Hearing:	Oversight of Department of Homeland Security: ICE, CBP, & USCIS
Primary:	The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Committee:	House Committee on Homeland Security

Question: Mr. Lyons, will you commit to not deploying any ICE personnel inside or in the immediate vicinity of a polling place during voting in a general or special election?

Response: Generally, there is no reason for ICE officers and agents to be deployed to polling places. Please note however, ICE is authorized to investigate voter fraud.

Question: Mr. Lyons, after the killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis by an ICE officer, what immediate changes did you make to interior enforcement protocols or guidance?

Response: ICE takes every use of force by an agent or officer seriously and supports an independent criminal investigation of any deadly use of force. Separate from that investigation, by agency policy, the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility routinely conducts its own administrative review of the incident upon conclusion of the criminal investigation. This includes a Critical Incident Review (CIR), which documents the facts and circumstances of the shooting and examines any possible training or policy violations. If deficiencies in training or policy are identified, ICE will make appropriate changes.

Question: Mr. Lyons, there have been reports that ICE agents are taking videos of bystanders, observers, and protesters, and potentially conducting real time facial recognition on them. For instance, Jonathan Ross was recording Renee Good on his phone shortly before her death, and citizen videos have been released that show agents recording them and indicating that they will be identified and their names added to a database. Why are agents taking videos of bystanders and protesters?

Response: ICE investigations and law enforcement actions are conducted based on violations, or the investigation into alleged or suspected violations, of specific statutes within ICE's investigative and enforcement authority(ies). ICE officers may document aspects of encounters, consistent with its authorities and obligations, to identify individuals reasonably believed to be involved in, or directly supporting potential violations of federal law to aid potential investigations and prosecutions. Because an individual's level of involvement is not always immediately clear, some information may be initially collected regarding persons later determined not to be investigative subjects.

Question: What does ICE do with those videos, where are the videos being maintained, and under what circumstances are they shared with the FBI, (b)(7)(E) or HSTFs?

Response: Videos recorded by ICE officers during law enforcement operations or around ICE facilities, including those involving protestors or bystanders, are maintained in accordance with federal law enforcement records retention policies and ICE's internal guidelines. Videos may be reviewed for investigative, situational awareness, or officer safety purposes. Sharing such videos with other federal agencies, including the FBI, (b)(7)(E), or Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs), occurs only when there is a valid law enforcement purpose, such as supporting ongoing investigations, addressing threats to public safety, or complying with interagency protocols. All sharing is governed by applicable statutes, memoranda of understanding,

(b)(5)

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and DHS/ICE privacy and information-sharing policies. ICE does not share or use videos for purposes outside its law enforcement, security, or investigative mission, and all actions are consistent with federal law and DHS policy.

Question: What technological tools are used to analyze those videos or the identities of the people in them? If facial recognition tools are being run, what is the legal justification, and what databases and galleries of photos are they being run against?

Response: Facial recognition tools are not utilized in the review of body-worn camera footage.

Question: Are the technological tools being used to analyze the videos and identities commercially developed, and if so, by whom?

Response: Please see above, as ICE is not using facial recognition tools during the review of body-worn camera footage, therefore there's no commercial vendor to identify, or any analytical tools to identify.

Question: Mr. Lyons, a federal court found that ICE officers shot exploding pellets of pepper spray at the Rev. David Black from the roof of an ICE facility, while he was wearing his clerical collar and extending his arms toward the officers with palms outstretched "in a traditional Christian posture of prayer and blessing." Later, after he calmly spoke into a megaphone while standing on the street, officers pepper sprayed him at close range, aiming at his head, and left him completely saturated with pepper spray. Does the conduct of these officers comport with ICE training?

Response: ICE agents and officers are trained to use force only when reasonable and necessary in light of the totality of facts and circumstances confronting an Authorized Officer at the time the force is applied. Any circumstance where force is used which is not both necessary and reasonable, including the pneumatic firing of oleoresin capsicum (OC) projectiles or pepper spray, would not comport with ICE training or policy. The conduct described above of pepper spraying an individual at close range is not consistent with how officers are trained to use pepper spray. OC is taught as a controlled tool that may only be used when there is a lawful, clearly articulable reason related to safety or a legitimate enforcement need, and not to target individuals randomly, including people who are peacefully praying or calmly speaking.

Question: Were the officers subject to any discipline or consequence as a result of this conduct?

Response: This incident is under investigation. If an investigation finds that an ICE employee engaged in misconduct, the completed investigative file is referred to ICE Office of Human Capital Employee Relations Unit for appropriate disciplinary action(s) in accordance with agency policy. Since the investigation is pending no disciplinary actions have occurred.

Question: How will you ensure that, going forward, ICE officers do not assault people engaged in peaceful prayer in accordance with their First Amendment rights?

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Hearing:	Oversight of Department of Homeland Security: ICE, CBP, & USCIS
Primary:	The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Committee:	House Committee on Homeland Security

Response: The above hypothetical has never happened, as ICE respects all individuals who exercise their First Amendment rights. ICE is fully committed to upholding the Constitution and respecting the First Amendment rights of all individuals, including the right to peacefully assemble and express views through protest. Protecting these fundamental rights is foundational to our nation's democracy. ICE policies and practices are designed to respect lawful protests and constitutionally protected activities.

Question: Mr. Lyons, U.S. citizens across the nation have been caught up in Trump's immigration dragnet, have been forcibly arrested, detained for sometimes days, and even refused a phone call. What is your office doing to track these incidents?

Response: Please provide specific allegations of such actions and ICE may be able to look into the matter. General, sensationalized questions such as the above do not assist in ICE adjudicating potential concerns. Between January 20, 2025 and April 6, 2026, ICE booked in a total of 56 U.S. citizens into ICE custody.

Question: What is the number of U.S. citizens who have been detained, including through investigative stops?

Response: As a matter of law, ICE may not detain or arrest U.S. citizens for civil immigration violations. However, ICE may arrest anyone— U.S. citizen or not— for violations of criminal law pursuant to ICE's authorities under Titles 8, 18, 19 and 31 of the United States Code. ICE law enforcement officers may also arrest anyone who willfully impedes, resists arrest, assaults, or even attempts to kill ICE officers or agents, or damages government property during the course of lawful ICE enforcement operations. Between January 20, 2025 and April 6, 2025, ICE arrested 2,856 U.S. citizens.

Question: Do your officers and agents document all interactions with U.S. citizens, to include investigative stops? If not, what information is documented about these interactions?

Response: Yes, ICE officers and agents document all interactions with U.S. citizens.

Question: What is the number of U.S. citizens who have been arrested?

Response: As a matter of law, ICE may not detain or arrest U.S. citizens for civil immigration violations. However, ICE may arrest anyone— U.S. citizen or not— for violations of criminal law pursuant to ICE's authorities under Titles 8, 18, 19 and 31 of the United States Code. ICE law enforcement officers may also arrest anyone who willfully impedes, resists arrest, assaults, or even attempts to kill ICE officers or agents, or damages government property during the course of lawful ICE enforcement operations. Between January 20, 2025 and April 6, 2025, ICE arrested 2,856 U.S. citizens.

Question: What procedures does ICE follow when someone claims to be a U.S. citizen?

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Hearing:	Oversight of Department of Homeland Security: ICE, CBP, & USCIS
Primary:	The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Committee:	House Committee on Homeland Security

Response: ICE has significant protections in place to ensure U.S. citizens are not arrested, detained, or removed mistakenly. ICE Directive No. 16001.2, *Investigating the Potential U.S. Citizenship of Individuals Encountered by ICE* (Nov. 10, 2015), establishes ICE policy and procedures for ensuring that the potential U.S. citizenship of individuals encountered by ICE officers, agent, and attorneys is immediately and carefully investigated and analyzed. A copy of the Directive is enclosed for reference.

Question: After a GAO investigation in 2021 (GAO-21-487), ICE said it would update its training materials to address detention of citizens. How has the training changed since 2021? What training do law enforcement personnel get now about how to ensure they are not arresting or detaining citizens?

Response: Since 2021, ICE ERO training on U.S. citizenship has been expanded to allocate more total classroom hours to the same core material, giving instructors and students more time for in-depth review. In the current (March 2025) lesson used in the ERO Basic Immigration Enforcement Training Program, the updated training devotes an entire 14-hour block to citizenship law and presents extensive scenarios (including complex historical and derivative citizenship cases) so officers can work through real-world fact patterns. The materials repeatedly warn that detaining someone after incorrectly determining their citizenship can expose both ICE and the individual officer to legal liability. Officers are trained to gather and corroborate facts through questioning, documents, and database checks, and they are formally assessed through a written exam and a "Determine Removability" practical exercise that test correct identification of U.S. citizens.

Question: ICE also said it would maintain data about those arrests and detentions of U.S. citizens. What steps is ICE taking to do this? Where is that information being maintained?

Response: ICE officers and agents document all arrests and detentions including those involving U.S. citizens for criminal law violations as part of routine law enforcement operations. This information is maintained in ICE's law enforcement databases, such as the Investigative Case Management (ICM) system, which is governed by the DHS/ICE External Investigations System of Records Notice. These systems are Law Enforcement Sensitive and restrict access to authorized personnel. ICE offers the number of arrests, book-ins, and removals of U.S. citizens on its public facing website, which may be accessed here: https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management.

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MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 2022

CORRECTING THE RECORD

Maricopa County's In-Depth Analysis of the Senate Inquiry



PREPARED BY

MARICOPA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
& OFFICE OF THE RECORDER

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Executive Summary

Maricopa County is the second largest voting jurisdiction in the United States. With more than 2.6 million registered voters, Maricopa County represents more than 60 percent of Arizona's registered voters. The Elections Department reports to both the County Board of Supervisors and the County Recorder and administers city, town, school district, special district, county, state, and federal elections in Maricopa County.

Transparency, accuracy, and accountability are paramount to Maricopa County and its Elections Department. Maricopa County's election staff are trained and Certified Election Officers with knowledge of state and federal election laws and the Arizona Election Procedures Manual. Our role as election administrators is guided by statute and our team follows those laws and procedures so that every eligible vote is counted.

> **The November 2020 General Election was administered with integrity and the results were accurate and reliable. This has been proven through statutorily required accuracy tests, court cases, hand counts performed by the political parties, and post-election audits. The Elections Department followed all federal and state election laws.**

On November 23, 2020, Maricopa County delivered the November General Election certified canvass results to the Arizona Secretary of State. The Elections Department stands by these certified results.

Many allegations about the November 2020 General Election made their way to court and Maricopa County clearly presented the facts to judges at both the state and federal level. Fourteen different times complaints alleged election fraud, manipulation, or tampering in Maricopa County's 2020 General Election. No claim succeeded. For a complete listing of all court cases, see *Exhibit – COURT CASES*.

The County welcomes objective and unbiased scrutiny and reviews of its elections processes. Following the August 2018 Primary Election, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors enlisted both the County's internal audit department and an external auditing company to conduct a review of the County's election processes. Those professional, non-partisan reviews yielded many positive changes to the County's elections.

After the November 2020 General Election, the County hired two federally certified Voting System Test Laboratories to conduct an audit of the tabulation equipment used to count ballots for all five of the elections administered in 2020. Both certified laboratories found no anomalies in the tabulation equipment and confirmed that:

- All tested software, systems, and equipment were using certified software
- No malicious malware or hardware was installed
- No evidence of internet connectivity was found
- The 2020 General Election program and tabulation equipment was accurate (test completed by only one Voting System Test Laboratory)

Despite all evidence to the contrary, false allegations continue to persist and damage voter confidence. Many falsehoods have been perpetuated through the Senate's review of Maricopa County's ballots, equipment and data, which were subpoenaed by Arizona Senate President Karen Fann and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Warren Petersen.

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Maricopa County worked in good faith to comply with the subpoenas, while the Senate hired partisan contractors with no election experience.

Throughout the review, the Senate's contractors released inaccurate and misleading information, in some instances during presentations delivered to Senators Fann and Petersen. The Senate's review culminated in a series of inaccurate reports and presentations delivered by its contractors on September 24, 2021, which called into question the integrity of Maricopa County employees and the validity of legitimate votes cast by eligible voters.

This continuous release of inaccurate information required the County to develop a website to combat misinformation: JustTheFacts.Vote.

This report, prepared by election professionals, was commissioned by the Board of Supervisors and the County Recorder, who directed the Elections Department to conduct a thorough review of the claims and voter appendices contained in Cyber Ninjas Volume III report (Pgs. 1-61), CyFIR's presentation and findings included in Cyber Ninjas Volume III (Pgs. 61-97), EchoMail's envelope images presentation and report (Pgs. 1-99) and the Senate's Machine Paper Ballot Count Report (Pgs. 1-36).

Summary of Maricopa County's Findings

After an in-depth analysis and review of the reports and presentations issued by the Senate's contractors, we determined that nearly every finding included faulty analysis, inaccurate claims, misleading conclusions, and a lack of understanding of federal and state election laws. Our review of the claims made by Cyber Ninjas, CyFIR, EchoMail, and the Senate's Audit Liaisons, found:

- 22 were misleading. The claims lead the reader to assume a conclusion that is not supported by the evidence.
- 41 were inaccurate. The claims include flawed or misstated analysis.
- 13 were false. The claims are demonstrably false and can be proven false using materials provided to the Senate.

Cyber Ninjas

The report produced by Senate contractor, Cyber Ninjas, inaccurately challenges the legitimacy of thousands of voters who participated in the November 2020 General Election and/or the validity of ballots counted and included in the official results. The Elections Department reviewed every finding included in Cyber Ninjas' Volume III report.

Our analysis found that Cyber Ninjas made faulty and inaccurate conclusions about more than 53,000 ballots in 22 different categories.

As shown in *EXEC Table #1* on the next page, Maricopa County election professionals found seven false claims, 23 inaccurate claims, and nine misleading claims made in Cyber Ninjas Volume III report. This includes faulty conclusions about voters who moved, early voting files, certified results, voter registration information, the County's ballot duplication processes, and ballots for military and overseas voters. At the heart of these inaccuracies is a basic misunderstanding or ignorance of election laws and procedures.

EXEC Table #1 – Summary of Maricopa County's Analysis of Cyber Ninjas' Findings					
Category		**Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report & Senate Machine Count Report (MCR)**			**County Response**
Topic	**Page**	**Claim**	**Reference**	**Ballots**	**Analysis**
Subpoena, Hand Count and Paper					
Audit Cooperation & Subpoenaed Items	9	Audit Interference	5.7.1 (pg. 48)	n/a	Misleading Claim
		Missing Subpoena Items	5.7.8 (pg. 56)	n/a	Misleading Claim
		Subpoenaed Equipment Not Yet Provided	6.5.3 (pg.78)	n/a	Misleading Claim
		Voter Registration System Audit Access	5.7.12 (Pg. 60)	n/a	Misleading Claim
Hand Count & Machine Count	13	Tally Results, Presidential & Senate Races	4-4.3 (pg. 2)	n/a	3 Misleading Claims
		Machine Count	MCR (pg. 4)	n/a	Misleading Claim
Paper and Printer Claims	17	High Bleed-Through Rates on Ballots	5.7.5 (pg. 52)	n/a	False Claim
		Improper Paper Utilized	5.7.6 (pg. 54)	n/a	False Claim
		Out of Calibration Ballot Printers	5.7.10 (pg. 57)	n/a	False Claim
		Questionable Ballots	5.7.13 (pg. 61)	n/a	False Claim
Voter Registration					
Voters that Moved & Soft Matching Techniques	53	Mail-in Ballot Voted from Prior Address	5.3.1 (pg. 6)	23,344	0
		Potentially Voted in Multiple Counties	5.4.2 (pg. 10)	5,295	5
		In-Person Voters Moved out of County	5.5.3 (pg. 14)	2,382	0
		Voters Moved Out-of-State Prior to Election	5.5.4 (pg. 16)	2,081	0
		No Record of Voters in Commercial Database	5.7.9 (pg. 56)	N/A	Inaccurate Claim
Other Voter Registration Claims	60	Voters with Incomplete Names	5.6.5 (pg. 27)	393	0
		Deceased Voters	5.6.6 (pg. 29)	298	26
		Late Registered Voters with Counted Votes	5.6.8 (pg. 32)	198	0
		Duplicate Voter IDs	5.6.10 (pg. 37)	186	6
		Multiple Voters linked by AFFSEQ	5.6.11(pg. 38)	101	0
Protected Voters, Early and Damaged Ballots, and UOCAVA Voters					
Protected Voter Claims	65	Official Results Do Not Match Who Votes	5.5.1 (pg. 12)	3,432	0
		Votes Counted in Excess of Voters Who Voted	5.5.5 (pg. 18)	1,551	0
Early Ballot Returns and Real-Time Check-in System	67	More Early Ballots Returned than Received	5.4.1 (pg. 8)	9,041	0
		Ballots Returned not in the final Voted File	5.6.3 (pg. 24)	430	0
		Mail-in Ballot Received Without Sent Record	5.6.4 (pg. 25)	397	0
		Early Votes Not Accounted For in EV33	5.7.4 (pg. 51)	n/a	False Claim
		Real-Time Provisional Ballots	5.7.11 (pg. 59)	n/a	Misleading Claim
		Voters not in precinct register	5.6.1 (pg. 20)	681	0
		Date of Registration Changes to Earlier Date	5.6.9 (pg. 34)	193	0
Damaged and Duplicated Ballots	83	More Duplicates than Original Ballots	5.5.2 (pg. 13)	2,592	0
		Duplicated Ballots & Missing Serial Numbers	5.6.2 (pg. 22)	~500	0
		Duplicate Ballots Reuse Serial Numbers	5.6.14 (pg. 47)	6	0
		Commingled Damaged and Original Ballots	5.7.3 (pg. 50)	n/a	Inaccurate Claim
Ballots and Batch Discrepancies	88	Double Scanned & Counted Ballots	5.6.12 (pg. 45)	50	50
		Batch Discrepancies	5.7.2 (pg. 48)	n/a	False Claim
UOCAVA Claims	90	UOCAVA Count Does Not Match the EAC	5.6.7 (pg. 30)	226	0
		UOCAVA Electronic Ballots Double Counted	5.6.13 (pg.46)	6	0
		Inaccurate Identification of UOCAVA ballots	5.7.7 (pg. 55)	N/A	False Claim
			Ballots Total	53,304	87
			Total Claims	40	7 False 23 Inaccurate[1] 9 Misleading

[1]*Maricopa County found that 21 of the 22 ballot claims were inaccurate. While Cyber Ninjas section 5.6.12 was included in the total claims (39), it was not assigned a category. For more information see page 86.*

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Our analysis found 37 instances where a voter *may* have unlawfully cast multiple ballots. We have forwarded these instances to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for further investigation. We also found 50 instances in which a ballot was potentially double counted.

> **In total, we found fewer than 100 potentially questionable ballots cast out of 2.1 million. This is the very definition of exceptionally rare. None of these instances impacted the outcome of races and a thorough review by our election professionals confirmed there were no systemic issues related to ballot counting and processing in the November 2020 General Election.**

Additional analysis conducted by the County examined Cyber Ninjas' hand count of 2.1 million paper ballots. In their September 24 presentation to Senators Fann and Petersen, Cyber Ninjas reported that its hand count and the Senate's machine count largely matched Maricopa County's official canvass. While the County's official canvass and the Senate's machine count are almost identical, an analysis of hand count reports and procedures (see pg. 13) reveal discrepancies that call Cyber Ninjas' official numbers into question.

CyFIR

The Senate's contractor, CyFIR, reviewed Maricopa County's federally and state certified tabulation equipment and Election Management System (EMS).

> **There is not a single accurate claim contained in CyFIR's analysis of Maricopa County's tabulation equipment and EMS. This includes the allegation that county staff intentionally deleted election files and logs, which is not true.**

CyFIR looked for ballot images in the wrong areas and then wrongly assumed that the images were corrupt. CyFIR also aired inaccurate claims about routers being connected to the EMS and incorrectly concluded that the tabulation equipment was connected to the internet, leading to additional inaccurate or misleading claims about County cybersecurity measures. In its September 24, 2021 presentation, CyFIR accused County staff of intentionally deleting files and logs. That is not true. All 2020 General Election files have been preserved and archived. The County created 26 daily back-ups of the EMS server during the election, with the last one occurring after tabulation was completed on November 13, 2020.

> **All the backup hard drives and corresponding data files from the November 2020 General Election have been maintained and safely secured. Contrary to claims made by the Senate and its contractors, the Arizona Senate did not subpoena these archived files.**

These inaccurate and misleading claims continue to spread. This report goes into further detail about each claim. A summary of the County's analysis of CyFIR's claims is included in the *EXEC Table #2* below.

EXEC Table #2 – Summary of Maricopa County's Analysis of CyFIR's Findings					
Category		**Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report**			**County Response**
Topic	**Page**	**Claim**	**Reference**	**Ballots**	**Analysis**
Tabulation Equipment & Technology					
Election Management System Database and Files	21	EMS Database Purged	6.4.1 (Pg. 63)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		Election Files Deleted	6.4.2 (Pg. 65)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		EMS C:\ Drive	6.4.2.1.1 (Pg. 66)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		EMS D:\ Drive	6.4.2.1.2 (Pg. 67)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
			6.4.2.1.2 (Pg. 67)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		Deleted Files & Directories	6.4.2.1.3 (Pg. 68)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		HiPro 1, HiPro 3, HiPro 4	6.4.2.1.4 (Pg. 69)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
			6.4.2.1.5 (Pg. 69)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		Corrupt Ballot Images	6.4.3 (Pg. 70)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		Missing Ballot Images on EMS Server	6.5.1 (Pg. 73)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
Operating System Logs	25	EMS Logs Not Preserved	6.5.6 (Pg. 85)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		User Log Deletions on 02/11/2021	6.5.6.1.1 (Pg. 86)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		User Log Deletions on 03/03/2021	6.5.6.1.2 (Pg. 86)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		User Log Deletions on 04/12/2021	6.5.6.1.3 (Pg. 87)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
		Anonymous Logins	6.5.4 (Pg. 82)	n/a	**False Claim**
Election Management System & its Air Gapped Network	36	Internet Connections	7.5.5 (Pg. 89)	n/a	**False Claim**
		Internet Connections to the EMS	6.5.6.2 (Pg. 89)	n/a	**False Claim**
		Internet Connections to Client 1	6.5.6.3 (Pg. 89)	n/a	**False Claim**
		Internet Connections to Client 3	6.5.6.4 (Pg. 90)	n/a	**False Claim**
		Internet Connections to the REWEB	6.5.6.5 (Pg. 90)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
		Internet Connections to the REGIS	6.5.6.6 (Pg. 91)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
Hard Drives and Other Data	45	Dual Boot System Discovered	6.5.5 (Pg. 84)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
		Election Data Found From Other States	7.6.1 (pg. 92)	n/a	**Inaccurate Claim**
Cybersecurity Best Practices	47	Failure to Follow Basic Cybersecurity	6.5.2 (Pg. 75)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
		Software and Patch Management	6.5.2.1.1 (Pg 75)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
		Credential Management	6.5.2.1.3 (Pg. 76)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
		Lack of Baseline for Host and Network Activity	6.5.2.1.4 (Pg. 78)	n/a	**Misleading Claim**
			Total Claims	**27**	5 False 15 Inaccurate 7 Misleading

EchoMail

Senate contractor, EchoMail, reviewed the 1.9 million early ballot affidavit images from the November 2020 General Election.

