The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

DHS touts most deportations in history, still can't say where it put one of them.

BY LOU
One More Question

I wrote some dates down this week. Let me read them back, in the order they happened, because that's the whole column.

September: Ann Lawani, a nursing professor at the University of San Francisco, is arrested by immigration agents at her home in Lodi.

October 9: Markwayne Mullin, the Homeland Security secretary, calls New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani's criticism of ICE "dangerous," after Mamdani said the agency has "killed far more of our neighbors than they could ever have claimed to save."

October 23: 60 Minutes reports that the government has been sending deportees to third countries — places they have no ties to, places immigration judges had already ruled they couldn't go because they'd likely face persecution or torture there.

November 4: Mullin, the same week Democrats sweep the midterms partly on a promise to abolish his agency, posts that deportations will continue.

November 13: DHS announces the highest deportation numbers in its history, more arrests than three Biden-era fiscal years combined. The same day,

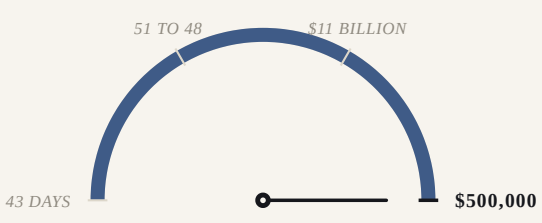
... Continued on Page T32

THE WORD

§90 — 12 NOVEMBER 2026

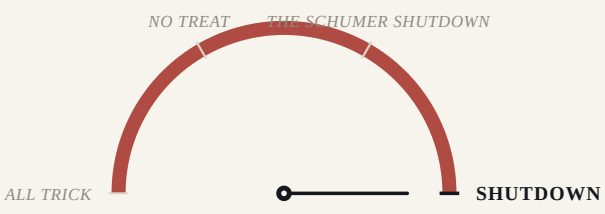
On the shutdown

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 A right for senators to sue for up to five hundred thousand dollars, added, then repealed.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

THE LEDGER FILES AFTER THE VOTE

In the last nineteen days of the Cornyn–Paxton runoff, the law gave a quarterly-filing super PAC one day to report an ad and until fifty days after the vote to report the money it raised in those nineteen days.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Eight days after losing reelection, Bass opens $648,000-a-room motel conversion, explains defeat in eight words

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars buys a door in North Hills, and behind the door is a motel room that was a motel room before anyone cut a ribbon in front of it. You will want to know where the mistake went in. There was no mistake. Seventy-two million dollars of Project Homekey money, divided per door, comes to six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars a door, because the formula that released the money is built to come to precisely that. Not exceeded, mind you. Met. Someone will call this an overrun, and an overrun is a program that has gone past its design ... this one arrived at its design, to the dollar. You are thinking the mayor addressed the arithmetic. She offered eight words, and the subject of the eight words was election results around the country. Eight. On the fifth of November the projection went to Raman, by twenty-six thousand votes, three points. On the thirteenth the ribbon was cut. Los Angeles paid seventy-two million dollars for rooms at six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars each, and no rule was broken to reach that price.

... Continued on Page A236

Carville called Piker 'not a Democrat' before the party rode his listeners to a win.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On September 3rd, Abdul El-Sayed told Stephen A. Smith he was "thinking about the 3 million people who listen" to Hasan Piker, and that he wanted to offer them "a pathway into an electoral movement." The number was his own, stated once, on the record, before anyone else in the party had to react to it.

Fifteen days later, on September 18th, the Washington Examiner reported that El-Sayed "can't dismiss" The pathway needed defending before it had carried a single vote.

Four days after that, on September 22nd, James Carville went on Fox News and told Laura Ingraham, "So, let me repeat: Hasan Piker is not a Democrat, okay?" Later in the same appearance he said he didn't "really care what he says." The three million people El-Sayed had named two and a half weeks earlier were, in the party's own strategist's accounting, not the party's audience at all.

The arithmetic didn't change after that. El-Sayed wins anyway, carried in part by the same three million people Carville had spent that Monday dis-

... Continued on Page F141

Three-week-old law meant to force violation sales arrives eight lives late, mayor orders 100-building review.

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Eight people are dead in Flatbush: six adults, two children, after a three-story apartment building caved into the excavation pit next door Wednesday afternoon. The New York Post names excavation work as the lead theory, and Mayor Mamdani has ordered roughly 100 properties tied to "five entities" involved in that construction reviewed for the same risk.

