several members; House voted 426-0 to nullify — CNN via KTVZ, 19 November 2025 ↑
6. The House unanimously added the repeal to a $1.2 trillion funding package on 22 January 2026 — Fox News, 22 January 2026 ↑
7. Repeal of the provision signed into law on 3 February 2026 in the appropriations package — Office of Sen. Martin Heinrich ↑

REPUBLICAN



SHUTDOWN

The name was settled early. On October 29, 2025, under the headline "Democrat Shutdown Already Costing Billions in Lost Economic Growth," the chairman of the House Budget Committee called it "the Schumer shutdown" and wrote: "Democrats say they shut down the government to help Americans, but this Halloween they're all trick and no treat" [1]. The government stayed closed from October 1 through November 12 [2].

Give the word its due. The chairman cited the Congressional Budget Office, and the office's arithmetic was real: six weeks, 1.5 percentage points off the quarter's growth [1]. The party that held out did not get what it held out for. The deal came from a small group of Senate moderates, and Democrats came away with a vote on their proposal [3]. The name stuck to one side of the aisle. Parts of it closed again in 2026, twice [4][5]. The current stopgap, passed 370 to 48, runs through December 11 [6].

SOURCES

1. "Democrat Shutdown Already Costing Billions in Lost Economic Growth"; "the Schumer shutdown"; "all trick and no treat"; six weeks means growth 1.5 percentage points lower — House Budget Committee, 29 October 2025 ↑
2. "The lapse in appropriations lasted from October 1 through November 12, 2025" — Bureau of Labor Statistics, 16 December 2025 ↑
3. Democrats got a vote on their proposal as part of a deal "struck by a small group of Senate moderates to reopen the federal government after a 43-day shutdown"; both plans "failed to get the 60 votes needed" — ABC via 6abc, December 2025 ↑
4. Parts of the government "ran out of money"; package passed 217 to 214 and signed 3 February 2026 — KPBS/NPR, 3 February 2026 ↑
5. Homeland Security's spending authority expired 14 February 2026; 76 days later, on 30 April, "the longest shutdown of a federal department in U.S. history" ended — CBS News, 30 April 2026 ↑
6. The House passed the stopgap 370-48; it funds the government through 11 December — Government Executive, 1 September 2026 ↑

“My brother-in-law closed his hardware store for six weeks once to make a point to the landlord. I forget the point. I remember the invoice. So I wrote this one out. Forty-three days. Eleven billion at six weeks, the budget office said, the part that doesn't come back. A subsidy vote, fifty-one to forty-eight, no. An October unemployment rate, never collected. A right for senators to sue for up to five hundred thousand dollars, added, then repealed. Sorry, one thing before you go. Of those four lines, which one was written by the people holding the pen?” — Lou

> “Shutdown. Sounds like somebody hit a switch. Forty-three days. What came out the other end was a vote on the health subsidies, and it lost fifty-one to forty-eight, so your benchmark premium went up twenty-six percent and then thirteen more. And you know who walked out of that same bill with something? Senators. Up to five hundred grand a violation if somebody pulls their phone records. Nobody writes that line by accident. The House voted 426 to nothing to take it back, which tells you how it read in daylight, and by February it was gone. The next switch is December 11.”
>
> — Sal

> “The shutdown was a success for everyone who wasn't in it, and the senators' provision was a simple privacy measure, available to any American with a Senate seat and a subpoena.”
>
> — Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