> **EchoMail's analysis of the early ballot affidavit images is misleading at best. The "anomalies" EchoMail uncovered are due to a flawed understanding of signature verification laws and practices.**

EchoMail's analysis did not consider the signature curing process, which is when a voter corrects a signature issue by contacting the Elections Department. The thousands of "duplicate" early ballot envelope images that EchoMail claimed were "anomalies" have a simple answer. As voters cure signature issues, the Elections Department takes another image of the envelope. Only one ballot was counted for each envelope. In addition, EchoMail's findings included misleading claims about the County's signature verification process, which has been proven accurate in Court. EchoMail also fails to understand Arizona's elections laws related to the processing of early ballot affidavits, signature review and verification, and rights of voters to cure their signature. A summary of the County analysis of EchoMail's conclusions is included in the following *EXEC Table #3*.

EXEC Table #3 – Summary of Maricopa County's Analysis of EchoMail's findings					
Category		EchoMail Report			County Response
Topic	Page	Claim	Reference	Envelopes	Analysis
Early Ballot Envelope Images	76	Canvass Requirements	Pg. 14	n/a	False Claim
	77	17,126 "Duplicate" Early Ballot Images		17,126	Misleading Claim
	77	More Envelopes Processed & Submitted than Identified by EchoMail		6,545	Misleading Claim
	78	No Signatures, Scribbles & Bad Signature Rates	Pg. 14-15	2,580	Inaccurate Claim
				9,589	Inaccurate Claim
	80	Increase in Envelopes but Decrease in Signature Rejections	Pg. 15	n/a	Inaccurate Claim
	80	Daily Duplicate Numbers	Pg. 74-75	7,797	Misleading Claim
	80	Stamped in Signature Region	Pg. 79	n/a	Misleading Claim
	81	Stamp Behind the Envelope Triangle	Pg. 84	n/a	Misleading Claim
	82	Two-Different Voter IDs	Pg. 85-86	n/a	Misleading Claim
				10	6 Misleading 3 Inaccurate 1 False

Post-election audits build trust and promote election integrity when they have bipartisan oversight and are conducted by experienced, unbiased professionals who use well-defined, proven processes to provide quantifiable, reproducible proof. These audits can also identify and explain any inconsistencies that arise so processes may be improved, or new laws may be considered.

Unfortunately, the Senate's election review and its contractors fell far short of those standards and instead promoted disinformation and distrust. This report details those shortcomings and corrects the record.

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Item #1: Audit Cooperation and Subpoenaed Items

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.7.1, 5.7.8, 6.5.3)

Cyber Ninjas' Volume III report included four misleading claims about the County's cooperation with their review.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III		County Analysis
Reference	Claim	
5.7.1 (pg. 48)	"Audit Interference"	Misleading Claim
5.7.8 (pg. 56)	"Missing Subpoena Items"	Misleading Claim
6.5.3 (pg.78)	"Subpoenaed Equipment Not Yet Provided"	Misleading Claim
5.7.12 (Pg. 60)	"Voter Registration System Audit Access"	Misleading Claim

Maricopa County Findings

Despite claims to the contrary, the County complied with the Senate's subpoenas. Within days of the issuance of the January 12, 2021 subpoena, the County had gathered and provided the Senate with thousands of documents and over eight terabytes of data (see *Exhibit – SUBPOENA TRACKING*). In addition to the documents, the Senate's subpoena commanded the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors' Chairman, County Recorder and County Treasurer to attend a public hearing at the Senate on January 13 at 9 a.m. (less than 18 hours after the issuance of the subpoena). When the elected officials arrived, the Senate did not have a hearing scheduled and they turned the County's elected officials away.

The County asked for judicial clarification on the lawfulness of producing paper ballots, ballot images and tabulation equipment from the November 2020 General Election to the Senate. After the Maricopa County Superior Court ruled that the law allowed the production and that the subpoena requests were valid, the County did *not* appeal the ruling, but instead asked Senate President Karen Fann when the County could deliver the almost 2.1 million ballots to the Senate's chambers as commanded by the subpoena. The Senate requested that the County keep the ballots until the Senate could find an alternative location for delivery. As later stipulated by the Senate, the County delivered the ballots, equipment and other data subpoenaed by the Senate to the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum on April 21 and 22, 2021. These items included all the information the Senate needed to validate the 2020 General Election results. A second subpoena was issued on July 26, 2021. The County provided even more data in response.

On September 17, 2021, over eight months after the subpoenas were originally issued and before the issuance of Cyber Ninjas' report, the County and Senate negotiated an agreement to appoint a special master to review the County's router logs, and the Senate confirmed that the County was in *full compliance* with all issued subpoenas (see *Exhibit – SUBPEONA AGREEMENT*).

Summary

5.7.1 (Audit Interference), 5.7.8 (Missing Subpoena Items), 6.5.3 (Subpoenaed Equipment Not Yet Provided)

Based on the County's good faith efforts to comply with the subpoenas and deliver commanded items, the Senate was provided with all the information they would need to validate the 2020 General Election results.

Response and Analysis

In section 5.7.1, Cyber Ninjas accused the County of interfering with its review by instructing one of the County's vendors not to cooperate. That did not happen. Rather, the County asked its vendor to tell Cyber Ninjas that it should submit any questions to the County, because the County was in the best position to provide accurate responses to questions about the election. No questions were submitted.

In sections 5.7.8 and 6.5.3, Cyber Ninjas list the items that they believe should have been provided in response to the Senate's subpoenas. See *SUBPOENAED ITEMS Table #1* for the County's response.

SUBPOENAED ITEMS Table #1 – Items Cyber Ninjas Claim Were Subpoenaed by the Senate		
Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report		County Response
Reference	Item	
5.7.8	"Rejected Provisional Ballots" "Uncured Mail Ballots" "Ballots returned to the County as undeliverable"	The Senate's January 12 subpoena requested "Access to all original, paper ballots including but not limited to early ballots, Election Day ballots, and Provisionals." The County provided access to all original paper ballots counted and included in the results for the November 2020 General Election. This included early, Election Day, and provisional ballots. The rejected provisional affidavits and the rejected early ballot affidavits, cast by those ineligible to vote, were not provided because the envelopes containing rejected early ballots are never opened and the rejected ballots are never counted. At no point prior to the issuance of Cyber Ninjas' report did the Senate or its contractors clarify that they wanted these items.
6.5.3.1.1	Routers / "Network Related Data"	While there are no routers that were ever connected to the County's tabulation equipment or Election Management System (EMS), the Senate continued to request the County's other network routers that support over 50 County departments, most of which have no relationship to the Elections Department (e.g., Sheriff's Office, Superior Court, Public Health). Providing these routers or access to the logs would have disrupted County operations, exposed the County network to significant security risks, and jeopardized law enforcement operations. As a result, the County and the Senate negotiated an arrangement that allows for the Senate to securely get answers to its questions about the routers. As part of that agreement, the Senate stipulated that it had found the County fully complied with the subpoenas. If the routers had been provided and spoiled by Cyber Ninjas, the estimated replacement cost would have been $6 million.
6.5.3.1.2	"Poll Worker Laptops"	The laptops in reference are the laptops connected to the printers the County uses at its voting locations. The Senate never requested these items in its subpoena. At no point prior to the issuance of Cyber Ninjas' report did the Senate or its contractors ask for these items. The replacement cost of these laptops and printers, with installed proprietary software is estimated at $9,000 per unit. If Cyber Ninjas spoiled this equipment as they did the tabulation equipment, this would cost County taxpayers another $3.2 million before taxes ($9,000 x 360 printers/laptops).

SUBPOENAED ITEMS Table #1 – Items Cyber Ninjas Claim Were Subpoenaed by the Senate		
Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report		County Response
Reference	Item	
6.5.3.1.3	"ICP Administrator Credentials and Hardware Tokens"	The County does not have possession or access to this information, because it is not needed by the County to conduct elections.
6.5.3.1.4	"IPX and Other Devices"	Cyber Ninjas listed an IPX device in its report. We do not have a piece of equipment called an "IPX," but we do have an ICX, which we call an accessible voting device. These machines are ballot marking tools used at voting locations for voters that need additional assistance marking their ballots. They do not perform tabulation functions and were not requested in the Senate's subpoena. At no point prior to the issuance of Cyber Ninjas' report did the Senate or its contractors ask for these items. If Cyber Ninjas spoiled this equipment as they did the tabulation equipment, this would cost County taxpayers another $50,000 before taxes ($300 x 175 accessible voting devices).
6.5.3.1.5	"Other Devices Connected to the Election Network"	The Senate subpoenaed tabulation equipment used during the November 2020 General Election. The other devices stated in this section of Cyber Ninjas' report are the back-up server and peripheral printers used to print reports. The backup server was not used during the November 2020 General Election. The peripheral printers are not tabulation equipment. The Senate did not request this equipment in its subpoena. At no point prior to the issuance of Cyber Ninjas' report did the Senate or its contractors ask for these items. If Cyber Ninjas spoiled this equipment as they did the tabulation equipment, this would cost County taxpayers another $6,900 before taxes.

Summary

5.7.12 (Voter Registration System Audit Access)

The County complied with the Senate's subpoenas, providing all servers that interface with the voter registration database, as well as the servers that support the website. There was no breach of the voter registration database. The unauthorized access to the public website was not a breach of the secure voter registration system.

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas' report questions the security of Maricopa County's voter registration database, claiming on page 60 of the report that the "audit team has been denied access required to complete this portion of the audit." This is not true. The Senate was provided with all the servers that interface with the voter registration database. Additionally, the Senate was also provided with the servers that support the Recorder's Office and Elections Department website (see *Exhibit* -

SUBPOENA). Further, as stated above the County and Senate negotiated a settlement agreement, and the Senate confirmed that the County was in full compliance with all issued subpoenas.

The voter registration database is hosted on a separate network and is isolated from the Election Management System. It is also separate from the Elections Department's website. As standard practice, all development and use of the voter registration database and the Recorder's Office and Election Department website follows Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) protocols. Many of these security controls and configurations are not public information to protect the security and integrity of the system. Below is a summary of what can be shared publicly.

- The voter registration database is only accessible by authorized systems and personnel. Multiple layers of authentication and security controls are in place to ensure the voter registration database is not accessed by bad actors. All development code is written and reviewed by quality assurance personnel for usability and security. It is also run through independent code security scan and verification services, which are remediated prior to going into production. The County has made substantial investments over the past decade in software, services and personnel in order to ensure the voter registration system delivers the citizens of Maricopa County best in class service.
- On the website, the Recorder's Office uses tiered security control configurations and services. While voters can securely access some pieces of their voter information through online portals, the website does not have access or authority to make changes to the voter registration database. These controls ensure automated attacks by bad actors on the website are discovered quickly and shut down. This is evidenced by a November 2020 incident when our Information Technology Security Department determined that an unauthorized person accessed publicly available information from a page on the Recorder's Office website. We secured the page and took immediate action to prevent this from happening in the future. This person never gained access to the voter registration database. Of the unauthorized data gathered, our team determined 859 of those individuals were protected voters (judges, law enforcement officers, survivors of domestic violence and other types of harassment or abuse). No sensitive personal information such as Social Security or Driver License numbers were obtained and none of the information identified the individuals as protected voters. This incident also had no impact on any ballot, or tabulation of ballots.

With these security measures, and the cooperation from multiple federal, state and county security operations partners, the County has not had a breach in security within the voter registration database. The unauthorized access to the website was not a breach of the voter registration system.

Item #2: Cyber Ninjas Hand Count and Senate Machine Count

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 4, 4.1 & 4.3; Machine Paper Ballot Count Report)

Cyber Ninjas' report included three claims about the Maricopa County's certified election results based on the results of a hand count. The Senate also performed a machine count of the total number of ballots.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III and Senate Machine Count Report			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
4 (pg. 2)	"Tally Results"	N/A	*Misleading Claims:* While the Senate's machine count confirmed the accuracy of the County's tabulation equipment and certified results, the County's analysis of Cyber Ninjas' hand count reports and procedures revealed significant discrepancies.
4.1 (pg. 2)	"Presidential Race"	N/A	
4.3 (pg. 3)	"Senate Race"	N/A	
Machine Count Report (pg. 4)	"Machine Count"	N/A	

State & Federal Laws

A.R.S. § 16-602(B) describes the process for hand counts. The Arizona Elections Procedures Manual (pgs. 213-234) describe the legally allowed procedures for hand counts.

Maricopa County Findings

Maricopa County's tabulation equipment is reliable, accurate, and secure. This has been confirmed by ten separate statutorily required logic and accuracy tests, three separate hand counts performed by the political parties, and two audits completed by federally certified Voting System Test Laboratories.

Summary

On November 23, 2020, Maricopa County delivered the November General Election certified canvass results to the Arizona Secretary of State. The Maricopa County Elections Department stands by the certified results submitted to the County Board of Supervisors and transmitted to the Arizona Secretary of State. The accuracy, reliability, and trustworthiness of the processes used by Maricopa County and the results reported have been confirmed through statutorily required accuracy tests, hand counts, 14 court cases, and two separate independent contractor post-election audits.

Maricopa County 2020 Election – Certification, Accuracy Tests, Hand Counts, and Audits

Transparency, accuracy, and accountability are paramount to Maricopa County and its Elections Department. The County followed all statutorily required pre- and post-tests, audits and reviews of elections administered in 2020. The County also welcomes objective and unbiased scrutiny and reviews of its elections processes. Throughout the 2020 elections, political party observers were present at voting locations, followed ballot courier routes and observed signature verification, ballot processing and tabulation. In addition to strict physical security protocols including limited badge access, all rooms with ballots were monitored by surveillance cameras 24-7.

The following is summary of some of the statutory requirements and other steps taken to ensure the integrity of the tabulation processes used for the November 2020 General Election:

- In **December 2019**, after a competitive bidding process and pilot test during the November 2019 Jurisdictional Elections that confirmed the tabulator results with a 100% hand count, the County finalized a contract with Dominion Voting Systems to lease tabulation equipment. The Contract was awarded after Dominion obtained both federal and state certification. As part of the certification process, the equipment underwent extensive testing for reliability, accuracy, and security. Find the federal Certificate of Conformance for Dominion Voting Systems Democracy Suite 5.5-B here.
- On **October 6, 2020**, the Elections Department and the Arizona Secretary of State's Office performed a logic and accuracy test on the tabulation equipment in accordance with state law (A.R.S. § 16-449). The test date was published in the newspaper, open to the public and observed by political party representatives, city/town clerks, school and health care district representatives. The law requires an errorless count before tabulators and software can be used in an election. The tests confirmed the equipment was tabulating ballots accurately, paving the way for the November 2020 General Election.
- On **November 4, 2020**, a hand count audit of election results performed by Maricopa County political parties, to include the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties, found a 100% match to the vote tabulation equipment. The hand count audit, which is required by law, covered a statistically significant sample of ballots. The hand count was viewable on the Elections Department's website and the results were shared publicly. Two prior 2020 hand counts (March Presidential Preference Election and August Primary Election) performed by these same recognized political parties also found a 100% match between the tabulation equipment and the hand count results.
- On **November 18, 2020**, the Elections Department and the Arizona Secretary of State's Office performed a post-election logic and accuracy test on the equipment to ensure it was not changed or tampered with during the election. Members of all three political parties and a representative from the Arizona Attorney General's Office observed the test. Including the pre-election logic and accuracy tests, this was the tenth public test performed in 2020 that confirmed the accuracy of the tabulation system (a pre and post logic and accuracy test were performed for the March 2020 Jurisdictional Elections, March 2020 Presidential Preference Election, May 2020 Jurisdictional Election, August 2020 Primary Election, and November 2020 General Election).
- On **November 20, 2020**, the Board held a nearly three-hour public meeting to discuss concerns and questions raised by Maricopa County residents. Only after these questions were answered in a public forum did the Board certify the results of the election. The canvassing of the November 2020 General Election was completed in accordance with state laws (A.R.S. §§ 16-642 (A)(B), 16-643, 16-646). This meeting was broadcast live and is still available to the public.
- On **February 24, 2021**, the Board held a public meeting to review the results of two post-election audits that were completed by U.S. Election Assistance Commission certified Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTL). The audits found the equipment and software were the unaltered certified versions, no malicious hardware or software were detected, no evidence of internet connectivity was identified, and that the equipment was accurately tabulating. This meeting was broadcast live and is still available to the public.

Post-election court challenges

Many allegations about the November 2020 General Election made their way to court and Maricopa County clearly presented the facts to judges at both the local and federal level. Fourteen different times complaints about election fraud, manipulation, or tampering in Maricopa County's 2020 election were brought against the County. Each case was dismissed by the courts or withdrawn by the plaintiffs. For a complete listing of all court cases, see *Exhibit - COURT CASES*.

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Response and Analysis
4 (Tally Results), 4.1 (Presidential Contest), 4.3 (Senate Contest), & Machine Count Report (pg. 4, 20-36)

The County's official canvass and the Senate's machine count closely match. However, an analysis of Cyber Ninjas' hand count reports and procedures reveal discrepancies that call the hand count findings into question. Hand count procedures changed over time, were inconsistent with Arizona law, and over 28% of hand count batch totals did not match the Senate's machine count.

Cyber Ninjas took nearly six months to count and report just two contests from Maricopa County's 2,089,563 ballots from the November 2020 General Election. On July 13, 2021, Arizona Senate President Karen Fann said publicly that their tally did not match the county's canvass and that she didn't know how much the two numbers differed. However, she ordered a separate machine count as a result. The Senate's Machine Count Report states on page 4: "*These results show the machine count confirms Maricopa County's reported ballots total for the 2020 election.*"

An incorrect hand count would impact other parts of Cyber Ninjas' report, including inaccurate ballot findings and claims related to duplicate ballots (*Item 14 – Damaged and Duplicate Ballots, pg. 83*). Our analysis of Cyber Ninjas' hand count results and reported hand count procedures reveal some of the inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and problems with Cyber Ninjas' hand count. Below is a summary of some of the issues:

- **Ballot Totals Don't Match** – As the U.S. Senate race and Presidential contest are on every ballot, the total number of ballots should be the same. Cyber Ninjas' hand county reported a 173-ballot difference between the two contests:
    - Presidential Contest - 2,088,569
    - U.S. Senate Contest - 2,088,396

  If the hand count was performed accurately and consistently, the vote totals for official candidates, write-in candidates, and under/over votes for these two contests would match perfectly.

- **Hand Count Totals Don't Match Machine Count** – The machine count performed by the Senate found a total of 2,089,442 ballots, which is 873 ballots *more* than was hand counted by Cyber Ninjas in the Presidential contest and 1,046 ballots *more* than was hand counted by Cyber Ninjas in the U.S. Senate contest. There are dozens of other discrepancies between Cyber Ninjas' hand count and the Senate's machine count documented in pages 20-36 of the Machine Paper Ballot Count Report.
    - 51 of the 180 (28.3%) batches in the report for which there was both a Cyber Ninjas' ballot count and a machine count entry show a different number of ballots counted by Cyber Ninjas than the Senate's machine count. In this analysis, we included batches for boxes in which one Cyber Ninjas' ballot count entry was missing, but the remaining batches were included, and all machine count batches were included. The missing batches were included because it is an indication that Cyber Ninjas missed counting or recording an entire batch during their hand count.
    - When comparing the total ballot counts for each box that were entered by Cyber Ninjas and the machine count entries, there were 14 total instances when the total box count between Cyber Ninjas and the

machine count differed. The absolute difference for these boxes totaled 1,657 ballots. The net difference for these boxes totaled 249 ballots.

- **Hand Count Inconsistent with Arizona Law** – Cyber Ninjas used a tally method to perform their hand count process. This method is not authorized for hand counts under state law. State statute (A.R.S. § 16-602) and the 2019 Arizona Elections Procedure Manual (Chapter 11, Pages 213-234) detail the authorized methods for performing a hand count. The only authorized method for performing a hand count of paper ballots is to use a stacking method. This requires that one contest be counted at a time and the ballots with votes for each candidate in that contest be sorted so an accurate count can be obtained. Additionally, how to determine voter intent is also outlined on page 233 of the Elections Procedures Manual, including that the three-member board made up of differing political parties reach a unanimous decision, rather than a majority of the counters, as was done in Cyber Ninjas' hand count.
- **Hand Count Procedures Continuously Changed** – During Cyber Ninjas' hand count, observers from the Arizona Secretary of State's office noted "*that the hand tally began before written procedures were shared and were only made available after litigation.*" Observers also noted that the "*implementation of the procedures as written was inconsistent and changes were made to the procedures regularly and in the middle of ongoing processes.*" These observations are documented in a report by the Arizona Secretary of State's Office titled, *Report on the Partisan Review of the 2020 General Election in Maricopa County*. Additional issues identified by the Secretary of State's observers are included below.
    - **Voter Intent (pages 32-33**) – "*Cyber Ninjas' staff performing the counting were not provided with a copy of the Arizona state laws or procedures that govern voter intent rules. Each member of the counting crew were told to look at the ballot and determine for whom they believed the voter intended.*"
    - **Hand Tally Error Rate (pages 28-30**) – "*While the written policies require batches of 100 ballots, in practice, there were a variety of circumstances that resulted in batches of under 100 ballots... There were no standards in place for addressing any discrepancies, recording the tally often came down to the opinion of the table lead... The fluctuating batch size was a significant concern because it created an unacceptably high potential for error, or error rate.*"

Cyber Ninjas' inaccurate and inconsistent reporting of results contrasts with Maricopa County's official canvass of the November 2020 General Election. While it took Cyber Ninjas six months to count two contests and release a report with information contradictory to the Senate's machine count, the County completed its canvass of over 2,089,563 ballots by November 20, 2020 (17 days after Election Day), reporting results for over 227 separate contests.