Walk it back three weeks. On October 22, the City Council quietly passed a bill built for exactly this kind of property: an owner with a distressed building and a pile of violations now has to give nonprofits and community land trusts ninety days of first dibs before listing it on the open market. Walk it back further, to September 3: Mamdani took a victory lap over the sale of a dead landlord's derelict buildings under an earlier version of the same push, while an expert on hand warned that more property transfers were coming. The warning was right about the direction and wrong about the timing. The Flatbush building landed on the wrong side of the calendar — the sale-forcing law was not yet a month old when the building went down instead of onto the market.

... Continued on Page F141

"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

Eight days after losing reelection, Bass opens $648,000-a-room motel conversion, explains defeat in eight words

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Democratic Socialist Nithya Raman Projected to Win Los Angeles Mayoral Race", 5 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Karen Bass opened a converted motel as housing for homeless people days after losing her reelection.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Los Angeles voters can replace the mayor, but the state funding formula that sets the price per room is not on any ballot.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next mayor inherits the same state program and the same formula. Nothing in the record sets a date to change either one.

Six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars buys a door in North Hills, and behind the door is a motel room that was a motel room before anyone cut a ribbon in front of it. You will want to know where the mistake went in. There was no mistake. Seventy-two million dollars of Project Homekey money, divided per door, comes to six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars a door, because the formula that released the money is built to come to precisely that. Not exceeded, mind you. Met. Someone will call this an overrun, and an overrun is a program that has gone past its design ... this one arrived at its design, to the dollar. You are thinking the mayor addressed the arithmetic. She offered eight words, and the subject of the eight words was election results around the country. Eight. On the fifth of November the projection went to Raman, by twenty-six thousand votes, three points. On the thirteenth the ribbon was cut. Los Angeles paid seventy-two million dollars for rooms at six hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars each, and no rule was broken to reach that price.

> The guests go home full. The jar, the steward keeps. Not yet dry.
>
> — ENOCH
> *The Ownership Desk*

🍺

"Six hundred and forty-eight grand a room, and it was a Motel 6 before anybody touched it — that's not a screwup, that's the paperwork doing exactly what it was written to do. Seventy-two million dollars went somewhere, and it did not go to anybody sleeping outside that building tonight. Then she loses the city and comes up with eight words about the national mood, and not one of them is a number."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, $648,000 is below market for new construction in Los Angeles — did I say below? I said in line with, which is a different thing, obviously. The program has standards and the standards were met, that is the entire purpose of having standards. And the election was the national environment, it had nothing to do with the — why are you looking at me like that?"

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Democratic Socialist Nithya Raman Projected to Win Los Angeles Mayoral Race~~

Mayor Bass projected to lose her seat to a democratic socialist

Common Dreams § *12:32 EST*

With Los Angeles Council member Nithya Raman, the first democratic socialist city policymaker, leading Democratic Mayor Karen Bass by 26,000 votes or about 3 percentage points on Wednesday night, Decision Desk Headquarters projected a win for the progressive who entered the mayoral race late and centered her campaign on solving the...

But: **The White House ballroom was announced at $200 million and now costs $400 million; the East Wing was demolished for it** *Fortune, 6 April 2026*

Karen Bass cuts ribbon on $72M homeless housing project in LA, costing taxpayers nearly $650K per unit

New York Post RIGHT § *19:26 EST*

Mayor Karen Bass opened a converted Motel 6 in North Hills to house the homeless. The $72 million Project Homekey site costs $648,000 per unit.

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*

LA Mayor Karen Bass offers weak eight-word excuse for her election defeat

New York Post RIGHT § *19:51 EST*

The remarks echo earlier comments from Bass about midterm election results around the US.

Carville called Piker 'not a Democrat' before the party rode his listeners to a win.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



“Hasan Piker Wants to Win”, 13 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Abdul El-Sayed wins his race after Democratic officials spent weeks in September publicly denying that Hasan Piker and his three million viewers belonged to their party.

WHO GETS PAID. El-Sayed's campaign and the Democratic Party get the votes of Piker's audience without ever claiming the man or the name in public.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters don't get told plainly, before they vote, whose coalition is actually electing the candidate.

WHAT'S NEXT. The defamation suit Piker filed against Scott Jennings on October 28 for $72.5 million remains open in federal court, with no trial date set.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 3rd, Abdul El-Sayed told Stephen A. Smith he was "thinking about the 3 million people who listen" to Hasan Piker, and that he wanted to offer them "a pathway into an electoral movement." The number was his own, stated once, on the record, before anyone else in the party had to react to it.

Fifteen days later, on September 18th, the Washington Examiner reported that El-Sayed "can't dismiss" The pathway needed defending before it had carried a single vote....

...(cont) Four days after that, on September 22nd, James Carville went on Fox News and told Laura Ingraham, "So, let me repeat: Hasan Piker is not a Democrat, okay?" Later in the same appearance he said he didn't "really care what he says." The three million people El-Sayed had named two and a half weeks earlier were, in the party's own strategist's accounting, not the party's audience at all.