As part of the canvass, the County created a Summary Report, a Full and Complete Canvass, and a text file of detailed precinct level results. The County also created a Cast Vote Record, that lists the results tabulated for every contest on every ballot. These four separate documents include the certified results for the November 2020 General Election and reconcile perfectly.

Item #3: Paper and Printer Claims

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections - 5.7.5, 5.7.6, 5.7.10, 5.7.13)

Cyber Ninjas made four claims that the County used questionable ballot paper and out-of-calibration printers. All four claims are false.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III		County Analysis
Reference	Claim	
5.7.5 (pg. 52)	"High Bleed-Through Rates on Ballots" due to not using VoteSecur paper	False Claim
5.7.6 (pg. 54)	"Improper Paper Utilized"	False Claim
5.7.10 (pg. 57)	"Out of Calibration Ballot Printers"	False Claim
5.7.13 (pg. 61)	"Questionable Ballots" with anomalous characteristics	False Claim

State & Federal Laws

A.R.S. § 16-502 (A) describes the form and contents of ballots.

Maricopa County Findings

The County prepared and printed all official ballots used in the November 2020 General Election in accordance with state laws. This included printing ballots on white paper with black ink. All paper was of sufficient thickness to prevent the printing from being discernible on the opposite side. While not a requirement, the County used certified 80lb VoteSecur paper for all ballots during the 2020 Elections. The VoteSecur paper is the preferred paper type recommended by Dominion Voting Systems for use with the Democracy Suite 5.5-B tabulation equipment, which is the equipment that the County currently leases.

Summary

5.7.5 (High-Bleed Through Rates) & 5.7.6 (Improper Paper Used)

> **Cyber Ninjas' report included inaccurate and faulty information about the paper used for official ballots and the calibration of printers. The County has not identified a single instance when an official ballot was printed on anything but 80lb VoteSecur Paper.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas claim they identified "10 different papers" used for ballots. Maricopa County used 80lb VoteSecur paper for every ballot (early, Election Day, provisional and printed from accessible voting devices) issued to voters during the November 2020 General Election. Election Day, early and provisional ballots are printed on 19 inch, 80lb VoteSecur paper. Ballots cast on accessible voting devices are printed on 8.5x11 inch 80lb VoteSecur paper. Our purchase and inventory/delivery records confirm that only VoteSecur paper was used for official ballots mailed to voters and for ballots printed at in-person voting locations.

The County used other types of paper for office use in three instances, but none included paper for tabulated ballots.

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- Control Slips & Envelopes – At the voting locations, control slips and affidavit envelopes are also printed. The paper used for these other purposes is too small and not formatted correctly to be used for printing a ballot.
- Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots — Military and Overseas voters may return ballots by mail, fax, or a secure portal. Ballots returned by fax or the secure portal must be printed on standard printer paper, as it is not currently possible to print these ballots in a tabulatable format. The ballots are then duplicated onto a standard ballot using 80lb VoteSecur paper for tabulation. The original UOCAVA ballots were subpoenaed by the Senate and included in the production of items provided to Cyber Ninjas.
- Large Print & Braille Ballots – Tabulation equipment cannot read braille, and large print ballots are printed on large sheets of paper. Both of these ballot types are duplicated onto a standard ballot using 80lb VoteSecur paper for tabulation. The original braille and large print ballots were subpoenaed by the Senate and included in the production of items provided to Cyber Ninjas.

In the November 2020 General Election and all subsequent elections, we have identified zero instances of ballots counted by the tabulation equipment and printed on paper other than 80lb VoteSecur paper.

Cyber Ninjas also incorrectly state that bleed through cannot happen when VoteSecur paper, the recommended paper, is used. They did not confirm their incorrect assumption with the paper manufacturer (see *Exhibit – PAPER #1 and Exhibit - PAPER #2*). According to the manufacturer (Roland), the VoteSecur paper that the County used in the November 2020 General Election did not have any special properties that would prevent bleed-through from felt or Sharpie pens. Because bleed-through can occur, the County designed ballots with offset columns to prevent it from impacting tabulation. Cyber Ninjas confirmed that bleed through did not impact tabulation, as stated on page 52 in their report, "*Out of the several thousand ballot images that were manually reviewed we could not find any images where bleed-through was close enough to a ballot oval to cause mistabulation, nor did we see any immediate correlation with adjudication.*"

Summary

5.7.10 (Printer Calibration)

> **All of the County's Ballot-on-Demand printers used at voting locations are calibrated and tested prior to deployment and when onsite at a voting location.**

Response and Analysis

The Elections Department uses a detailed checklist when preparing Ballot-on-Demand printers for use at voting locations. This includes a series of tests to confirm toner levels and proper calibration. During setup at a voting location, the setup teams also perform a series of test prints to verify the printers are functioning properly. These tests were completed for all printers and voting locations. However, as printers are used throughout the election, it is possible that they can run low on toner or paper and may become misaligned when replacing these items. For these reasons, the County has a technical assistance hotline and a team of technical support staff members that can be dispatched to voting locations.

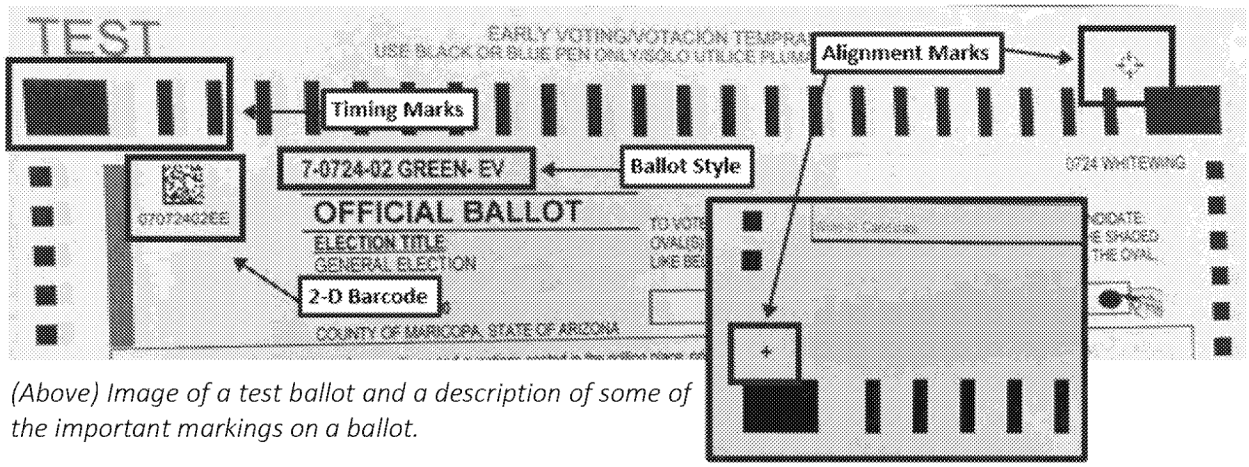
There are several markings on each ballot (see *PAPER Image #1*). Some are very important for tabulation and reporting purposes, and others are used for printing and ballot identification purposes. These markings include:

- **Timing Marks** — The tabulation equipment does not actually read the ballot text or handwriting from voters. To count voters' choices, the tabulation equipment is programmed to use the timing marks around the edge of the ballot to determine where the ovals should be, and then looks for a voter's mark in those target areas. If the timing

marks are damaged, the tabulation equipment will be unable to read the ballot, and it must be duplicated by bipartisan teams of two onto a new ballot.

- **Ballot Style** – Ballots are customized for each area of Maricopa County to ensure that voters only vote for the candidates and ballot questions for which they are lawfully entitled to cast their ballots. So, for example, voters who reside in Legislative District 1 are not offered ballots listing candidates for Legislative District 4, because they cannot lawfully vote for them. There were over 10,920 ballot styles in the 2020 General Election and some voters had more than 60 contests on the ballot. When a color is included, it means there are different ballot styles within a precinct.
- **2-D Barcodes** – These barcodes provide the County with a quick way to identify the ballot style and are primarily used to identify the ballot for printing. They do not contain any information other than the ballot style and even include the human readable information below it.
- **Alignment Guides** – There are four alignment guides (two circles with cross hairs and two crosses) in the corners of the ballot that are only for printing purposes and do not impact tabulation.

PAPER Image #1 – Ballot Markings



(Above) Image of a test ballot and a description of some of the important markings on a ballot.

Summary

5.7.13 (Questionable Ballots)

> **The presence or absence of microscopic yellow dots has no bearing on the legitimacy of a ballot. The County uses a variety of commercial grade printers to print ballots and some add microscopic yellow dots that do not impact tabulation.**

Response and Analysis

The Elections Department and its print vendor use a variety of printers (large scale HP printing press, Indigo 12000, Lexmark 923, Oki 9650, Oki B432) to print ballots. These commercial printers come with different settings and features, but they all ensure the same high level of security around ballot creation, printing, verification and counting no matter how a voter

chooses to cast a ballot. Depending on the printer, the instructions in the header on some ballots are printed in color and others are printed in black and white.

While there are no watermarks programmed on Maricopa County ballots or on the paper, approximately 9% of the printers (Lexmarks 923) used at Vote Centers during the 2020 General Election have a standard feature that adds microscopic yellow dots to everything printed on that machine. The HP large scale printing press used for 99.7% of all mail ballots also print a series of random yellow dots to service the toner print nozzles. These dots are invisible to the human eye, do not impact tabulation, and have no bearing on whether the ballot is legitimate or not. They are simply a function of those particular printers. The remaining printed ballots do not have any randomly placed yellow dots. These ballots without microscopic yellow dots include the .91% of Vote Center ballots that were printed on the Oki devices and the less than one percent (.003%) of mail ballots printed on the Indigo 12000 (see *Exhibit – PRINT #1 and Exhibit – PRINT #2*).

Item #4: Election Management System Database and Files

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections - 6.4.1, 6.4.2 & 6.5.1)

Senate contractor, CyFIR, included nine inaccurate claims about Maricopa County deleting files from the Election Management System (EMS) database and other tabulation equipment in Cyber Ninjas' report. These claims are inaccurate and not supported by the County's records and images of the database.

Reference	Claim	County Analysis
Section 6.4.1 (Pg. 63)	"Election Management System Database Purged"	*Inaccurate Claim* - All data was archived per standard policy. Archival procedures followed by the County are in compliance with federal and state laws.
Section 6.4.2 (Pg. 65)	"Election Files Deleted"	
Section 6.4.2.1.1 (Pg. 66)	"Deletion Activity on the EMS C:\ Drive"	
Section 6.4.2.1.2 (Pg. 67)	"Deletion Activity on the EMS D:\ Drive"	
Section 6.4.2.1.3 (Pg. 68)	"Deleted Directories and Files From HiPro 1" "HiPro 3" "HiPro 4"	*Inaccurate Claim* - The County provided ballot images to the Senate on 4/22/2021. Using a copy of the hard drive that the County provided to the Senate, we have confirmed that all ballot images are saved and can be opened without issue.
Section 6.4.2.1.4 (Pg. 69)		
Section 6.4.2.1.5 (Pg. 69)		
Section 6.4.3 (Pg. 70)	"Corrupt Ballot Images"	
Section 6.5.1 (Pg. 73)	"Missing Ballot Images"	

State & Federal Laws

The Help America Vote Act, a federal law, provides certification requirements for tabulation equipment, including allowing states to adopt Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. Arizona law requires counties follow federal guidelines on certification as well as governs how digital images of ballots should be stored. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-442 (B)(C)
- A.R.S. § 16-1004 (B)
- A.R.S. § 16-625
- A.R.S. §16-624 (A)
- A.R.S. §16-624 (A)(B)

Maricopa County Findings

CyFIR made a variety of false claims beginning in May 2021 alleging County staff deleted election databases or files. In some cases, the items that contractors could not find were items the Senate did not subpoena and therefore wouldn't have. In other cases, the "missing" data was exactly where it was supposed to be, as proven by copies of the EMS server and images that the County cloned prior to providing those materials to the Senate.

The County debunked one such allegation in a May 17 Technical Response to Arizona Senate President Karen Fann after she claimed in a letter that County staff deleted a directory full of election databases. Our analysis showed the files were still present on the server provided to the Senate. Despite this knowledge, similar allegations made it into Cyber Ninjas' final report and CyFIR's September 24 presentation. The inaccurate claims about Maricopa County deleting files from the EMS database and other tabulation equipment are not supported by the County's records and images of the database. The County has in its possession the EMS databases, software, and files from the November 2020 General Election.

The Maricopa County Elections Department follows state and federal laws and best practices in election administration. These laws and best practices were followed in the maintenance and archiving of 2020 election files and in the way the EMS server, software, and files were delivered to the Senate.

Summary

6.4.1 (Election Management System Purged), 6.4.2 (Election Files Deleted), 6.4.2.1.1 (EMS Server C:\ Drive), and 6.4.2.1.2 (EMS Server D:\ Drive), 6.4.2.1.3, 6.4.2.1.4, 6.4.2.1.5 (Deleted Ballot Images from HiPro Scanners), 6.4.3 (Corrupt Ballot Images), 6.5.1 (Missing Ballot Images)

Maricopa County did not delete the Election Management System database, software, or corresponding files for the November 2020 General Election. The Election Management System database and files were archived. The information subpoenaed by the Senate was provided on 4/21/2021.

Response and Analysis

As stated in the January 12, 2021 subpoena, the Arizona Senate commanded production of "the software for the equipment... and the election management system used." Senate contractors falsely claim that staff "purged" the Election Management System (EMS) database prior to turning it over to the Senate. They claim many election-related files were deleted in the process.

The County reviewed cloned copies of the EMS server *as it was* when we delivered it to the Senate. These copies were made in March 2021, as the County readied a backup server to use in the March 2021 Jurisdictional Election.

The cloned copies show the EMS database and software used for the November 2020 General Election were installed on the server and tabulation equipment that was provided to the Senate on 4/21/2021, the date that the Senate requested that the County provide delivery of the tabulation equipment (see *Exhibit – SENATE REQUEST*). In other words, the County delivered the EMS servers exactly as commanded by the subpoena. The County delivered all tabulation equipment, including the four Hi-Pro Scanners, as they were at the time the Maricopa County Superior Court ruled the subpoena was valid. The only time the County accessed the equipment after the court ruling, was to comply with the Senate's subpoenas and to clone the server for the statutorily required March 2021 Jurisdictional Election.

During the November 2020 General Election, the County created 26 daily back-ups of the EMS server, with the last one occurring after tabulation was completed on November 13, 2020. All the backup hard drives and corresponding data files have been maintained and safely secured. Contrary to claims made by the Senate and their contractors, the Arizona Senate did not subpoena these archived files (see *Exhibits - SUBPOENA*). The election data stored in the archives contain sensitive and statutorily protected information that cannot be disclosed through a Public Records Request and would require a court order or subpoena to be produced.

Due to space constraints on the EMS server, the County archived the November 2020 General Election tabulation data. It is standard procedure for the County to remove and relocate election-specific files from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certified EMS server once it nears its two-terabyte storage capacity. The uncompressed files associated with the November 2020 General Election exceeded 1.9 terabytes of data, or 1.3 terabytes in a compressed format. Using

the certified Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B archival program, elections-specific files were archived and relocated from the primary storage location (D: Drive) and saved on external backup hard drives. The Senate did not subpoena the backup drives that contain the archived files.

CyFIR also claims there are missing ballot images on the forensic images of the primary Dominion EMS server. In response to the Senate's subpoena, the County provided copies of the ballot images from the 2020 General Election on a separate hard drive delivered to the Senate on April 22, 2021. The County delivered all central count scanners, including the four HiPro Scanners as they were at the time the Maricopa County Superior Court ruled on February 26, 2021 that the Senate's January 12, 2021 subpoena was valid.

The Senate and its contractors have accused the County of deleting files from the EMS on three separate dates. Below are the actions taken on the dates County staff was wrongly accused of deleting files:

- **February 2, 2021—The County took the standard data archival steps to ready the server and tabulation equipment** for use in the statutorily required March 2021 Jurisdictional Election. Ballots for that election were sent to military and overseas (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) voters on January 23, 2021. Tabulation began after the February 22, 2021 logic and accuracy test. In addition, the County needed to prepare the equipment for the audits performed by SLI Compliance and Pro V&V, both EAC certified Voting System Test Laboratories. As part of Pro V&V's scope of work, they were contracted to perform a logic and accuracy test of the tabulation equipment and election program used for the November 2020 General Election. The fact that CyFIR has insinuated that the County intentionally deleted files prior to their audit to hide information demonstrates the CyFIR's lack of understanding of the purpose of a logic and accuracy test.

  > *"A logic and accuracy (L&A) test is intended to confirm that votes are attributed to the correct candidates and ballot measures in the election management system (EMS) and that each candidate and ballot measure receives the accurate number of votes."* (Arizona 2019 Elections Procedures Manual Pg. 100)

  In order to complete a reliable accuracy test of the EMS program used in the November 2020 General Election, Pro V&V, needed to "reset any vote totals" to ensure no votes were on the database (Arizona 2019 Elections Procedures Manual Pg. 105). This is only possible if the results from the November 2020 General Election were archived per the County's standard policy. To confirm accuracy of the actual EMS program used in the November 2020 General Election, Pro V&V tested over 1.5 million ballot positions using the very same election program that was used to tabulate every ballot for that election. Pro V&V found no evidence of vote switching and concluded that the equipment tabulated and adjudicated ballots accurately (see *Exhibit - PRO V&V AUDIT).*
- **March 3, 2021**—After a court ruling on February 26, 2021, staff members were complying with the Senate's subpoena by gathering the subpoenaed ballot images from the archives and tabulation equipment. On March 3, 2021, the County used the November 2020 General Election archives to restore ballot images onto the Election Management System. This action was taken to comply with the Senate's subpoena commanding the production of the November 2020 General Election ballot images. During this process, the County consolidated all images onto a single location on the server and performed an inventory to verify that all 2,089,563 ballot images were present. The County transferred these restored ballot images onto a hard drive that was provided to the Arizona Senate on April 22, 2021. The hard drive with the ballot images was transferred to the custody of the Senate and recorded on the delivery manifest signed by both parties (see *Exhibit - MANIFEST*).

  To ensure the County had an exact copy of what was provided to the Senate, the County also created a clone of the hard drive on March 3, 2021. The second hard drive was retained by the County. Since the release of Cyber Ninjas' report, we have reviewed the County's copy of the hard drive and confirmed that all images are present.

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We randomly selected image files from the date periods that CyFIR claimed included corrupted images. In all instances the County was able to open the image files.

- **April 12, 2021**—Staff was complying with the Senate's subpoena and packing up the server and other tabulation equipment for delivery to the Senate.

Item #5: Operating System Logs

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections - 6.5.4, 6.5.6, 6.5.6.1.1, 6.5.6.1.2, & 6.5.6.1.3)

Senate contractor, CyFIR, included five inaccurate or false claims in Cyber Ninjas' report that Maricopa County did not preserve the operating system logs from the Election Management System (EMS) server. The County found all of these claims were inaccurate or false based on the records retained by the County and, additionally, the analysis of an independent, third-party cyber forensics firm.

Reference	Claim	County Analysis
6.5.6 (Pg. 85)	"EMS Operating System Logs Not Preserved"	*Inaccurate Claim* - Logs were provided in separate deliveries to the Arizona Senate on January 15 and April 21, 2021. Additionally, security logs found on the County's cloned copy of the server date back to November 18, 2020.
6.5.6.1.1 (Pg. 86)	"User Log Deletions on 02/11/2021"	*Inaccurate Claim* - Work was being performed on the EMS server to prepare it for legitimate audits by SLI Compliance and Pro V&V. The security log events were normal course-of-business automated actions actuated from the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B EMS application.
6.5.6.1.2 (Pg. 86)	"User Log Deletions on 03/03/2021"	*Inaccurate Claim* - The EMS server was being prepared to have a clone made to facilitate the 2021 March Jurisdictional Elections. The SQL Service, DHCP/DNS services, and the Dominion application suite all show that the server was being shut down in preparation for cloning activities.
6.5.6.1.3 (Pg. 87)	"User Log Deletions on 04/12/2021"	*Inaccurate Claim* - The EMS server was being prepared for packaging and delivery to the Arizona Senate as commanded by the January 12,2021 subpoena. SQL Services, applications and other server functions were being shut down.
6.5.4 (Pg. 82)	"Anonymous Logins"	*False Claim:* An analysis of the security logs concluded these logins were legitimate, typical Microsoft server actions. Additionally, the EMS server implements "hardening" scripts throughout the operating system configuration that increases the frequency and types of events found within the security log.

Maricopa County Findings

CyFIR accused County employees of intentionally deleting or overwriting user security logs, which are baseless claims. These spurious allegations may stem from a misunderstanding of closed network systems and basic Microsoft Server 2012r2 configurations, as well as a failure to do simple fact checking. In many cases, the events that contractors falsely attributed to a nefarious remote user running "scripts" to purge files were standard, automated actions from the EMS application meant to manage space on the server.

An experienced IT professional familiar with Microsoft Server Logs understands the concept of a "first in, first out" configuration in which older events are pushed out of event log files as new files are added. This configuration is common, and it is often the baseline configuration for closed network systems like the one used by the Elections Department. For Microsoft Server 2012r2 configurations, many log files have a default limited to 20 megabytes of storage capacity before older files begin to fall off as new are added.

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In several instances, CyFIR cites specific dates and times where it believes County employees intentionally deleted user logs. However, the security logs and surveillance footage from the dates and times in question contradict those claims. Each instance is, in fact, explained by something far more pedestrian: employees and machines doing the routine work of the day, in accordance with law and Elections Department procedures.

Summary

6.5.6 (EMS Operating System Logs Not Preserved), 6.5.6.1.1 (User Log Deletions on 2/11/2021), 6.5.6.1.2 (User Log Deletions on 03/03/2021), 6.5.6.1.3 (User Log Deletions on 04/12/2021)

> **Maricopa County security logs were retained following the federally certified build requirements. No data was purposefully deleted by County staff. CyFIR's claim that an individual ran scripts against a machine in order to "flood" the security logs is inaccurate and is indicative that the Senate's contractor may not understand Microsoft Server based protocols and logging.**

Response and Analysis

Logs were provided in separate deliveries to the Arizona Senate on January 15, 2021, and April 21, 2021. Security logs found on the County's cloned copy of the server date back to November 18, 2020. In addition to our review and analysis of the logs, the County took another step to seek an independent third-party cyber forensics firm for comment and independent analysis, contracting with PacketWatch in October of 2021 to review prior reports and technical findings related to the November 2020 General Election.

PacketWatch is a cybersecurity and incident response firm based in Scottsdale, Arizona. Staffed by former FBI officials, US military, and various government organizations, PacketWatch has expertise in the public and private sectors and is well qualified to provide a detailed analysis of these claims. PacketWatch reviewed the Microsoft Server event logs and came to the same conclusions as the County. Microsoft Server 2012r2 has a default maximum event log size is 20MB (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*).

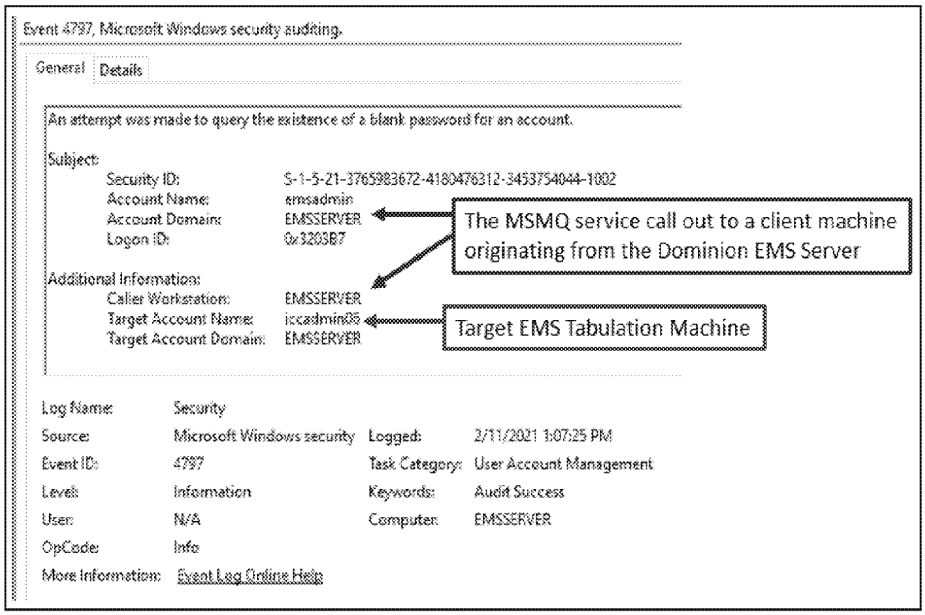
In order to modify the log size setting, it would require federal approval from the EAC for a de minimis change to the server configurations. Given the 20MB limit, and substantial number of log entries generated by the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B during election processes, it is expected older log entries would be overwritten by the system as newer events are logged. This is an operating system function using a default setting. Microsoft Server event logs, including security logs, are preserved on the system on a first in, first out basis and limited to the maximum size setting in the operating system. The County requested Dominion pursue this EAC de minimis change for future elections.

Throughout sections 6.5.6.1-6.5.6.3, CyFIR repeatedly reported instances of a user "utilizing the emsadmin account remotely logged into the EMS server… and began executing a script… that checked for blank passwords." This is refuted by professional analysis of what is being recorded in the EMS Server security logs. The Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B application has several functions that use automated scripts to perform repetitive actions. The application uses a Microsoft Server function called "Microsoft Message Queuing" (MSMQ) to systematically connect from the EMS Server to the EMS tabulation, adjudication, and admin computers to ask if these devices have any data that can be passed back to the server. This is all done in the secure, air gapped tabulation room, which is not connected to the internet. In simplified terms, the

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tabulators and adjudication stations will hold onto their changes and updates in a data cache and queue them up for when the EMS server application reaches out and asks for the queue data.

LOGS Image #1 – Screenshots of EMSAdmin Security Log



(Above) Screenshot security log that are claimed to be a user running a script that checks accounts for blank passwords.

LOGS Image #2 – Screenshots Unique Security Log

```
<Event xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win/2004/08/events/event">
- <System>
    <Provider Name="Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing" Guid="{54849625-5478-4994-a5ba-
      3e3b0328c30d}" />
    <EventID>4797</EventID>
    <Version>0</Version>
    <Level>0</Level>
    <Task>13824</Task>
    <Opcode>0</Opcode>
    <Keywords>0x8020000000000000</Keywords>
    <TimeCreated SystemTime="2021-02-11T18:25:48.9437340Z" />
    <EventRecordID>10345638</EventRecordID>
    <Correlation />
    <Execution ProcessID="688" ThreadID="9092" />
    <Channel>Security</Channel>
    <Computer>EMSSERVER</Computer>
    <Security />
  </System>
- <EventData>
    <Data Name="SubjectUserSid">S-1-5-21-3765983672-4180476312-3453754044-1002</Data>
    <Data Name="SubjectUserName">emsadmin</Data>
    <Data Name="SubjectDomainName">EMSSERVER</Data>
    <Data Name="SubjectLogonId">0x3203b7</Data>
    <Data Name="Workstation">EMSSERVER</Data>
    <Data Name="TargetUserName">adjadmin01</Data>
    <Data Name="TargetDomainName">EMSSERVER</Data>
  </EventData>
</Event>
```

(Above) Unique security log for EMSSERVER MSMQ Call to client machine adjadmin01 02/11/2021 at 10:25:48 AM

MSMQ utilizes a series of log events it writes to the security log in the format listed below. MSMQ goes through security account auditing tasks that get listed as "An attempt was made to query the existence of a blank password for an account." This is a standard process within Microsoft Server 2012r2 when utilizing this kind of MSMQ call. Within 1-2 minutes of initiation, the application utilizes MSMQ protocols to poll 67 user accounts on connected tabulators and adjudication stations to gather changes and updates. This process happens several times per day, depending on how much data needs to be transferred over and how much activity is being conducted, whether there is an election being conducted or not. CyFIR was aware of this logging behavior during the public event held by the Arizona Senate President and Judiciary Chairman in July 2021, where it referenced this action as being innocuous and explained.

These calls (see *LOGS Image #1*) account for 396 out of 412 unique security log entries in the time periods listed in sections 6.5.6.1-6.5.6.3. Each unique instance has a different "Target Account Name" listed and the MSMQ polling automation always starts with client machine "adjadmin01." In this instance, the Dominion application automated processes utilized MSMQ polling.

Logging is a standard function of Microsoft Server 2012r2 and the Dominion Democracy 5.5-B software suite. Thousands of logs are created every day the EMS server is in operation, whether there is an election being conducted or not.

These automated actions are easily identified when auditing the logs and should be something that cyber experts know how to correlate to legitimate actions. The lack of attention to detail in recording the proper timeframes, actual event occurrence quantities and event contents for this claim is troubling.

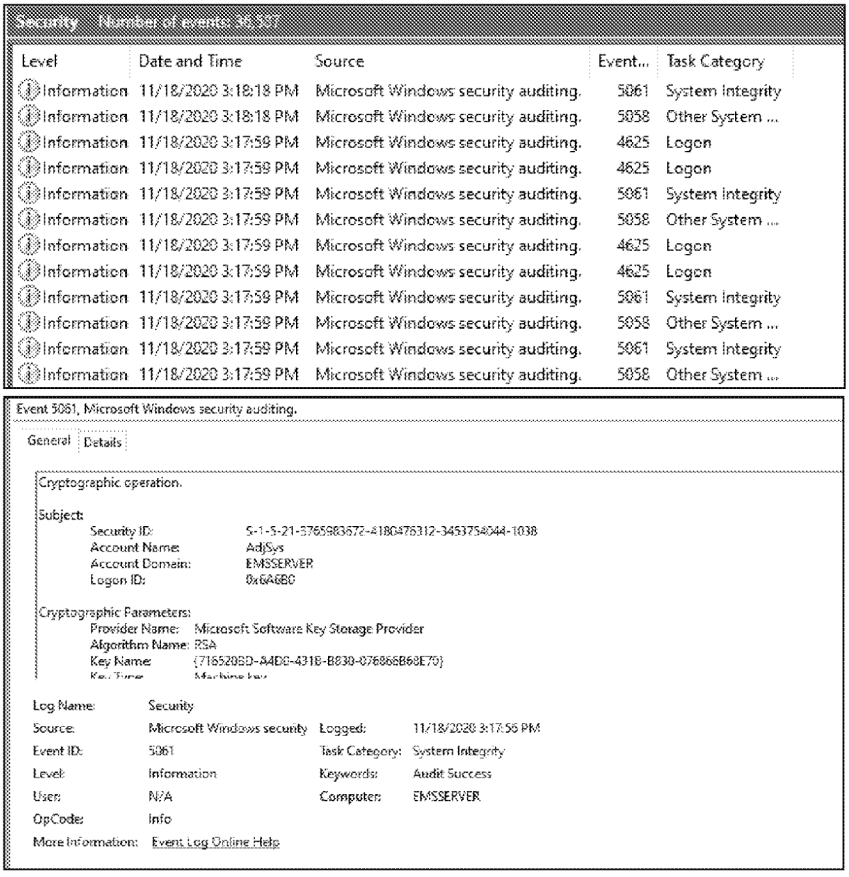
Below are further details about sections 6.5.6, 6.5.6.1.1, 6.5.6.1.2, and 6.5.6.1.3.

EMS System Logs

6.5.6 (EMS Operating System Logs Not Preserved)

Cyber Ninjas' report included the claim on page 85; "In the case of the security.evtx file on the EMS server, the earliest retained log entry was dated 2/5/2021 10:37:49 AM (the last day of the Pro V & V audit) and the latest entry was dated 4/12/2021 4:53:16 PM."

LOGS Image #3 – Screenshots of Security Logs from November 18, 2020



Security Number of events: 36,357

Level	Date and Time	Source	Event...	Task Category
Information	11/18/2020 3:18:18 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5061	System Integrity
Information	11/18/2020 3:18:18 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5058	Other System ...
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4625	Logon
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4625	Logon
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5061	System Integrity
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5058	Other System ...
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4625	Logon
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4625	Logon
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5061	System Integrity
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5058	Other System ...
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5061	System Integrity
Information	11/18/2020 3:17:59 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	5058	Other System ...

Event 5061, Microsoft Windows security auditing.

General Details

Cryptographic operation.

Subject:
Security ID: S-1-5-21-3765983672-4180476312-3453754044-1038
Account Name: AdjSys
Account Domain: EMSSERVER
Logon ID: 0x6A6B0

Cryptographic Parameters:
Provider Name: Microsoft Software Key Storage Provider
Algorithm Name: RSA
Key Name: {71652B5D-A4D0-4318-B838-076866B68E70}

Log Name: Security
Source: Microsoft Windows security Logged: 11/18/2020 3:17:56 PM
Event ID: 5061 Task Category: System Integrity
Level: Information Keywords: Audit Success
User: N/A Computer: EMSSERVER
OpCode: Info
More Information: Event Log Online Help

(Top) Screenshot from the primary Dominion EMS server clone shows security logs show the oldest log from 11/18/2020. (Bottom) Screenshot from the primary Dominion EMS server clone shows a detailed view of event 5061 with a log date of 11/18/202 at 3:17:56 p.m.

The report stated that the Dominion Election Management System Server security log was configured to the standard 20MB capacity limit found in Microsoft Server 2012r2 default configurations. This is true and is common. This configuration does not violate any federal or state laws as it relates to elections. What is not true however, is that CyFIR did not have logs that dated prior February 5, 2021. An analysis of the County's cloned copy of the EMS Server (created on March 5, 2021) identified preserved security logs dating back beyond December 2020 (see *LOGS Image #3*). This log has over 5,300 logs between November 18, 2020, and the March 3, 2021 clone date.

CyFIR stated on page 85 of Cyber Ninjas' report that they "did not discover any enabled external log aggregation functionality nor were historical logs beyond those that were contained on the operating systems provided to the digital examination team." This statement is not applicable and the recommendation of adding an external logging configuration would

introduce unnecessary vulnerabilities into the County's air gapped Election Management System.

Further, during the Senate Hearing on September 24, 2021, CyFIR commented that the County's installation of the Dominion EMS does not follow Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) guidelines in relation to the central transition of server and client logs (CyFIR Presentation, slide 4). While this is a common and recommend practice for server installations that connect to broader networks and the internet, these standards do not pertain to an air gapped system. The County's Ballot Tabulation enter uses an air gapped network. The infrastructure design and the installation of an additional third-party piece of equipment into the secure Election Management System server room and connected to the air gapped system would introduce more risks than benefits. This is due to the simple nature of the EMS design, where one server and connected client machines are the only items on the network.

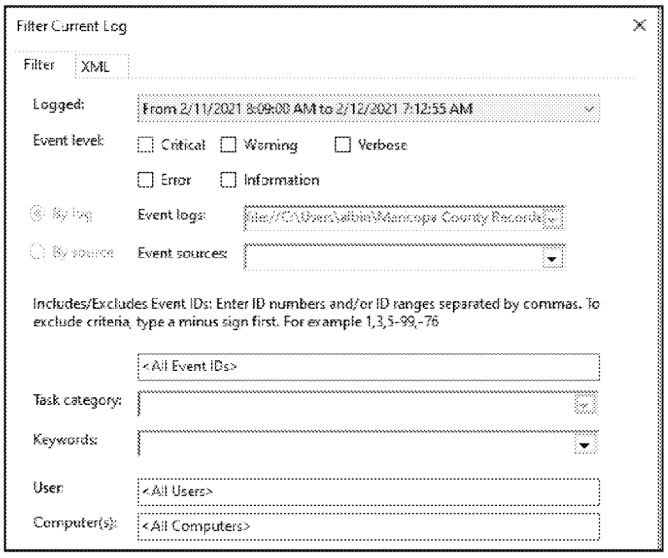
CyFIR also claimed "*security logs for the EMS server were in fact intentionally deleted such that the logs no longer covered the time period for the 2020 General Election.*" **The statement is baseless and insinuates malfeasance. There is no evidence to support this claim.** As described above, the EMS server event logs were using the standard Microsoft Server 2012r2 configuration of 20MB of cached event storage. This default configuration uses a "first-in, first-out" principal where older events are pushed out of the event logs files as new events are added. This configuration is common, and it is often the baseline configuration for closed network systems.

User Logs – February 11, 2021

6.5.6.1.1 (User Log Deletions on 2/11/2021)

The Cyber Ninja Volume III audit report, CyFIR claims: "A user leveraging the emsadmin account remotely logged into the EMS server at 2/11/2021 9:08:27 AM via terminal services and began executing a script at 2/11/2021 9:09:04 AM that checked accounts for blank passwords… Between 2/11/2021 8:09:04 AM and 2/12/2021 7:12:55 AM this user ran this check 462 times." During the Senate Hearing on September 24, 2021, CyFIR claimed that scripts were run as a "Clear Intentional Overwriting of the Security Logs by the EMSADMIN Account" (CyFIR Presentation, slide 12) with the purpose to cover unauthorized database deletions. These claims are false.

LOGS Image #4 – Screenshot of Server Results



(Above) Screenshot of settings from Windows Server Event Viewer and results

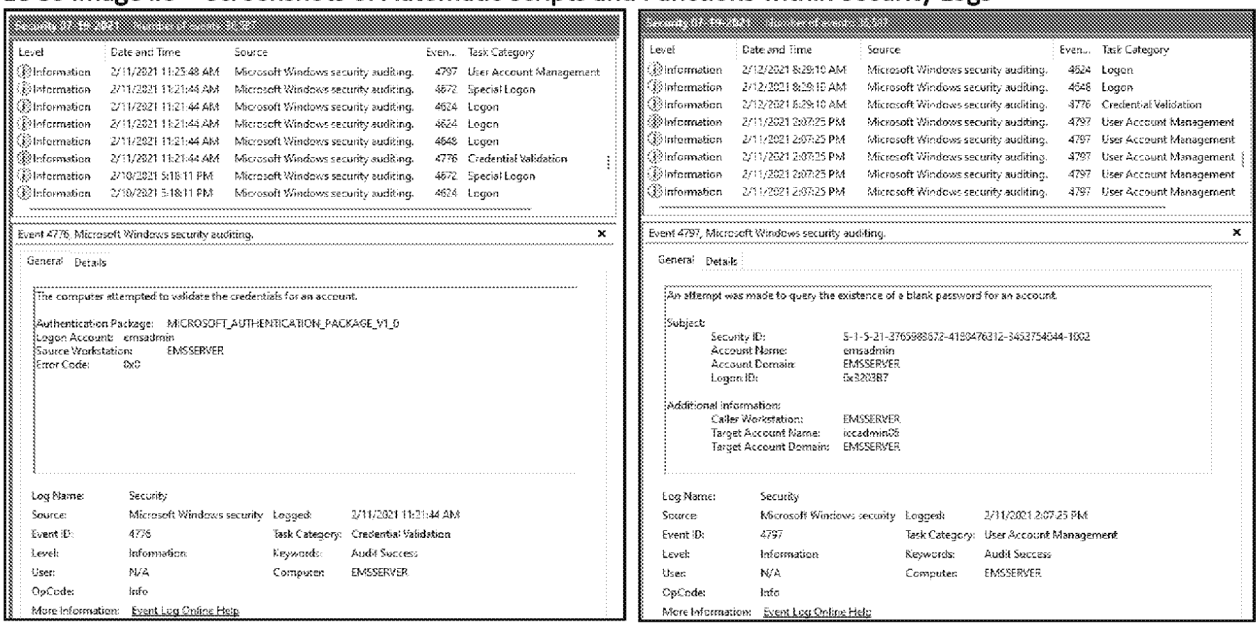
The County's review of the EMS server security log between February 11, 2021 at 8:09:04 a.m. and February 12, 2021 7:12:55 a.m. found 412 events, which is 50 fewer than CyFIR's claim. There is also no evidence of a security log showing a remote user logged in at the claimed "2/11/2021 9:08:27 AM" time period.

The entire security log from that day happened in a much shorter period than the Senate contractors claim. These 412 logs occurred on February 11, 2021, from 11:21:44 a.m. and 2:07:25 p.m. (Arizona Time). This disproves the claim that these scripts and

log actions were run on "2/11/2021 9:09:04 AM," because the earliest security log recorded on that day was two hours and 12 minutes later than CyFIR stated. On February 12, 2021, the earliest security log filed was at 8:29:10 a.m., which is 77 minutes later than the stated time CyFIR reported.

The events that CyFIR claimed were "scripts" it believes County employees used to intentionally delete user logs were actually automated actions by the Dominion EMS Democracy Suite 5.5-B application to conduct its primary function of managing the tabulation of ballots. This is done without user interaction. These functions are recorded in the security log and are often identifiable based on the patterns visible in the security logs themselves. Sometimes the application will add hundreds of entries into the security log within a few minutes. All of this is a standard function of the application.

LOGS Image #5 – Screenshots of Automatic Scripts and Functions within Security Logs

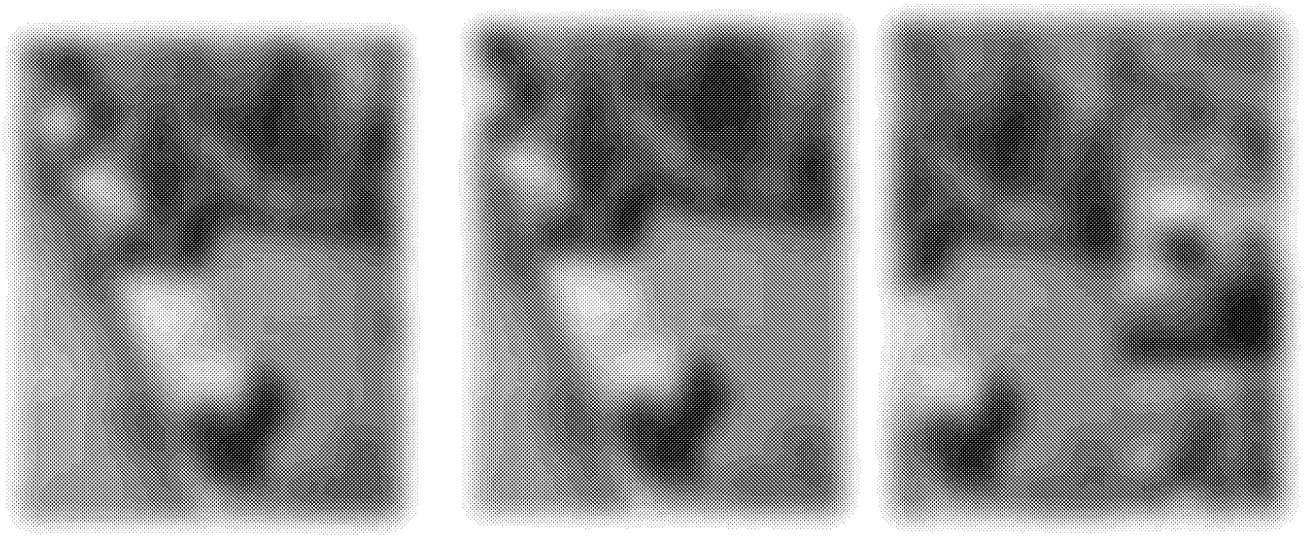


(Left) Screenshot showing the earliest security log file from the cloned server, recorded at February 11, 2021 11:21:44 a.m., which is significantly later than the stated timeframe of "2/11/2021 9:09:04 AM" from CyFIR. (Right) Screenshot showing last security log file from the cloned server, recorded at February 11, 2021 2:07:25 p.m., which is significantly earlier than the stated timeframe of "02/12/2021 7:12:55 AM" from CyFIR.

As explained in *LOGS Image #5*, on February 11, 2021, County election staff were preparing the server and other client machines for the scheduled certified auditors to perform audit test work. These audits were well documented and performed by experts certified to evaluate tabulation equipment and verify it functions properly.

CyFIR's claim that a County employee would maliciously run scripts to cover up evidence of other actions is demonstrably false. The surveillance footage also shows an SLI Compliance auditor was in the server room with County elections staff members at that time. The evidence obtained from event logs and surveillance footage clearly refutes CyFIR's findings. The claims they made were baseless and reckless.