The arithmetic didn't change after that. El-Sayed wins anyway, carried in part by the same three million people Carville had spent that Monday disowning on national television.

The caricature the party had spent September distancing itself from was, by late October, a line item in a federal docket.

On November 13th, the New York Times described the same man under the headline "Hasan Piker Wants to Win." In it, he calls himself "pragmatic" about how Democrats wield power. Three million is the number nobody in this file disputes. What changes, beat to beat, is the noun the party puts next to it — audience, then not a Democrat, then defendant's exhibit, then pragmatist. The number holds. The label is the only unstable line in the filing.

“Carville spent a Monday on Fox News telling the country those three million people watching Hasan Piker weren't his party's problem. Come the win, nobody gives the votes back, and the first complaint out of the party's mouth about the guy who delivered them is about his tone. That's not an accident — that's take the audience, skip the receipt, keep the seat.”

— *Sal*

“Carville wasn't disowning the voters, he was protecting the brand — there's a real difference between courting an audience and letting one guy define the whole party on Fox News. Sure, the campaign needed those same three million people to get over the line, but that's just — okay, that's basically the same thing. Did I say that? That's not what I meant to say.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *FDA found mold in GLP-1 drug factories, then three weeks later warned the drugs can cause blindness.* By Lou · the morning edition, 12 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Hasan Piker Wants to Win

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *05:39 EST*

The socialist Twitch streamer describes himself as “pragmatic” when it comes to how Democrats wield power.

Malik Nabers speaking new body language in Giants loss after criticism

New York Post RIGHT § *00:15 EST*

The most important body language from Malik Nabers on Thursday was his end zone dance after Isaiah Likely scored the go-ahead touchdown. It surpassed when Nabers waved his arms to try to trick the officials into thinking his costly fumble was an incompletion. With the Giants trailing by three points but in the red zone,...

· Carville says Piker 'not a Democrat': 'Don't use our name' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· El Sayed can’t dismiss his buddy Hasan Piker as just a ‘social media streamer’ *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· El Sayed tells Stephen A. Smith that he’s ‘thinking about the 3 million people who listen’ to Hasan Piker *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Socialist Hasan Piker sues conservative counterpart for ‘violent racist’ portrayal *from the morgue, 28 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.

Three-week-old law meant to force violation sales arrives eight lives late, mayor orders 100-building review.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



“What to Know About the Deadly Building Collapse in Brooklyn”, 13 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Mayor Zohran Mamdani ordered about 100 buildings reviewed after a Flatbush apartment building collapsed into excavation work, killing eight.

WHO GETS PAID. Nonprofits and community land trusts get first dibs to buy distressed buildings under the new law.

WHAT SLIPS. The city's own inspection of excavation sites, which should have caught this before the building came down, slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. The receipts set no deadline yet for finishing the hundred-building review; until one appears, that review is the only next step on record.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Eight people are dead in Flatbush: six adults, two children, after a three-story apartment building caved into the excavation pit next door Wednesday afternoon. The New York Post names excavation work as the lead theory, and Mayor Mamdani has ordered roughly 100 properties tied to "five entities" involved in that construction reviewed for the same risk.

Walk it back three weeks. On October 22, the City Council quietly passed a bill built for exactly this kind of property: an owner with a distressed building and a pile of violations now has to give nonprofits and community land trusts ninety days of first dibs before listing it on the open market. Walk it back further, to September 3: Mamdani took a victory lap over the sale of a dead landlord's derelict buildings under an earlier version of the same push, while an expert on hand warned that more property transfers were coming. The warning was right about the direction and wrong about the timing. The Flatbush building landed on the wrong side of the calendar — the sale-forcing law was not yet a month old when the building went down instead of onto the market....

...(cont) The hundred-building review ordered this week is the same fix, run forward instead of back: the city naming every address tied to those same five entities and asking, this time, before the ground gives. How many of those hundred carry the same stacked violations as the Flatbush building is a question the review will have to answer; it is not a question the collapse waited around for.

This is not the only building to go down mid-construction this season. No receipt names excavation as the cause there; what it shares with Flatbush is only the shape of the failure — a building under active work, coming down with people inside it. Twenty years before that, in 2006, a section of the Mahon Airport terminal in Menorca gave way mid-renovation; the BBC reported the collapse may have been caused by a buildup of heavy rainwater, trapping twenty, hurting three. The cause there stayed at "may have been" and was not pinned down any further — the same hedge now sitting over the excavation pit on Flatbush Avenue, three weeks into a law built to get ahead of it.