LOGS Image #6 – Screenshots of Surveillance Footage from February 11, 2021



(Above Left) Blurred surveillance footage screenshot from the exact timestamp CyFIR falsely claimed the scripts were running to cover-up nefarious activity. (Above Center) Blurred surveillance footage screenshot of a Voting System Test Laboratory auditor and two authorized County elections employees. The auditor was at the Dominion EMS server's keyboard video monitor (KVM) conducting their audit tasks on the system. (Above Right) Blurred surveillance footage screenshot of the auditor and an authorized County elections employee checking on the backup copies and other analysis that was left running during lunch.

User Logs – March 3, 2021

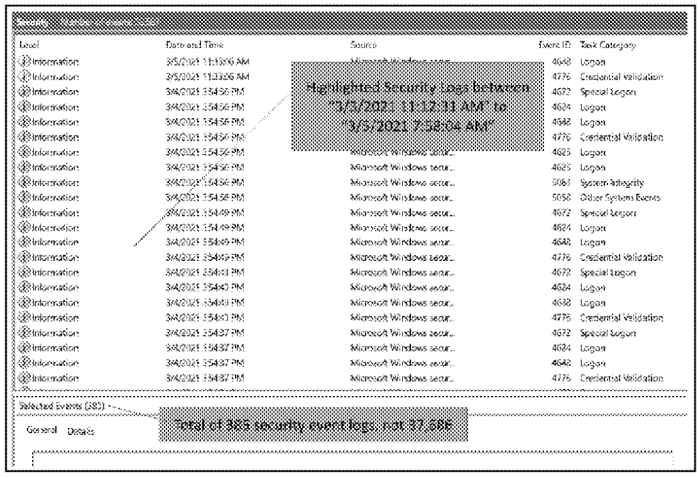
6.5.6.1.2 (User Log Deletions on 03/03/2021)

The response to this claim is much the same as 6.5.6.1.1. The Senate contractors did not understand what was being done to the Dominion EMS server and construed the actions as nefarious. The Senate contractors claim an employee ran a script from "3/3/2021 11:12:31 AM" to "3/5/2021 7:58:04 AM" that produced 37,686 log files, which in turn purged the older logs to hide their actions. This is inaccurate. Our review of the Dominion EMS system logs during the same timeframe shows a total of 385 logs, not 37,686 (see *LOGS Image #7*). These logs were not created to hide anything, as CyFIR claimed, but rather as a result of necessary operations to gather materials for the Senate's subpoena and to conduct a statutory required election.

Below is a timeline of actions for reference.

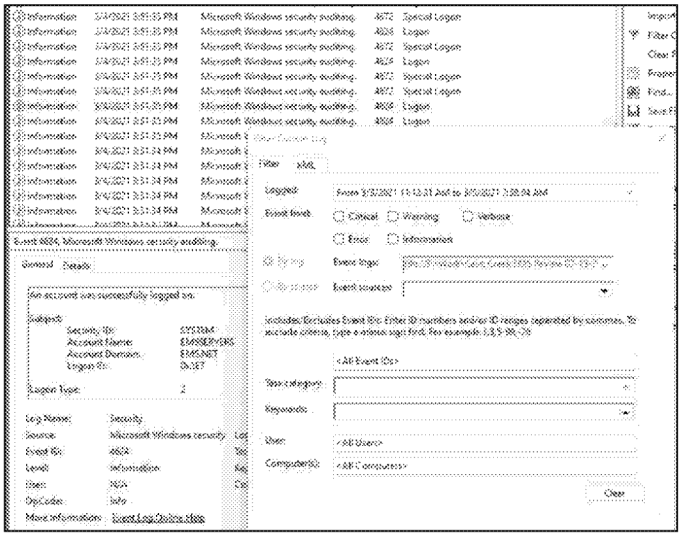
- March 3, 2021 — Gathering the subpoenaed ballot images from the archives and tabulation equipment for delivery to the Arizona Senate. This data needed to be compiled by running actions on the Dominion EMS server and application. The application produced several entries in the security log file during normal operation.

LOGS Image #7 –Security Logs from March 3-5, 2021



(Above) Screenshot from cloned server security logs showing the number of events from March 3-5, 2021.

LOGS Image #8 – Screenshots of Security Logs



(Above) User logs from the cloned EMS Server from April 12, 2021.

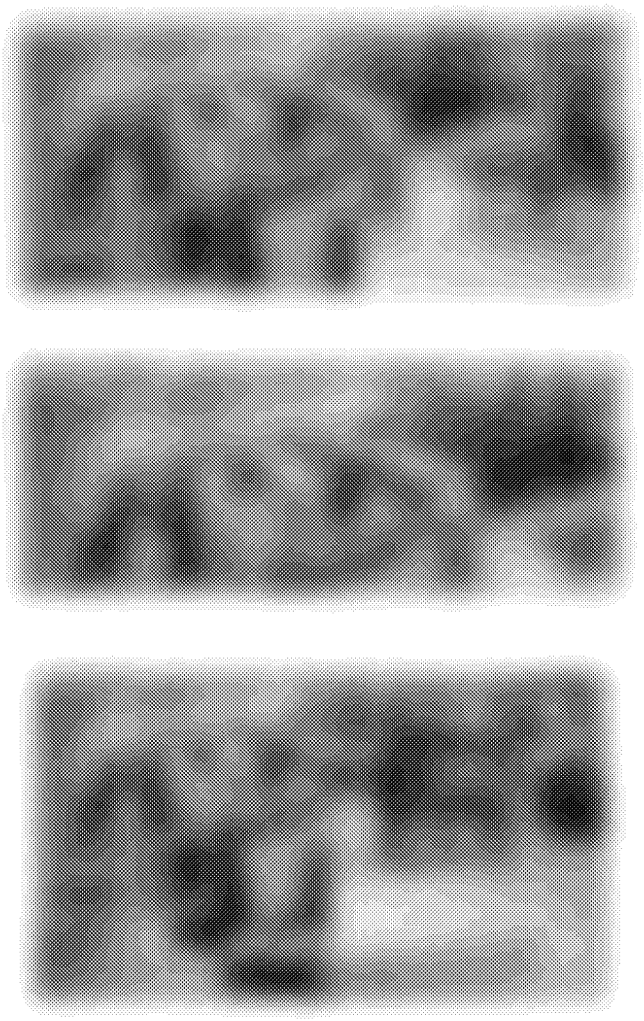
- March 4, 2021 — Began making a clone copy of EMS server using Acronis. This was just five days before the statutorily mandated March 2021 Jurisdictional Election. The purpose of cloning was to prepare a new replacement EMS server for the election, which was already in process.
- March 5, 2021 — Finished EMS Server clone. Installed Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B application to the new server.

The County also performed a review of the cloned EMS server that we have continued to use to conduct ongoing statutorily required elections. In reviewing the security logs that spanned from November 18, 2020 to July 19, 2021 (the day this security log screenshot was taken), there was a total of 36,587 logs (see *LOGS Image #8*). It would be impossible for 37,686 logs to be produced in less than 48 hours when it took almost nine months to generate 36,587 of security logs.

Furthermore, due to the described 20MB storage limit, the security logs can only hold between 35,000 and 38,000 events at one time. On page 85 of Cyber Ninjas' report, CyFIR contradicts its own statements on these "flooded" events by stating that events were preserved back to February 5, 2021. If 37,686 events were "flooded" into the security log in that short amount of time, there would only be room enough for logs starting on March 3, 2021. More than 37,000 events would have certainly overflowed the security logs 20MB storage capacity. CyFIR's admission to having security logs back to February 5, 2021 and this claim of 37,686 flooded logs within 48 hours do not comport with logical configurations and capabilities of Microsoft Server 2012r2 security logs.

User Logs – April 12, 2021
6.5.6.1.3 (User Log Deletions on 04/12/2021)

LOGS Image #9 –April 12, 2021 Surveillance Video Screenshots



(Above Top) Blurred screenshot of County elections staff shutting down the primary Dominion EMS server. (Above Center) Blurred screenshot of County elections staff outside of the server room, about 10 minutes after the shutdown process was started. (Above Bottom) Blurred screenshot of County elections staff boxing up the primary Dominion EMS Server for delivery to the Arizona Senate.

Much the same as the responses for 6.5.6.1.1 and 6.5.6.1.2, this claim is not corroborated by the security logs or the surveillance footage for timelines. CyFIR claims an employee ran a script 330 times from "4/12/2021 12:39:38 PM" to "4/12/2021 12:45:13 PM." Even the Senate contractor's timeline contradicts itself because it states the scripts were started on "4/12/2021 1:39:38 PM," which is 54 minutes after their stated time when the scripts had run 330 times. They also stated that "330 older log entries were deleted via this method," which is proven false by the fact that events in the security log, as previously shown in *LOGS Image #3* above, were available for review.

On April 12, 2021, County elections staff began the process of shutting down the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B application to prepare it for delivery to the Senate. This entailed shutting down SQL database services and other dependencies so Microsoft Server 2012r2 could shut down properly. It is County elections policy to require two people in the server room whenever someone is using the server room keyboard video monitor (KVM).

This video footage shows there was an additional staff member in the room at the time of CyFIR's claim. The server shut down process began at 12:41:06 p.m. Elections Department staff continued readying other tabulation equipment over the course of the few hours, when the server was eventually unracked, boxed, and packed up for delivery (see *LOGS Image #9 series*).

On 04/12/2021, after the Dominion EMS server was shut down, it was unplugged, unracked and packed into a box (at 5:01 p.m.) for delivery to the Arizona Senate. Then it was put onto a pallet to wait for shipment to the Arizona Senate.

Anonymous Logins

6.5.4 (Anonymous Logins)

> **CyFIR's "anonymous logins" claim is patently false. These logged actions are simply part of the EMS server protocols and standard Microsoft functions.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas' report and the presentation by Senate contractor, CyFIR, on September 24, 2021 included claims that an "anonymous user" accessed the EMS server. This is false. These logins were presented by CyFIR as evidence of potential nefarious actions, but an analysis of the security logs by an independent cybersecurity firm, PacketWatch, concluded these logins were legitimate and was part of typical behavior for a Microsoft Server 2012r2 (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*).

Microsoft Server 2012r2 has several reasons it would legitimately log instances of "Anonymous Logon" events. CyFIR admitted this in Cyber Ninjas' report on page 82: "There are common functions in Microsoft Windows that will record an anonymous login activity into the windows." While Figure 21 on page 83 of Cyber Ninjas' report was redacted, the County reviewed an unredacted version which showed EMS logs from February 11, 2021 at 4:07:19 p.m. After reviewing the same logs from the County's cloned server, no log exists from the "Logon ID: 0x2ACBE," which would be unique to that event. The system tracks every task. Entries from that day do not include any logs during that time period (see *LOGS Image #10*).

LOGS Image #10 –Security Logs from February 10, 2021

Level	Date and Time	Source	Event ID	Task ...
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:25 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:22 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:20 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:20 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:20 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:20 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:19 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:19 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 4:50:18 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:46 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:44 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:44 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:27 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:27 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:27 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon
Information	2/10/2021 3:21:27 PM	Microsoft Windows security auditing.	4624	Logon

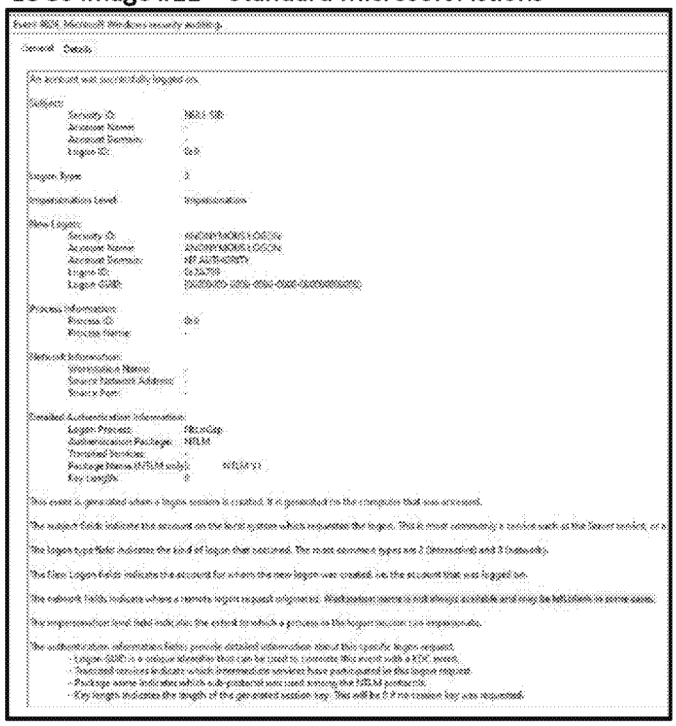
Cyber Ninjas Report Figure 21: log from 4:07:19 PM does not exist.

(Above) Screenshot of security logs from the County's cloned server that show logs on February 10, 2021 during the time period of CyFIR's claim.

When reviewing this claim, the County also considered potential variances in CyFIR's computer time zone setting (3:07:19 p.m., 5:07:19 p.m., and 6:07:19 p.m.) and other events with similar matching times. The County found no matches for an Event ID 4624 with a Logon Type 3. The closest event was 86 minutes earlier at 3:21:27 p.m. The event ID matches and the network information that CyFIR claims is evidence of an "atypical anonymous logon" is also included. More detailed information is available in *LOGS Image #11*. This is a standard occurrence that Microsoft includes in its details, stating: "Workstation name is not always available and may be left blank in some cases."

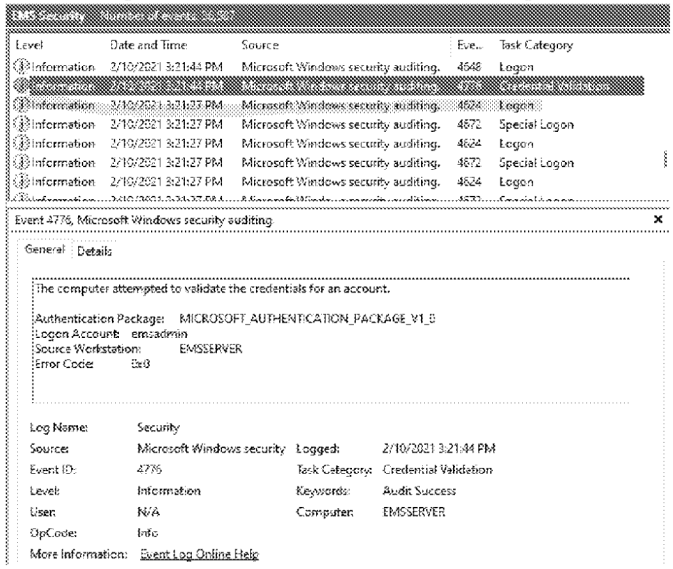
REL0000260291.0001

LOGS Image #11 – Standard Microsoft Actions



(Above) Screenshot of the standard wording in a security log from February 10, 2021 at 3:21.27 p.m. See yellow highlighted text.

LOGS Image #12 – Credential Check After Logon



(Above) Screenshot of the credential validation in a security log from February 10, 2021 at 3:21.44 p.m. See yellow highlighted entry.

It's common for a Microsoft Server 2012r2 to document these logs, and it is common for the workstation name to be left blank. Microsoft says it's an automated action where the EMS server is acting on behalf of the user.

What CyFIR claims is suspicious, can be explained, is typical for a Microsoft Server 2012r2, and is well documented online. The direct statement from Microsoft within the log file highlighted in *LOGS Image #11* should be enough for most cyber forensics companies to confirm this event as routine.

CyFIR also states there is a lack of authentication history following this type event. This is also false. Just 17 seconds after the event at 3:21.27 p.m., a credential validation attempt is logged under Event ID 4776 (see *LOGS Image #12*). Every Event ID 4624 with a Logon Type 3 had a similar 4776 credential validation event immediately afterward.

CyFIR provided an example of other Server 2012r2 servers not showing similar behavior for Logon types 3 and 10. This comparison has no weight because the Dominion EMS server uses additional configurations on Microsoft Server 2012r2, MSSQL and security settings. These settings are referred to as "hardening" scripts and they shore up SQL configurations, increase event logging in both Microsoft Server 2012r2 and Microsoft SQL Server. The hardening scripts also set specific values for registry items, administrative templates, group policy configurations and uses several ADMX toolkit options to enhance security protocols. All these scripts and configurations add to server behavior that would not be represented on other Microsoft Server 2012r2 servers unless they also had the scripts enabled.

Item #6: Election Management System & Its Air Gapped Network

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections - 7.5.5 & 6.5.6)

Cyber Ninjas' report included six findings that made false and misleading claims about Maricopa County's tabulation system being connected to the internet.

Reference	Claim	County Analysis
Section 7.5.5 (Pg. 89)	"Internet Connections"	*False Claim* - The Election Management System's (EMS) network is 100% air gapped without external connection to the County network or the internet. This has been verified multiple times by qualified independent third-party vendors.
Section 6.5.6.2 (Pg. 89)	"Internet Connections to the EMS"	*False Claim* - The EMS server is only connected to the County's air gapped EMS network and the URLs referenced by CyFIR correspond to a Microsoft service that attempts to send reporting and error logs from Microsoft Visual Studio. These attempts fail to connect because of the air gapped system.
Section 6.5.6.3 (Pg. 89)	"Internet Connections to the EMS Client 1"	*False Claim* - EMS Client 1 and 2 are only connected to the EMS air gapped network. It was used to configure a printer via the built-in HTTP configuration portal from a web browser. The embedded wireless chip was disabled prior to system EAC certification, and it meets all current requirements.
Section 6.5.6.4 (Pg. 90)	"Internet Connections to the EMS Client 3"	
Section 6.5.6.5 (Pg. 90)	"Internet Connections to the REWEB 1601 System"	*Misleading Claims* - These are web servers that host the recorder.maricopa.gov website. This server legitimately connects to the internet. It is not connected to the EMS air gapped network.
Section 6.5.6.6 (Pg. 91)	"Internet Connections to the REGIS 1202 System"	

State & Federal Laws

The Help America Vote Act, a federal law, provides certification requirements for tabulation equipment, including security testing required to before equipment is certified. Arizona law requires counties follow federal guidelines on certification and additional requirements on maintaining the security and integrity of tabulation equipment. Additionally, the Arizona Elections Procedures Manual 2019 requires counties to follow security measure procedures for electronic voting systems (pages 95-100). Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-442
- A.R.S. § 16-1004

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

Sections 7.5.5, 6.5.6.2, 6.5.6.3, 6.5.6.4, 6.5.6.5 & 6.5.6.6 (Internet Connections)

The Election Management System's network is 100% air gapped without external connection to the County network or the internet. This has been verified multiple times by qualified independent third-party vendors.

Response and Analysis

Maricopa County's air gapped network prevents the tabulation system from connecting to the internet. In February 2021, two sperate audits performed by independent certified Voting System Test Laboratories confirmed that the County's EMS air gapped network was not connected to the internet (see *Exhibit - PRO V&V AUDIT* and *Exhibit - SLI AUDIT*).

The claims made by CyFIR in Cyber Ninjas Volume III report and during the September 24, 2021, presentation about the County's tabulation equipment and internet access are false. CyFIR also made misleading statements that profess the website servers (REWEB1601 and REGIS1202) are connected to the Dominion EMS air gapped network. They are not. There is no communication between the website and the EMS air gapped network. CyFIR also said that while they reviewed the County's public statements on the topic, the County did not provide a network diagram. That document has been available to the public at JusttheFacts.Vote since July.

During the presentation, CyFIR uses the word "attempts" to describe the activities on the EMS server. A simple analysis of the EMS server, its accompanying U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certified installed applications, and corresponding logs explain these attempts and confirms that no internet connections occurred. This basic research and analysis would have better served the public to ensure only accurate information is provided. Furthermore, CyFIR's conclusion that the operating system had not been updated since the date of installation refutes their own claim the EMS ever had internet connectivity.

In October 2021, the County also hired PacketWatch, a cybersecurity and incident response firm. PacketWatch reviewed the County's air gapped network and confirmed it was not connected to the internet, documented in Sections 2 and 3 of the PacketWatch Audit Findings Report (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*). PacketWatch confirmed what the County has stated. There are several technical indicators showing lack of internet connectivity:

- No Antivirus updates. AVAST was set to auto update.
- No Java updates. Java was set to auto update.
- Failed DNS requests. DNS was unable to resolve queries.
- No successful entries in the Network Connectivity Status Indicator (NCSI) log (see *NETWORK Image #5*). This log file records Microsoft Server performing automatic checks for internet connectivity.
- Internet Explorer Enhanced Security (IESC) was enabled. No websites were on the "Trusted Sites." This means any web page would be blocked unless that location was added to the "Trusted Sites."
- Log entries show the network traffic for EMS Client 1 and other devices is an attempt to reach out to the admin page of a Canon printer.
- The URLs https://go.microsoft.com "fwlink" and https://www.bing.com "SearchBox&Form" are identified by the default start page and default for the Internet Explorer search box. It is typical of a mistyped address being typed in the Internet Explorer search box with a redirect to bing.com as the resource was not resolved.
- Provided tables show many of the URLs listed were directed at hosts on the 192.168.100.X subnet. Host would be reachable by clients on the EMS network and could connect successfully even without internet connectivity.

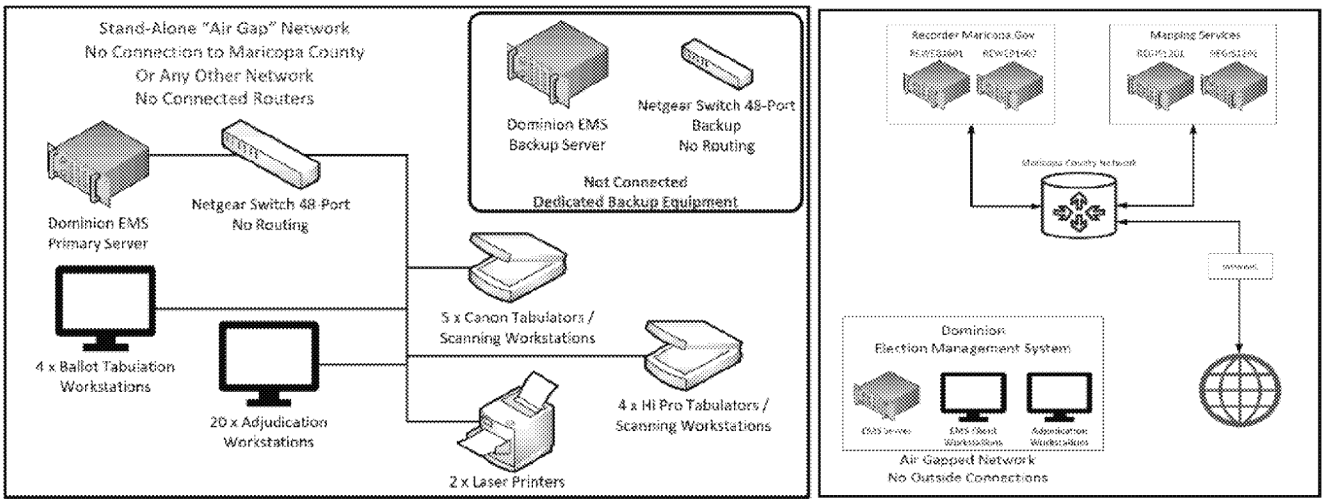
Below are further details about sections 7.5.5, 6.5.6.3, 6.5.6.4, 6.5.6.5 and 6.5.6.6.

Air Gapped Network

7.5.5 (Internet Connections)

To demonstrate the design of the air gapped network, we've included a series of diagrams describing the different components of the EMS network, which can only "speak" to each other within the network. It cannot access the internet or other County systems. This can be evidenced by the air gapped network's hard-wired lines visible through the glass windows into the County's Ballot Tabulation Center. The diagrams also demonstrate that the EMS network exists separately from the County's network at large, including the servers supporting webpages for the Recorder's Office and Elections Department's website.

NETWORK Image #1 – Screenshots Unique Security Log



(Left) A network diagram of the County's Election Management System air gapped network design with no connections to the internet. (Right) A network diagram of the Recorder's web servers, which shows a clear separation between the website and the tabulation equipment.

When CyFIR made the false claims about internet connectivity, they did not attempt to explain obvious and legitimate reasons why the EMS server may attempt to reach the internet. Because it's an air gapped network, none of these attempts ever reached the internet. The EMS Server has several log files that can be referenced to prove this statement. One of these logs is the Component-Based Services log (cbs.log) that records system activities, including those of SQL databases services and dependencies. Using copies of the same logs that were provided to the Senate, the cbs.log demonstrates multiple requests of the SQL Database Management Service (SQM) trying to upload logs to a Microsoft Server and receiving a failure message (see *NETWORK Table #1*). If the EMS server was connected to the internet, this log upload would not show failures since it uses standard opened ports to communicate to Microsoft. These attempts and corresponding failure messages once again demonstrate the integrity of the County's air gapped EMS network.

NETWORK Table #1 – Election Management System cbs.log from August 13, 2019	
Date	Entries
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: **Request upload of all unsent reports.**
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: **Failed to start upload with file pattern**: C:\Windows\servicing\sqm*_std.sqm, flags: 0x2 [HRESULT = 0x80004005 – E_FAIL]
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: Failed to start standard sample upload. [HRESULT = 0x80004005 – E_FAIL]
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: Failed to start upload with file pattern: C:\Windows\servicing\sqm*_all.sqm, flags: 0x6 [HRESULT = 0x80004005 – E_FAIL]
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: **Failed to start always sample upload.** [HRESULT = 0x80004005 - E_FAIL]
2019-08-13 02:36:32	Info CBS SQM: **Warning: Failed to upload all unsent reports.** [HRESULT = 0x80004005 - E_FAIL]

These processes and the log entries are explained in the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B certified test plan publicly available on the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission website found in the Pro V&V Test Review from 2019 and 2018. To gain an understanding of the processes and log entries, CyFIR could have looked up copies of these documents. Instead of becoming familiar with the certified build of the Dominion Tabulation Equipment, CyFIR's inaccurate speculation in a public meeting led to misinformation on this topic.

NETWORK Image #2 – Screenshot of CyFIR Presentation

Process Name	Process File Path	Process ID	Dest IP	Dest Port	Whois
System	System	4	192.168.100.1	445	N/A (192.168.x.x)
avastsvc.exe	c:\program files\avast software\avast business\avastsvc.exe	320	23.194.212.49	80	Akamai
avastsvc.exe	c:\program files\avast software\avast business\avastsvc.exe	320	23.194.212.56	80	Akamai
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	8.253.68.126	80	Level 3 Parent, LLC
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	72.21.81.240	80	Edgecast
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	13.107.4.50	80	Microsoft
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	23.194.212.104	80	Akamai
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	8.249.49.254	80	Level 3 Parent, LLC
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	388	8.253.36.126	80	Level 3 Parent, LLC
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	1272	64.4.54.254	443	Microsoft
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	1272	52.137.108.217	443	Microsoft
svchost.exe	c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe	1272	20.72.205.209	443	Microsoft
jusched.exe	c:\program files (x86)\common files\java\java update\jusched.exe	4580	184.86.196.202	443	Akamai
avastsvc.exe	c:\program files\avast software\avast business\avastsvc.exe	8092	104.99.72.230	80	Akamai

(Above) A screenshot from CyFIR's September 24, 2021 presentation. The orange and green outlines were added for clarity by the County.

NETWORK Image #2 (above) is a screenshot from CyFIR's September 24, 2021, presentation that shows 13 separate processes as examples of the County's EMS server attempting to connect to the internet. In all instances, the

referenced process is a legitimate process as described in the certification documentation available on the EAC's website. None of the processes made a successful connection to the internet. Attempts are not considered proof of connection.

Outlined in orange on the first line of *NETWORK Image #2* is a process named "system." This system does not connect to the internet and is part of the internal local area network as indicated by the term "N/A Local Lan" in the far right column. While it's included on the list, CyFIR commented during its September 24, 2021 presentation that these are connection attempts from known applications and weren't successful in connecting to the internet.

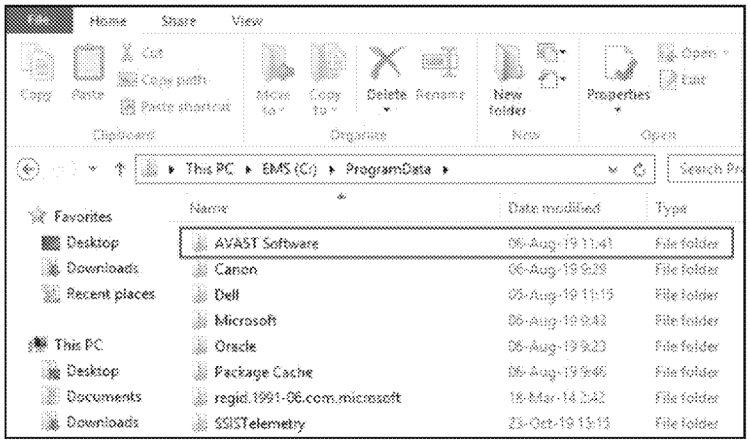
Another example from *NETWORK Image #2* is "avastsvc.exe" and "avastemupdate.exe" outlined in green. This is the EMS process that correlates to an EAC certified installed application, AVAST Antivirus. This system was installed on August 6, 2019, during the initial configuration of the primary Dominion EMS server.

Like most software, AVAST Antivirus attempts to connect to the internet to update itself. These attempts are written to the cbs.log, referenced in *NETWORK Image #2,* but all attempts failed because the County's EMS server is intentionally not connected to the internet due to the closed air gapped network design.

The other applications included in *NETWORK Image #2* behave similarly to the AVAST antivirus application. After the application is installed, it attempts to contact their vendor update servers through the internet but are met with a non-response due to lack of internet connectivity within the County's air gapped EMS network.

The Senate contractors confirmed this in Section 6.5.2.1.1 Software and Patch Management of their report when they stated "Neither the operating system nor the antivirus had been patched or updated since August 2019 (the date of the installation of the Democracy Suite)." With this statement, CyFIR contradicts their assertion that the Dominion EMS server was connected to the internet. If the EMS air gapped network environment facilitated internet connections, the AVAST virus definitions, the Microsoft Server 2012r2 operating system, and other installed applications would have successfully accessed the internet, been updated, and a record of that interaction would be visible in the cbs.log or other EMS logs (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*). Because the County conforms to state law and EAC standards of operating an air gapped network, these attempts failed.

NETWORK Image #3 – Screenshot of AVAST Antivirus Installation



(Above) A screenshot from the EMS server showing the installation date for AVAST Antivirus.

EMS Server

6.5.6.2 (Internet Connections and the EMS Server)

Cyber Ninjas Volume III report was highly redacted, blacking out the support of their findings and the URL that CyFIR claims the server accessed multiple times on "02/02/2021." However, the redacted content is available for review in CyFIR's presentation to the Senate on September 24, 2021 (CyFIR presentation, slide 18).

NETWORK Image #4 – Screenshot of "Errormarker" URL

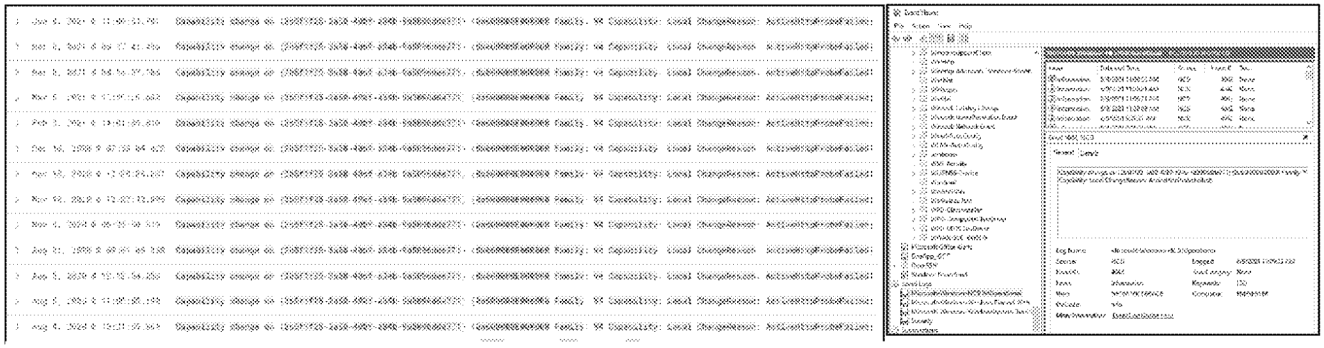
Date Visited [UTC]	Date Visited [Local]	Visits	URL
2021-02-02 00:17:30.906	2021-02-01 17:17:30.906	1	https://az700622.vo.msecnd.net/pub/ExtMgr/CompatList/CompatibilityList.xml.errormarker
2021-02-02 00:17:33.935	2021-02-01 17:17:33.935	2	https://az700622.vo.msecnd.net/pub/ExtMgr/CompatList/CompatibilityList.xml.errormarker

(Above) Slide 18 from the Senate contractor's presentation to the Arizona Senate on September 24, 2021 showing the "errormarker" URL.

In the presentation, CyFIR claims that this URL was accessed multiple times and was proof that the EMS server was able to reach the internet. The example URL they provided, ends with ".../CompatibilityList.xml.errormarker", which is an indication that an unsuccessful attempt was made. The URL would end in ".../CompatibilityList.xml" if a successful connection is made.

If internet connectivity had occurred, there would also be evidence captured in another Microsoft log, called NCSI Operational. On a server connected to the internet, there will be active pings asking for a response from various Microsoft services. Our review of the County's EMS server NCSI logs shows that these pings fail to connect because of the closed air gapped network (see *NETWORK Image #5*).

NETWORK Image #5 – Screenshot of "Errormarker" URL



((Above) Screenshot of the NCSI logs from the Dominion EMS server showing "ActiveHTTPProbeFailed" connection ping failed on multiple dates. (Right) Screenshot of the NCSI Event Viewer showing the Dominion EMS server "ActiveHTTPProbeFailed" connection ping failing on 6/9/2021.

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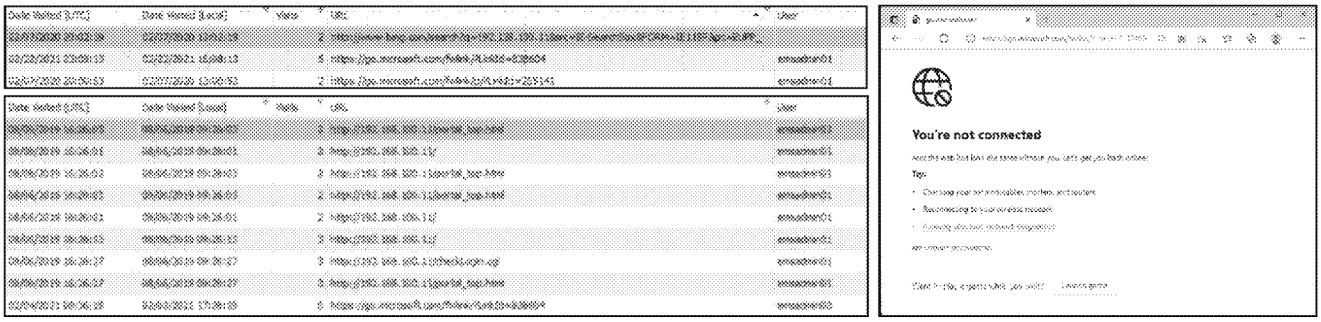
EMS Workstations

6.5.6.3 & 6.5.6.4 (Internet Connections and the EMS Client 1 & 3 Workstations)

During the September 24, 2021, presentation to the Senate, CyFIR pointed out several URLs as an indication that the EMS client workstations #1 and #3 successfully connected to the internet (CyFIR presentation, slide 19). However, this is not evidence of a connection to the internet or a website. As with any system that uses Microsoft Windows or Edge, the default search engine is *bing.com*. If any operator opens the search function on the computer through the default Microsoft Edge web browser or the built-in Microsoft search functionality through Cortana Assistant, the system automatically logs an attempt to contact bing.com (see *NETWORK Image #6*). This is an indication of an attempted connection by Windows 10, which is part of the operating system's base functionality.

This is not evidence of nefarious intent to reach the internet by an internal bad actor either. In these instances, the attempt to contact *bing.com* failed. Microsoft Edge was part of the EAC certified build. Even though the equipment is not connected to the internet, when a user typed into the search bar on Edge or the start menu, the system defaults to searching that text string with the bing.com search engine. This is evident from the top screenshot highlighted in *Network Image #6*, which includes "SearchBox&FORM" within the URL. This bing search criteria is in the URL itself of "192.138.100.11". When the printer was initially configured, the IP address for the printer was mistyped with a 3 instead of a 6. This simple key stroke caused the Microsoft Edge browser to search for this mistyped IP address. Because of the air gapped system, this attempt failed to connect to the internet as demonstrated by *NETWORK Image #6*.

NETWORK Image #6 – Screenshot of EMS Client Logs & No Internet Connection

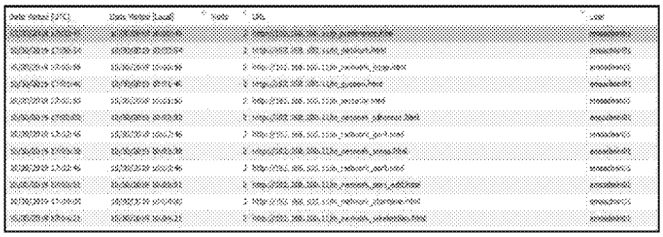


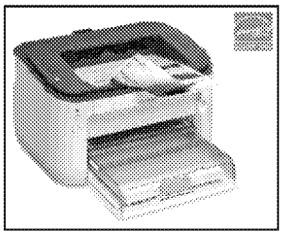
(Left) Screenshots from CyFIR's September 24, 2021 presentation to the Senate. (Top Left) EMS Client #1 workstation logs. (Bottom Left) EMS Client #3 workstation logs. (Right) A screenshot of Microsoft Edge search URL when the computer is not connected to the internet. The URL is the same "fwlink" as the images on the left.

CyFIR also indicated that EMS Client workstation #1 had significant interactions with a device using the internal IP address of 192.168.100.11 (see *NETWORK Image #7*). This is true. However, the delivery of this claim was misleading as it implied that this was an indication of internet connectivity. CyFIR said during the September 24, 2021 presentation that this was not an internet-based IP address and the IP scheme matched those of the EMS air gapped network (CyFIR presentation, slide 20).

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NETWORK Image #7 – EMS Client Logs & Printer IP Address

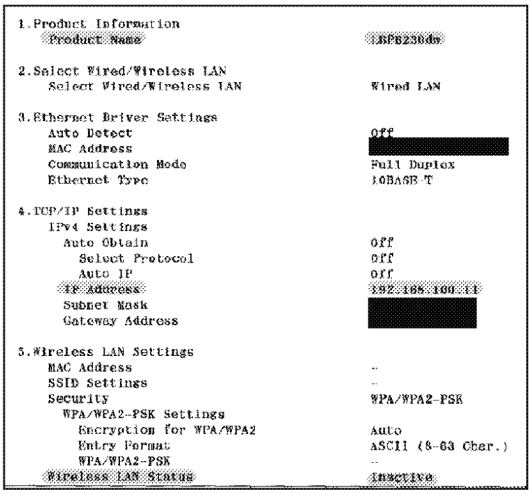




(Left) Screenshot of EMS Client #1 workstation logs from CyFIR's September 24, 2021 presentation. (Right) Canon Image Class LBP6230dw Desktop LaserJet Printer.

The IP address shown to the left belongs with Canon Image Class LBP6230dw Desktop LaserJet Printer. This printer was connected and configured on the primary Dominion EMS server for several months before it was replaced by the MCTEC06 HP LaserJet printer. These printers are used to support routine operations like building ballots and printing daily reports or other needed information within the closed air gapped network (see *Network Image #1*).

NETWORK Image #8 – Printer Not Connected to Wireless Network



1.Product Information	
Product Name	LBP6230dw
2.Select Wired/Wireless LAN	
Select Wired/Wireless LAN	Wired LAN
3.Ethernet Driver Settings	
Auto Detect	Off
MAC Address	[redacted]
Communication Mode	Full Duplex
Ethernet Type	10BASE-T
4.TCP/IP Settings	
IPv4 Settings	
Auto Obtain	Off
Select Protocol	Off
Auto IP	Off
IP Address	192.168.100.11
Subnet Mask	[redacted]
Gateway Address	
5.Wireless LAN Settings	
MAC Address	--
SSID Settings	--
Security	WPA/WPA2-PSK
WPA/WPA2-PSK Settings	
Encryption for WPA/WPA2	Auto
Entry Format	ASCII (8-63 Char.)
WPA/WPA2-PSK	--
Wireless LAN Status	Inactive

(Above) Printer configuration scan from the 192.168.100.11 Canon network printer.

As with most printers, these printers host an internal IIS URL such as the http://192.168.100.11/portal_top.html. This URL is hosted exclusively by the printer itself and is used to configure printer features that aren't available from the front panel input on the printer. This URL configuration page is standard for all modern printers. CyFIR said that the URL, specifically "network_wirelesslan.html," was a source of concern because the County says there are no wireless networks connected to the EMS air gapped system. While the Canon printer has an embedded (non-removable) wireless card, the wireless configuration was disabled in the Canon system settings when it was set up. This means that the printer does not broadcast any wireless signals and is not connected to any wireless signals. It is disabled and serves no function. This conforms to the EAC standards of operating an air gapped network. An independent review of this printer by PacketWatch also concluded that the wireless on the printer is disabled and no signals are being broadcast (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*)

CyFIR's reference to a wireless card that had been disabled since it was installed in 2019, is not evidence of internet connectivity or a security issue. If the EAC tabulation certification documentation was referenced by CyFIR during this analysis, they would have been able to identify a distinct pattern like this.

Elections & Mapping Website

6.5.6.5 & 6.5.6.6 (REWEB1601 & REGIS1202 Connected to the Internet)

The REWEB1601 and REWEB1202 are the servers that support Recorder.Maricopa.Gov, which hosts the official website of the Maricopa County Elections Department. These servers are not part of the air gapped EMS network, even though CyFIR incorrectly claimed they were during the September 24, 2021 presentation to the Senate (CyFIR presentation, slide 22). Both of these servers are indeed connected to the internet because they provide the public

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access to the Recorder's Office and Elections Department website. Refer to *NETWORK Image #1* for a diagram of the web servers' relation to the EMS air gapped network.

- REWEB1601 - Resides on the Maricopa County network (MC Network) and is the website hosting server that provides County constituents access to the recorder.maricopa.gov website.
- REWEB1202 resides on the Maricopa County network (MC Network) and is the website hosting server that provides County constituents access to the Recorder.Maricopa.Gov/electionmaps website, among other pages that require mapping data. This server differs from REWEB1601 in that the primary purpose is to serve up Geographic Information System (GIS) content within the Recorder's Office websites such as maps, jurisdictional boundaries, etc.
- Both REWEB1601 and REWEB1202 have companion servers configured in a "load balanced" state. REWEB1602 and REWEB1201 are configured to help spread the load of the Recorder.Maricopa.Gov website and distribute traffic evenly. Clones of these load balancing servers were also provided to the Senate and the servers include the same data and perform the same function as REWEB1601 and REWEB1202 servers. However, CyFIR did not include these load balancing servers in Cyber Ninjas' report or CyFIR presentation.

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Item #7: Hard Drives and Other Data

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 6.5.5 & 7.6)

CyFIR included misleading claims about two hard drives on one computer used for adjudication and then made untrue claims that the second hard drive could have allowed this computer to access the internet. This is not true. While there were two hard drives, only one was connected to the EMS system. The second hard drive was not plugged into the computer, had no wireless card, was not connected to the EMS, and had no impact on tabulation.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III		County Analysis
Reference	Claim	
6.5.5 (pg. 84)	"Dual Boot System Discovered"	*Misleading Claim* – While there was a second hard drive on one computer, the drive was not powered on or used at any time while in Maricopa County's possession. This drive did not play a role in any Maricopa County election as it was not plugged into the computer, and therefore not operational.
7.6.1 (pg. 92)	"Election Data Found From Other States"	

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

6.5.5 (Dual Boot System), 7.6 (Election Data from Other States)

> **CyFIR misled the public when it claimed an inoperable hard drive could be connected to the internet. The second hard drive in an adjudication station was not connected to the computer and was never turned on or used by Maricopa County.**

A dual boot computer is a system that contains two hard drives (or partitions) with two independent operating systems installed on them. Further analysis of CyFIR's claims prove the "dual boot" claim was misleading. In the report, CyFIR claims that "...this system contained two bootable hard drives." CyFIR then goes onto mislead the public by speculating that these hard drives "could act as a '"jump box"' where one system could access the internet and the other system would be restricted to an isolated network." The evidence does not support this unsubstantiated speculation.