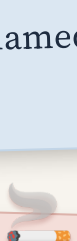
❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The law gives a violation-stacked landlord ninety days of head start before anyone can force a sale out from under them. That clock does not protect the tenants living there, it protects the landlord's exit, timed to start only after the ambulances leave the block. Because the hundred-building review only opens once the death count reaches eight, and because a review that starts counting after the collapse is counting bodies instead of cracks, the next envelope that shows up in your mailbox with the city's seal on it will be your lease renewal, same violations still on file, same landlord's name still on the deed.

“They write a law giving a violation-stacked landlord ninety days to find a buyer before the city can force a sale, and the first time anybody tests it, eight people are dead under a Flatbush building. Now the mayor's reviewing a hundred more buildings tied to the same five entities — the same check, run after the collapse instead of before it. The fix landed on time for the press conference and eight lives too late for the building it was named for.”

— Sal



“Look, you can't pin a structural collapse on a housing bill — the ninety-day nonprofit window has nothing to do with excavation permits, those are different departments entirely. The violations piling up for years before this mayor even took office are a maintenance backlog, not a failure of code enforcement, and reviewing a hundred buildings now actually shows the city getting ahead of it, not behind. Wait — if it's ahead of it, why'd it take eight bodies to start the review? Scratch that, the point is the system worked exactly as designed, eventually.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Mamdani's three-week-old law to force sales of derelict buildings missed its first building by eight lives.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 12 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

What to Know About the Deadly Building Collapse in Brooklyn

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:23 EST*

At least eight people were killed and more than a dozen others injured when a three-story building in Flatbush collapsed on Wednesday, officials said.

~~Excavation work eyed as potential cause of devastating Brooklyn building collapse that killed 8~~

Mamdani orders review of five entities tied to deadly Brooklyn collapse

New York Post RIGHT § *19:15 EST*

The three-story Flatbush apartment building caved into the adjacent lot Wednesday afternoon as the excavation work was underway -- prompting Mayor Zohran Mamdani to order a review of about 100 properties across the city linked to "five entities" involved in the construction.

‘Who will be held accountable?’: fatal Brooklyn building collapse devastates community

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *14:49 EST*

New York City officials have confirmed at least eight casualties – six adults and two children – in the collapse Flatbush Ave in Flatbush, New York, stood still and in shock after a three-storey apartment building collapsed on Wednesday afternoon near a construction site. “The last time I saw something like this was when I went to work...

· A partial roof collapse occurred in part of the Mahon Airport terminal building in Menorca, Spain while undergoing renovations/construction work. The collapse may have been caused by a build-up of hea *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2006*

· First body recovered from collapsed multistory building in Nairobi *from the morgue, 30 Oct 2026*

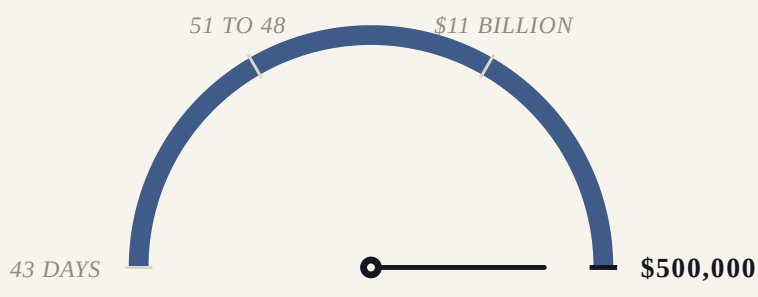
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§90 — 12 NOVEMBER 2026

On the shutdown

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$500,000

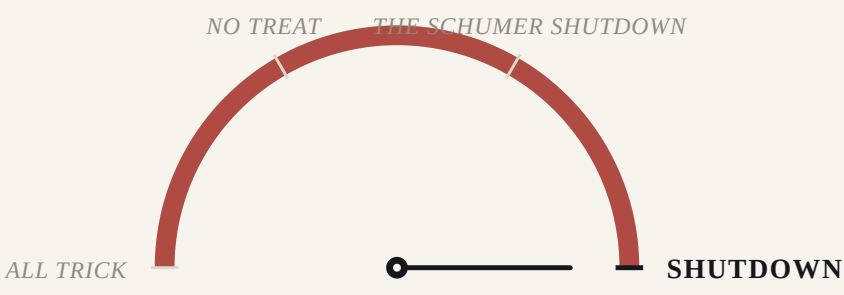
Here is what the 43 days bought. The promised vote came on December 11, 2025, and failed 51 to 48 [1]. The credits, used by more than 22 million people, expired at the end of 2025 [1]. Benchmark silver premiums rose 26 percent for 2026 and 13 percent for 2027, and paid enrollment was down 2.6 million 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 — 👍 👎