While CyFIR reported the existence of a second hard drive, they make no mention and provide no evidence that it was operational or capable of dual booting. During Maricopa County's audit performed by SLI Compliance in February 2021, the federally certified Voting System Test Laboratory confirmed the presence of this drive on an adjudication station labeled "ADJ-54." During the audit, the drive was photographed, and a forensic clone was created for analysis.

SLI Compliance determined that the drive was not plugged into the motherboard and that it was last used on July 31, 2019. This was prior to the tabulation equipment and this computer being delivered to the County in August 2019. SLI Compliance's analysis of the drive identified what appeared to be mock election data from different states. This information is not evidence of the drive being connected to the internet, but rather that this device, which was never used by Maricopa County, was previously used to test and demonstrate system functionality.

The presence of a second hard drive in a machine, although not standard, would not have posed a risk to the EMS air gapped network because the hard drive was not connected to the adjudication station and therefore not operational. SLI did not include this finding in the report because the drive was not connected and had no data from 2020.

Item #8: Cybersecurity Best Practices

(Cyber Ninjas Report Volume III Sections – 6.5.2, 6.5.2.1.1, 6.5.2.1.3 & 6.5.2.1.4)

Cyber Ninjas' report and the presentation by Senate contractor, CyFIR, on September 24, 2021 included four misleading claims about the County's adherence with cybersecurity best practices. The inclusion of some of these claims and recommendations demonstrate CyFIR's misunderstanding of how cybersecurity best practices are implemented and managed for closed network, air gapped, election systems.

Reference	Claim	County Analysis
Section 6.5.2 (Pg. 75)	"Failure to Follow Basic Cyber Security Practices"	*Misleading Claims:* None of these suggestions are applicable in an air gapped network without internet connection. Some of the best practices that CyFIR recommends could introduce security and operational vulnerabilities into the closed network Election Management System (EMS).
Section 6.5.2.1.1 (Pg 75)	"Software and Patch Management"	
Section 6.5.2.1.3 (Pg. 76)	"Credential Management"	
Section 6.5.2.1.4 (Pg. 78)	"Lack of Baseline for Host and Network Activity"	

State & Federal Laws

The Help America Vote Act, a federal law, provides certification requirements for tabulation equipment, including security testing required before equipment is certified. Arizona law requires counties follow federal guidelines on certification and additional requirements on maintaining the security and integrity of tabulation equipment. Additionally, the Arizona Elections Procedures Manual 2019 requires counties to follow security measure procedures for electronic voting systems (pages 95-100). Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-442
- A.R.S. § 16-1004(B)

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

6.5.2 (Basic Cybersecurity), 6.5.2.1.1 (Software and Patch Management) & 6.5.2.1.4 (Network Activity)

> **The equipment has the latest U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) approved software and patches installed. The EAC requires that any software and security updates to tabulation equipment must first be authorized by the tabulation vendor and thoroughly tested. The updates listed in the Senate presentation are part of the federally certified "trusted build" that must be installed during set up.**

Response and Analysis

CyFIR reported that the County installed Dominion Election Management System does not follow Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) guidelines for software and patch management. In Cyber Ninjas report, they quote, CISA:

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"Failure to deploy patches in a timely manner can make an organization a target of opportunity." CyFIR cites recommendations from CISA to patch systems and ensure that antivirus definitions are up to date. While these are great recommendations for normal computer systems that the County already follows, these are not considered best practice for air gapped election systems.

Maricopa County is a member of CISA's Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC), and CISA is a critical partner to Maricopa County in ensuring cyber and physical security of our elections. However, this recommendation repeated by CyFIR is taken out of context when it is intended to apply to enterprise networks where many users can access multiple systems, not as a best practice for closed, air gapped election management systems. CISA coordinates with various federal partners to develop resources for state and local governments, including the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for election administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for election infrastructure security best practices, to which Maricopa County's practices adhere.

The County follows all EAC guidelines for tabulation equipment as required by state law. The EAC's Testing & Certification Program (Version 2.0, Section(s) 1.16, 3.42, 3.43) requires that any software and security updates to tabulation equipment must first be authorized by the tabulation vendor and thoroughly tested by federally certified Voting System Test Laboratories. If the County were to implement a software or security update without it being tested and approved by the EAC, the County's tabulation equipment would lose its federal and state certification. **This is not only a requirement, but it is also a best practice to thoroughly test software patches prior to implementation to ensure that each update does not pose a risk to the tabulation system.**

Credential Management

On page 75, CyFIR also misunderstands the EAC certification process by claiming that because "4 EXE packages were created, 45 EXE packages were updated and/or modified, 377 Dynamic Link Libraries (DLL) were created, and 1053 Dynamic Link Libraries were modified on the EMS server" after the Dominion software was installed in August 2019, that those updates "would have invalidated the voting certification."

The inclusion of this claim demonstrates a lack of understanding of the EAC certification process. When readying the Dominion EMS hardware (Dell 2U Server) for use, the County and Dominion installed EAC certified patches for the Microsoft Server 2012r2 package. CyFIR's claims are not true and are easily refuted by the review of the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5 EAC application that outlines all actions and software currently found on the Dominion EMS.

All patching or updates were performed manually on the EMS Server in accordance with EAC certification requirements. In *CYBERSECURITY Table #1* below, all patches have associations with Microsoft services from SQL Databases to Microsoft Visual Studio. As shown in the EAC Certification Testing Plan, this is an EAC certified software program approved for use with the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B. All patches were completed in 2019 on August 5 and 6, when the County was initially setting up the server. No subsequent patches were applied after final certification.

CYBERSECURITY Table #1 – Patch Analysis			
Server Patch	**Patch On EMS Server**	**EAC Certified Patch Description**	**Patch Release Date**
KB4505221	08/06/2019	Service Pack 1 for Microsoft SQL Server Browser included in Security Update for SQL Server 2016 Service Pack 1 CU	7/02/2019

CYBERSECURITY Table #1 – Patch Analysis			
Server Patch	**Patch On EMS Server**	**EAC Certified Patch Description**	**Patch Release Date**
KB3182545	08/06/2019	SQL Server 2016 Service Pack 1 on Microsoft SQL Server 2016	11/15/2016
KB2565063	08/06/2019	Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package on Microsoft Visual C++ 2010	4/04/2012
KB3095681	08/06/2019	Update for Microsoft Visual Studio 2015 on Microsoft Visual Studio 2015	10/08/2015
KB3182545	08/06/2019	Service Pack 1 for Microsoft SQL Server VSS Writer included in SQL Server 2016 Service Pack 1 on Microsoft SQL Server 2016	11/15/2016
KB4507005	08/05/2019	Security Update for Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 on Microsoft Server 2012r2 for x64-based Systems	7/08/2015
KB3127222	08/05/2019		2/07/2015
KB3097992	08/05/2019		11/09/2015
KB3074545	08/05/2019		9/04/2015
KB3072307	08/05/2019		8/10/2015
KB3037576	08/05/2019		4/13/2015
KB3023219	08/05/2019		5/11/2015
KB2973114	08/05/2019		9/08/2014
KB2972213	08/05/2019		9/08/2014
KB2972103	08/05/2019		10/13/2014
KB2968296	08/05/2019		10/13/2014
KB2966828	08/05/2019		10/07/2014
KB2966826	08/05/2019		08/12/2014
KB2894852	08/05/2019		09/09/2014

Microsoft Server 2012r2 has a service called "Features on Demand (FOD)," where installed services or dependencies for SQL server and other services were turned on for the machine. It is standard practice for Voting Systems to push an installation image with SQL services *after* initial setup. The patches, service packs and additional items installed on August 5-6, 2019 were related to the initialization of Microsoft SQL servers. Consistent with the Dominion EMS configuration process, the County's SQL server was configured and software and related patches were installed after the initial EAC certified Microsoft Server 2012r2 was delivered to the County. The SQL server needed several 2019 EAC certified patches installed to operate as approved and tested during the EAC certification process. The County and Dominion did not make any additional updates or changes that were not included in the 2019 EAC Certification testing plan.

These configuration and installation processes are explained in the Dominion Democracy Suite 5.5-B certified test plan publicly available on the EAC website found in the Pro V&V Test Review from 2019 and 2018.

In October 2021, the County hired PacketWatch, a cybersecurity and incident response firm. They reviewed the County's EMS system (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*). PacketWatch is familiar with and recognizes the need for best practices guidelines from CISA and found that these are guidelines, not absolutes. PacketWatch asserts the EMS network is a purpose-built network meant to allow communication between the necessary components to facilitate ballot tabulation and adjudication. Given the rigid certification levels and requirement to review all changes, it is expected the software levels would be static until such time as an update window is scheduled for EAC certification. Regular patching would not be expected on this network while being used to facilitate an election.

Network Activity

CyFIR claims that the County's EMS does not have whitelisting, monitoring, baselining, or network programs that could have been used to establish a baseline for host and network activity. CISA recommends that counties leverage software and monitoring functions to establish and enforce a software and a network baseline of approved programs, communications protocols, and communications devices for voting systems. These suggestions would be valid and necessary for systems that are connected to the internet and outside an air gapped network.

The County's EMS air gapped network consists of equipment and applications approved and certified by the EAC. There is no other monitoring function or software unless approved in a future EAC certification. The monitoring in the Ballot Tabulation Center (BTC) is accomplished in many ways. Multi-factor authentication, live video feeds, building access logs, Arizona Secretary of State mandated logic and accuracy test before and after every election, and an internal post-election logic and accuracy test.

Summary

6.5.2.1.3 (Credential Management)

> **Maricopa County has a robust set of physical security controls to prevent unauthorized access to the tabulation equipment, including controlled restricted access and security cameras. To access each tabulator, an operator needs a series of two passwords and a security token (key). Passwords used to access the election program and to tabulate ballots are changed prior to each election. Observers are present during tabulation and all totals are reconciled at the end of each shift.**

On page 76 of Cyber Ninjas' Volume III report, CyFIR claims that the County "*violates every principle of password management guideline as published in every cyber security framework that currently exists.*" This is misleading as the County has implemented a robust set of security controls for restricting access to the tabulation system, managing credentials, and monitoring user access. Before any of the County ballot tabulation staff enters the BTC to work at their assigned stations, they must go through several security checks.

1. The BTC is in a secure building that requires authorized badge access and is monitored by Maricopa County Security Services. Both inside and outside, the building has 24/7 surveillance cameras also monitored by security services. While ballots are onsite at the Maricopa County Tabulation and Elections Center (MCTEC) the County has 24/7 physical security officers monitoring cameras, doors, and performing employee badge checks.
2. Once in the building, higher level badge access is required for any door leading into the BTC. This elevated badge access is only provided to designated staff with a business need to enter. Badge access into the BTC and surveillance cameras are also monitored by security services.
3. Along with the surveillance system cameras inside and outside MCTEC, the County live streams all access points into the BTC on its website 24/7.
4. All the central count tabulation equipment is within the BTC, which requires authorized, elevated badge access to enter. Only those whose jobs require them to be in the BTC have this level of access. Within the BTC is another room that holds the EMS servers. This is a glass room that requires elite-level badge access to enter. Only a few of

the most senior election officials have this access. The glass tabulation server room is also live steamed on the County's website and onsite security officers are monitoring who comes in and out of the server room.

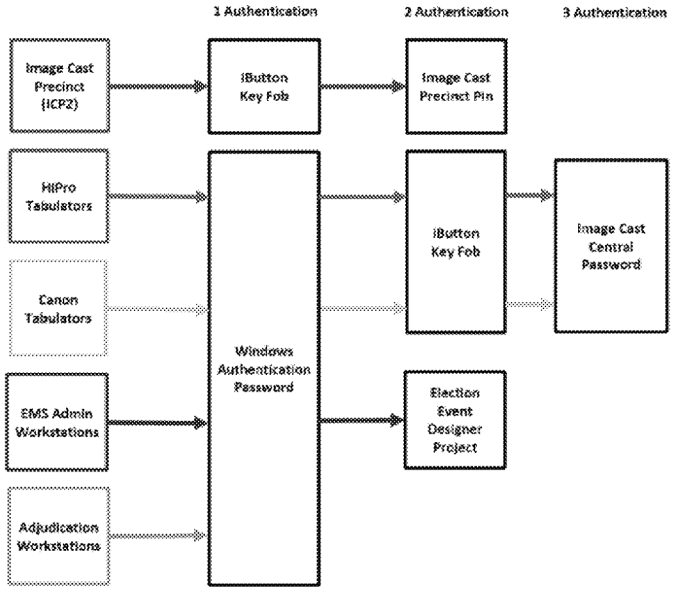
5. In addition, ballots are only tabulated when political party observers are present. Tabulation staff and political party observers perform a reconciliation of total ballots tabulated before and after each shift by comparing and confirming the totals on the tabulator screens to the totals collected in the previous shift. This process independently validates that ballots are only counted when political party appointees are observing the process.

CyFIR claimed during its September 24, 2021 presentation that the County's precinct-based tabulators (ICP2) — used to count ballots in voting locations on Election Day — are the only systems that require additional passwords and authentication beyond the shared Windows password. This is not true. The tabulators in the BTC (HiPro and Canon), used to tabulate all 1,915,487 early ballots during the 2020 General Election require the following three forms of authentication to gain access to the tabulators and Image Cast Central (ICC) program.

1. Windows Login Authentication password
2. iButton Key Fob two-factor authentication (2FA)
3. The program ICC password

The EMS workstations running the Election Event Designer and used to create the official certified results, also have more than one form of authentication for access. The EMS workstations use two forms of authentication, Windows login and the project password to the EED (Election Event Designer) to gain access.

CYBERSECURITY Image #1 – Tabulation Credential Management



(Above) The County's credential and multi-form factor design for the programs and equipment in the BTC, showing each device and its authentication steps.

CyFIR also claims that the passwords for the EMS were not changed since the system was setup in August of 2019. This claim is misleading and untrue.

Prior to every election, the County changes the Election Event Designer Project password, Precinct Based Tabulator Password, and the Image Cast Central passwords. These frequently updated passwords are required to tabulate ballots, run reports, and generate results.

CyFIR also claims that the usernames and accounts of these systems were not assigned to specific individuals but were shared between various people. The County has implemented many security measures that function similar to how a password functions for credential management and logging system access. Tabulation staff have many layers of physical security to enter the BTC. This includes restricted badge access that logs when staff enter the BTC. Staff members must also use an iButton Security Key Fob in addition to their system password to log into a tabulator. The iButton Key Fob is a password in a physical form. Determining which tabulation staff member was logged into a tabulator can be verified by reviewing paper tabulation operator logs and also by video time stamps. These two external sources of information can be matched with system generated logs to determine who was operating or using a tabulator at any point during the election.

The PacketWatch review states the software requires matching accounts on both the Microsoft Server resources and the Democracy Suite tools and services. Since access to the network is closed to outside resources and access to the BTC is controlled and monitored, it is understandable why Maricopa County chose to use generic accounts and passwords (see *Exhibit - PACKETWATCH*).

Item #9: Voters that Moved & Soft Matching Techniques

(Cyber Ninjas Report Sections - 5.3.1, 5.4.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4)

Cyber Ninjas' report includes five claims based on their use of a third-party commercial database that resulted in claims that voters may have illegally voted because they moved prior to or during the election cycle. Our analysis found that the report's conclusions are contradicted by actual records in the County Recorder's Voter Registration Database.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.3.1 (pg. 6)	"Mail-in Ballot Voted from Prior Address"	23,344	0
5.4.2 (pg. 10)	"Voters that Potentially Voted in Multiple Counties"	5,295	5
5.5.3 (pg. 14)	"In-Person Voters Who Had Moved Out of Maricopa County"	2,382	0
5.5.4 (pg. 16)	"Voters Moved Out-of-State During 29-day Period Preceding Election"	2,081	0
Total(s)		33,102	5
5.7.9 (pg. 56)	"No Record of Voters in Commercial Database"	N/A	Inaccurate Claim

State & Federal Laws

For decades, federal and state laws have recognized that voters move, and these laws provide protection so that voters can still lawfully cast a ballot when relocating prior to or during an election. The Federal Government passed the 1993 National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), which allows voters to move between jurisdictions and states during an election cycle. It affords those voters the right to cast a ballot for president from their prior residence if they missed the registration deadline in their new residence. The Federal Government also recognized that voters may need to vote absentee, and this allowance ensures residents who live out of their state of residence while serving in the military (1986 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act - UOCAVA) retain their right to vote. Arizona law outlines the restrictions about voter eligibility when they move and penalties for voting more than once. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-135 (B)(E)
- A.R.S. § 16-1016
- A.R.S. § 16-547

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.3.1 (Mail-in Ballot Voted from Prior Address), 5.4.2 (Voted in Multiple Counties), 5.5.3 (Moved Out of County), 5.5.4 (Moved Out-of-State), & 5.7.9 (Commercial Database)

> **Faulty data analysis and lack of understanding of federal and state laws appear to have resulted in Cyber Ninjas incorrectly claiming thousands of legally registered voters may have cast ballots illegally.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas' report included six data sets of voters identified through limited or soft matching techniques (three data points used to identify the voter, such as first name, last name, and birth year) as support for their claim(s) that some

Maricopa County voters potentially voted illegally because the voters had moved prior to or during the election cycle. Cyber Ninjas also included a seventh data set that used soft matching to identify voters who may have voted in multiple Arizona counties. The flaw in relying on soft matches is obvious: many people share the same data points of first name, last name, and birth year. For example: there might be a "John Smith" who was born in 1976 who moved out of the county prior to the election cycle, but that does not mean that there was not another "John Smith" who was also born in 1976 who lived in the County and lawfully cast a ballot in the County's election.

Cyber Ninjas' soft matches used three data points: last name, first initial and year of birth. In a County with more than 4 million people, this is clearly not sufficient. In one case for example they identified twins as the same voter. In the County's review of Cyber Ninjas' dataset, we used matching criteria that included: full name (first, middle, last), full date of birth, Social Security number (4 digits), Arizona Driver License or state issued ID, residential history, signature and in some cases we had the voter's occupation and the father's last name or the mother's maiden name.

The County reviewed voters from these seven data sets and found that the methodologies and claims were inaccurate. In Maricopa County, as with election administrators statewide, we rely on the voter's affirmation of their residential address until we are informed otherwise by the voter or by another trusted resource like the United States Postal Service (USPS) or the National Change of Address (NCOA) report. Even these trusted sources can have errors, and that is why the County is legally required to send voters identified in these "official" resources two separate official, non-forwardable pieces of mail to allow the voter to confirm if they have actually moved. A real-time database that tracks the day-by-day movements and residency changes of every person in the state or in the nation does not exist and, by law, no voter can be denied their right to vote because their information may not be correctly listed in a database of individuals who have supposedly relocated.

The analysis that Cyber Ninjas performed relied on the use of a third-party commercial database. The combination of the use of this commercial database and the soft matching techniques are likely a key reason Cyber Ninjas made incorrect conclusions. In findings below, we found many other problems with Cyber Ninjas' methodology and conclusions. Below is a detailed review of the information analyzed.

23,344 Ballots

5.3.1 (Mail-in Ballot Voted from Prior Address)

Within this category, Cyber Ninjas provided three separate data sets in Appendices B1, B2 and B3. Out of the 23,344 voters that Cyber Ninjas identified as having moved to a new address, we found no occurrences of a voter voting more than one ballot. We did find 1,256 of the addresses Cyber Ninjas used from the third-party data set were U.S. Post Office Boxes (P.O. Box). It is not possible for a voter to move to a P.O. Box. The Elections Department uses the residential address to determine residency and the opening of a P.O. Box is not an indicator that would warrant an individual being removed from the voter rolls or that they have moved (see *Exhibit – PO BOX*).

There are also 1,331 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters who were included in Cyber Ninjas' data sets. These voters live outside of Maricopa County and may have submitted an address change with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Despite living at an address in another state or outside the United States, these military and overseas voters are legally allowed to maintain registration status at their last known address and are legally allowed to vote in Maricopa County under laws within the 1993 National Voter Registration Act.

It is also not uncommon for only some occupants (e.g., family members, divorced couples, roommates) of a residence to move, while others continue to live at that address. In these instances when the occupants that move submit an address

change with USPS, it is not uncommon for the registered voters that did not move to be incorrectly flagged as moving by the USPS or other commercial databases. This, then, produces a "false positive" indicating that voters have moved when, in fact, they did not.

These three situations are obvious problems with Cyber Ninjas' analysis and should have been an indicator that any conclusions drawn from this data would be faulty. This is also why the County is legally required to rely on the voter's signed affidavit informing us of their legal residence for voting purposes. The breakdown of Cyber Ninjas' 23,344 impacted ballots claim comprised of the three following data sets:

15,035 Ballots

5.3.1– Cyber Ninjas Appendix B1 (Voters Who Moved within Maricopa County)

When an already registered voter moves within his or her county prior to, during and after an election, state law dictates the voter is still registered and eligible to vote in that county. We conducted an analysis of the B1 data set from Cyber Ninjas (see *Exhibit – B1 ANALYSIS*). None of the scenarios described in the summary of our analysis below would automatically disqualify a voter from participating in the 2020 General Election. The Maricopa County Recorder's Office Voter Registration Database shows the following:

- 7,866 voters have a change of address prior to the court-ruled voter registration cutoff of 10/15/2020. In some of these cases, Cyber Ninjas data showed the voter moved several years or a decade prior to the cutoff. However, our records show the voters' address had changed much more recently. In all instances, the updated address is within Maricopa County. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.
- 5,512 voters with no record of submitting an address change. As required by law, Maricopa County relies on the voter attestation of a move or a trusted source (like USPS or the NCOA report) when updating voter registration information. These voters were likely incorrectly identified due to the soft matching techniques used by Cyber Ninjas.
- 1,096 voters who submitted an address change, but after the 10/15/2020 voter registration cutoff. Voters are allowed to move during or after the election cycle. In all instances, the updated address is within Maricopa County. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.
- 435 UOCAVA voters registered at an address in Maricopa County but are living elsewhere. This is a requirement under federal law to establish residency. The ballot is not mailed to the Maricopa County address. Instead, a separate process guided under law is used. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.
- 108 voters who have a cancelled record due to a death, move, voter request or other. In all instances the change occurred after the November 2020 General Election except for one. A deeper analysis of that one record shows the voter returned the ballot on 10/10/2020. A review of the signature shows deterioration from the August 2020 Primary Election affidavit envelope signature, but it is a match. The County received notification from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office that the voter died on 10/27/2020. Arizona has no law deeming the ballot invalid if the voter voted and returned their early ballot before their death but passed away before Election Day.
- 18 voters who had a cancelled record because the Arizona Secretary of State identified a duplicate record and merged the record into a single voter registration record. In all of these cases, only one ballot was cast by each voter.

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We've completed a deeper review of a random sample of 982 records from the 15,035 offered by Cyber Ninjas (see *Exhibit – B1 DETAILED REVIEW*). The review included a seven-point "hard match" check of the voter's full name, address, full date of birth, social security number, voter ID, voting history, and signature with official records, which is obviously much more reliable than a "soft match" check as used by Cyber Ninjas. Our review did not find any voter ineligible to vote from their residential address during the November 2020 General Election and found no evidence of double voting.

6,591 Ballots

5.3.1– Cyber Ninjas Appendix B2 (Voters Who Moved out of Arizona)

We conducted an analysis of the B2 data set from Cyber Ninjas (see *Exhibit – B2 ANALYSIS*). None of the scenarios described in the summary of our analysis below would automatically disqualify a voter from participating in the 2020 General Election. The Maricopa County Recorder's Office Voter Registration Database shows the following:

- 2,801 voters with no record of submitting an address change. As required by law, Maricopa County relies on the voter attestation of a move or a trusted source when updating voter information. These voters were likely incorrectly identified due to the soft matching techniques used by Cyber Ninjas.
- 2,686 voters who have a change of address prior to the court-ruled voter registration cutoff of 10/15/2020. Cyber Ninjas' data showed the voter moved out of Arizona, but in all instances, the voter's updated address was within Maricopa County. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.
- 847 UOCAVA voters registered at an address in Maricopa County but are living elsewhere. This is a requirement under federal law to establish residency. The ballot is not mailed to the Maricopa County address. Instead, a separate process guided under law is used.
- 134 voters who have a cancelled record due to a death, move, voter request or other. In all instances the event occurred after the 2020 General Election.
- 121 voters who submitted an address change, but after the 10/15/2020 voter registration cutoff. Cyber Ninjas' data showed the voter moved out of Arizona, but in all instances, the voter's updated address was within Maricopa County. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.
- 2 voters who had a cancelled record because the Arizona Secretary of State identified a duplicate record and merged the record into a single voter registration record. In both cases, only one ballot was cast by each voter.

1,718 Ballots

5.3.1– Cyber Ninjas Appendix B3 (Voters Who Moved within Arizona but out of Maricopa County)

We conducted an analysis of the B3 data set from Cyber Ninjas (see *Exhibit – B3 ANALYSIS*). None of the scenarios described in the summary of our analysis below would automatically disqualify a voter from participating in the 2020 General Election. The Maricopa County Recorder's Office Voter Registration Database shows the following:

- 631 voters with no record of submitting an address change. As required by law, Maricopa County relies on the voter attestation of a move or a trusted source when updating voter information. These voters were likely incorrectly identified due to the soft matching techniques used by Cyber Ninjas.
- 513 voters who have a change of address prior to the cutoff. Cyber Ninjas data showed the voter moved to another Arizona county, but in all instances, the voter's updated address was within Maricopa County. These voters are legally allowed to cast a ballot in Maricopa County.

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- 369 voters who have a cancelled record due to a death, move, voter request or other. In all instances the event occurred after 10/15/2020.
- 79 voters who submitted an address change:
  - 34 voters moved within the county after the 10/15/2020 voter registration cutoff. Cyber Ninjas data showed the voter moved to another Arizona county, but in all instances, the voter's updated address was within Maricopa County. These voters were eligible to vote in Maricopa County for the General Election.
  - 43 voters moved out of the county after the 2020 General Election. These voters were eligible to vote in Maricopa County for the General Election.
  - 2 voters moved out of the County after the 10/15/2020 voter registration cutoff. Federal law provides additional protections for voters that move during an election cycle. These voters were eligible to vote in Maricopa County for the General Election.
- 77 voters who had a cancelled record because the Arizona Secretary of State systematically identified a duplicate record and merged the record into a single voter registration record. In all cases, only one ballot was cast by each voter.
- 49 UOCAVA voters registered at an address in Maricopa County but are living elsewhere. This is a requirement under federal law to establish residency. The ballot is not mailed to the Maricopa County address. Instead, a separate process guided under law is used.

We completed a deeper review of a random sample of 242 records from the 1,718 offered by Cyber Ninjas (see *Exhibit – B3 DETAILED REVIEW*). The review included a seven-point check of the voter's full name, address, full date of birth, social security number, voter ID, voting history, and signature with official historical records. Our review did not find any voter ineligible to vote from their residential address during the November 2020 General Election and found no evidence of double voting. Below are the results of our detailed review of 242 records:

- 195 records are still active registered voters that have not informed the Maricopa County Recorder's Office of a move. In addition, the County has not received returned official election mail. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 40 records have been cancelled due to a move, felony conviction, or other voter registration file update that occurred after the election. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the 2020 General Election.
- 7 voters have moved from active status to inactive status since the November 2020 General Election due to the County receiving a returned piece of official election mail. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the 2020 General Election. It is important to note voters in inactive status may still be qualified electors upon confirmation of their residency.

5,295 Ballots

5.4.2 – Cyber Ninjas' Appendix D1 (Voters that Potentially Voted in Multiple Counties)

Cyber Ninjas' analysis used soft or partial matching criteria, which resulted in false duplicates statewide. Over 3.4 million registered voters participated in the November 2020 General Election in Arizona. For a true analysis, a hard match comparison of all voter information such as full date of birth, middle name, social security and driver license numbers should have been used.

We've completed a detailed review of 1,815 of the 5,295 voters that Cyber Ninjas' identified as potentially voting in more than one county (see *Exhibit - D1 DETAILED REVIEW*). We determined that Cyber Ninjas incorrectly identified 1,810 voters due to soft data matching practices. When using additional data points such as full date of birth or social security numbers, we confirmed that these voters were two separate people. However, we did find five potential instances of double voting. The five cases have been turned over to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for further review. It is very rare that a voter would be able to have more than one in-state active voter registration record, but it could occur if a voter registered many decades ago and the older record does not have a sufficient amount of data points to result in a hard match if they register in another county.

2,081 Ballots

5.5.4 – Cyber Ninjas' Appendix I1 (Voters that moved Out-of-State During 29-Day Period Preceding Election)

Cyber Ninjas' analysis used soft or partial matching criteria, which resulted in false duplicates statewide. Over 3.4 million registered voters participated in the November 2020 General Election in Arizona. For a true analysis, a hard match comparison of all voter information such as full date of birth, middle name, social security and driver license numbers should have been used.

We completed a detailed review on a random sample of 644 records from Cyber Ninjas' data set of 2,081 voters see *Exhibit - H1 DETAILED REVIEW*. In this sample of 644 records, we found no evidence of votes cast illegally. The review included a seven-point check of the voter's full name, address, full date of birth, social security number, voter ID, voting history, signature and found the following:

- 573 records are still active registered voters who have not informed the Maricopa County Recorder's Office of a move. In addition, the County has not received returned official election mail. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 24 records have been cancelled at the request of the voter after the election. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 12 records have been cancelled due to death of voter. However, each of those voters legally cast their November 2020 General Election ballot prior to their date of death. We confirmed only one ballot was cast and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 14 records were cancelled due to a move outside the county after the election. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 2 were cancelled due to a move outside the state after the election. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.
- 19 voters have moved from active status to inactive status since the November 2020 General Election due to the County receiving a returned piece of official election mail. We confirmed only one ballot was cast per voter and that each voter was eligible for the November 2020 General Election.

2,382 Ballots

5.5.4 – Cyber Ninjas Appendix D1 (In-Person Voters Who Had Moved Out of Maricopa County)

We did not receive the data set of voters that were included in this finding. Based on our review of data included in other similar sections above, we have not been able to substantiate the report's claims based on Cyber Ninjas' use of soft data matching techniques (i.e.; use of only year of birth instead of full date of birth) and use of a commercial third-party data set.

Informational

5.7.9 (No record of Voters in Commercial Database)

We can't attest to the accuracy of the third-party commercial database and the analysis that Cyber Ninjas used to compare the County's data with the third-party commercial data, the Melissa.com website, or the data that was entered into the site by Cyber Ninjas. A commercial database is not a trusted resource for confirming voters' residential addresses for voting purposes.

In Maricopa County, we rely on the voter's affirmation of their residential address until we are informed otherwise by the voter or by another trusted resource like the United States Postal Service or the National Change of Address report. A real-time database that tracks the day-by-day movement of every person in the state or in the nation does not exist. In a county with 2.6 million registered voters, people are constantly moving. Election experts across the country would tell you that the voter registration database is always changing, and in a jurisdiction the size of Maricopa County, voters make thousands of changes each week.

By law, no voter can be denied the right to vote because they are not in a commercial database. All eligible voters in Maricopa County have provided documented proof of their residential address, have had a validating "return service requested" mailing sent to that listed address to verify its authenticity, and have attested they are not felons and that they are a U.S. citizen. Through the statewide voter registration database and because we are an Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) member state, we check all records against the Motor Vehicle Division, Arizona Department of Health Services Vital Records, National Change of Address, other ERIC member state databases and dozens of other state and local trusted sources to keep the voter registration database as up to date as possible. We also receive monthly updates from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office informing us of individuals who have been legally declared ineligible to vote either through criminal act or incapacitation.

Item #10: Other Voter Registration Claims

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.6.5, 5.6.6, 5.6.8, 5.6.10, and 5.6.11)

Cyber Ninjas' report included five claims that information in the voter registration database allowed ineligible voters to vote an official ballot. Our review found that the voter registration system is sound. However, in a County with over 2.6 million active voters reliant on disparate systems and sources of data and information, there is the possibility for a small amount of data entry errors and timing issues.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.6.5 (pg. 27)	"Voters with Incomplete Names"	393	0
5.6.6 (pg. 29)	"Deceased Voters"	298	26
5.6.8 (pg. 32)	"Late Registered Voters with Counted Votes"	198	0
5.6.10 (pg. 37)	"Duplicate Voter IDs"	186	6
5.6.11(pg. 38)	"Multiple Voters linked by AFFSEQ"	101	0
Total(s)		1,370	32

State & Federal Laws

Arizona Law governs what information is needed to be included on a voter registration form and causes for cancellation of a voter record and how often death records are shared. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-121.01(A)
- A.R.S. § 16-152
- A.R.S. § 16-165

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.6.5 (Voters with Incomplete Names)

> **Voters are legally allowed to register with only a first name, last name, or single letter in their first or last name. A voter with a short name, no first name, or last name is not an indicator of an invalid voter.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas' report questions the legality of 393 votes on the basis of the registered voter not having a first or last name or a first or last name with only a single initial. There is no federal or state law that requires a voter to have both a first and last name, let alone a name that is more than one letter. While uncommon, there are a few thousand legal voters in Maricopa County who have such names. Our analysis of the November 2020 General Election Voted File (VM55) found the following number of voters with a short and/or no first or last name (see *OTHER VOTERS* Table #1):

OTHER VOTERS Table #1 - Voted File (VM55) Name Analysis of the November 2020 General Election	
Category	**Amount**
Voters with only a First Name	0
Voters with only Last Name & Last Name is 1 Letter	0
Last Name and First Name of 1 Letter	0
Voters with only a Last Name	14
Voter with First Name of 1 Letter & Last Name More than 1 Letter	2,623
Last or First Name of One Letter and Middle Name of More than One Letter	2,066

Summary

5.6.6 (Deceased Voters)

In a County with over 2.6 million voters, there are several thousand voters that pass away each month. Cyber Ninjas claim to have found 282 instances of deceased individuals voting but did not provide the County with a data set to research. The County Recorder's independently directed analysis of voter records disproves the figures cited in Cyber Ninjas' conclusion.

Response and Analysis

Arizona law outlines the process by which a voter's registration is cancelled due to death (A.R.S. § 16-165(D)). This law requires that the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) transmit on a monthly basis vital record information of the death of every resident of the state reported to the department within the preceding month to the Arizona Secretary of State. The statute does not provide for the use of a commercial database to obtain this information, and public access to the records is prohibited. As required by statute, the Arizona Secretary of State's Office validates and processes this information as soon as it's received from ADHS and notifies the appropriate County Recorder. Because the requirement in law stipulates ADHS provide the deceased records file only monthly, the County Recorder functionally processes deceased records reported to the state a month prior unless other notices and affidavits of death are received via separate methods. The County Recorder as a standard practice regularly researches county obituary notices to augment this process and keep the voter rolls up to date.

The information received from ADHS is used for the sole purpose of cancelling deceased Arizona residents from the statewide voter registration database. The Arizona Secretary of State's system initiates a matching process with the monthly file received from ADHS against the statewide voter registration database and will result in a "hard" or "soft match" on registered voter records. A "hard match" occurs if the first three letters of the first and last name, date of birth, and last four of the social security number of a deceased resident exactly match a registrant record in the statewide voter registration database. The statewide system will automatically cancel the voter registration record and immediately notify the County Recorder, which automatically cancels the voter in the County's voter registration database. A "soft match" occurs if the first three letters of the first and last name and date of birth match. If the system finds a "soft match" between the deceased record and a registrant record, it will flag the records and notify the appropriate County Recorder of the need to review and compare the records. The County Recorder's Office is then tasked with performing research to determine if a "true match" exists. If a true match is found, the name of each deceased person is cancelled from the voter registration database.

The County may also cancel a registrant's record if the County Recorder determines that the registrant is deceased based on other reliable sources including notices and affidavits of death.

There is no real-time database of vital records available to County Recorders and due to the statutory process listed above, there is a reasonable lag time before the County receives notices of death from the State. Early ballots are mailed to voters twenty-seven days before Election Day, and the County must prepare its ballots for printing several weeks prior to that mailing deadline. This results in a limited window during an election cycle that may result in family or household members receiving ballots for recently deceased voters. Recognizing these conditions, the County Recorder proactively directed an additional review of deceased voter records from the months immediately preceding the 2020 November General Election. All statutory requirements were met in the conduct of the 2020 November General Election, and this internal audit initiative was undertaken to help inform potential policy updates and ensure continuing improvement and integrity of the voter registration database.

The County Recorder's internally directed review began with the creation of a report of voter registration record changes related to deceased voters from the period of September 1, 2020 through November 7, 2020. The Office identified 4,623 voters who passed away during this timeframe. The Office also created a query to cross-check the VM55 Voted File (official public list of voters credited with participating in the November 2020 General Election) against the deceased lists received via the Arizona Secretary of State during this same time period. The query generated by Maricopa County identified 619 voters who have a date of death on or before Election Day and returned an early ballot during the November 2020 General Election (see *Exhibit - DECEASED*). In all cases, the County was notified of late September (post-25th), October, and November 2020 death records in files received via the Secretary of State in November and December 2020 (with one record received January 2021). Of the 619 voters, we found the following:

- 493 voters were confirmed to have returned their ballot to the Elections Department prior to the date of death (DOD). This is allowed for under state law. A registrant who passes away after casting a valid ballot is entitled to have his/her ballot tabulated and votes counted. See the 2019 Arizona Secretary of State Procedures Manual (Page 34).
- 100 instances are still under review due to affidavit envelope date being received near the voter's date of death (DOD). Most of these instances relate to affidavits that appear to be signed before the DOD, but were received by the County after the DOD.
- 26 possible instances of a ballot being processed and potentially counted for a voter that passed away prior to the ballot being returned. The County forwarded this information to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for further review.

Cyber Ninjas claims to have identified 282 ballots illegally cast by voters that were deceased but did not provide a data set to support these conclusions. The County cannot research Cyber Ninjas' claims but has undergone an independent analysis of deceased voter records. The figures cited in Cyber Ninjas' conclusion are not supported by documented records of deceased voters in Maricopa County.

Voter registration list maintenance is a vital function and is necessary to ensure fair elections. The Recorder's Office is always looking for ways to improve the process while maintaining the integrity of the rolls. In that effort, Maricopa County and all other Arizona counties are now receiving monthly deceased reports from ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center. These deceased reports include records from the Social Security Administration and will supplement the monthly

deceased reports received by the Arizona Department of Health Services. The Recorder's Office will also continue its practice of researching county obituary notices.

Additionally, we are reviewing our system's soft match criteria to see if changes made can elicit more possible matches between records with the data points available in our voter registration system. This will cast a wider net in an attempt to catch older system records that may be a match with newer system records.

Summary

5.6.8 (Late Registered Voters)

> **The law requires that voters who want to vote, but who are not identified in the SiteBook as properly registered, must be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. This includes those who registered to vote after the registration deadline. In accordance with federal and state law, these voters were issued a provisional ballot. None of the provisional ballots cast by those who registered after the deadline were counted.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas identified 198 voters who participated in the November 2020 General Election but registered after the October 15, 2020 registration deadline. In a detailed review of these 198 voters, we found that all voted using a provisional ballot. This complies with federal (Help America Vote Act of 2002) and state law (A.R.S. § 16-513.01), that requires the Elections Department to provide a voter the right to vote provisionally, even if the voter is not registered to vote in that election. All provisional ballots are placed in a signed and sealed affidavit envelope and deposited in the ballot box. Each voter that casts a provisional ballot is researched to determine if the ballot should be counted. Because these voters registered to vote after the deadline, they were ineligible to vote and their provisional ballot was not counted.

Summary

5.6.10 – Cyber Ninjas Appendix Q1 (Duplicate Voter IDs)

> **Cyber Ninjas soft data matching techniques resulted in them incorrectly identifying potential voters who had two assigned voter registration numbers. As part of our review, the County had identified six potential instances of double voting. The information was forwarded to the Attorney General.**

Response and Analysis

The data we received in Cyber Ninjas Appendix Q1 had only 164 individuals, not 186 as listed on page 37 of the report. Cyber Ninjas claim voters in this category shared a First Name, Last Name, Address and Year of Birth, suggesting these are the same individuals. In a detailed review of the 164 voters with similar names that were included in Cyber Ninjas data, a total of 139 were confirmed to be different voters assigned different voter identification numbers. The search conducted

by Cyber Ninjas used a soft matching criterion with four data points: last name, first name, year of birth (within 10 years) and may have potentially shared an address in the past. This resulted in a false identification and incorrect conclusion that these voters shared a voter identification number. We used a seven-point search criterion to review the data including full name (first, middle, last), full date of birth, Social Security number (four digits), Arizona Driver License or state issued ID, residential history, signature and in some cases we had the voter's occupation and the father's last name or the mother's maiden name. As part of this detailed review, we identified 12 total voters that had two voter IDs. These voters had been previously identified by the County during a post 2020 General Election Review. These records have since been merged. Of the 12 voters, six potentially voted twice. The County forwarded this information to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for further review.

Summary

5.6.11 (Multiple Voters Linked by AFFSEQ)

> **The Affidavit Sequence Number is not an indicator of whether a voter cast more than one ballot. While there are a small percentage of situations where a sequence number was assigned to two voters, this does not impact the integrity of the election process.**

Response and Analysis

An Affidavit Sequence Number (AFFSEQ) is a unique transaction number that is system generated and assigned to a voter any time the voter updates his/her information. The AFFSEQ functions as a unique identifier to assign a transaction and trace the record back to a voter. Because each voter can have many AFFSEQs, there are tens of millions currently assigned within the voter registration system.

There are instances when voters update their voter registration information and provide a partially completed voter registration form. Since the registration form is not complete, there may not be sufficient information to identify a hard match with another voter. In these situations, the voter is assigned a system generated AFFSEQ. However, after research is completed and the voter registration team identifies the identity of the actual voter, the form must be reassigned. In these situations, the AFFSEQ is manually assigned. While rare, this manual assignment can result in data entry errors. However, the AFFSEQ is not what the Elections Department uses to determine if a ballot should be issued, and it was incorrect for Cyber Ninjas to categorize this issue of an incorrectly assigned AFFSEQ as having impacted ballots.

We completed a detailed review of all 5,711 records (2,854 unique affidavit sequence numbers) identified in Cyber Ninjas' data set as being assigned to multiple voters. We found the following:

- 2,782 of the AFFSEQs were assigned to one unique voter who had two unique voter registration numbers. This was the result of a voter submitting a voter registration form or request through Service Arizona with insufficient or incorrect identifying information. In these instances, the voters were assigned temporary voter registration numbers until the actual voter could be identified. We've confirmed that none of these voters had more than one ballot counted.
- 72 instances where two voters were assigned one unique affidavit number. Since ballots are not issued based on affidavit sequence numbers, this did not result in a voter casting more than one ballot.

Item #11: Protected Voters

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.5.1, 5.5.5)

Cyber Ninjas' report included two claims that the official certified results (Canvass) do not match the official public list of voters credited with participating in the November 2020 General Election (VM55 Voted File). These two claims are inaccurate and are likely a misunderstanding on the part of Cyber Ninjas about what information is included in the VM55 Voted File.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.5.1 (pg. 12)	"Official Results Do Not Match Who Voted"	3,432	0
5.5.5 (pg. 18)	"Votes Counted in Excess of Voters Who Voted"	1,551	0
Total(s)		4,981	0

State & Federal Laws

A.R.S. § 16-153(A)(B.1)(J)(K1-12) requires that the confidentiality of protected voters be maintained.

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.5.1 (Official Results Do Not Match Who Votes) & 5.5.5 (Votes Counted in Excess of Voters Who Voted)

> **Cyber Ninjas did not consider that there are over 3,000 protected voters in Maricopa County who participated in the November 2020 General Election. As required by state law these voters are not included in any public voter files.**

Response and Analysis

Cyber Ninjas' report claims 3,432 more ballots reported in the official canvass than there were voters reported in the Official VM55 Voted File (dated 11/19/2020). On page 18, Cyber Ninjas claim that there were 1,551 more votes cast in the election than the total number of voters who participated. The reason for these incorrect assumptions is simple: state law prevents counties from including protected voters (judges, law enforcement officers, survivors of domestic violence and other types of harassment or abuse) in any public voting file, including the VM55 Voted File. Maricopa County has over 3,000 protected voters that participated in the November 2020 General Election and they are not listed on the VM55 Voted File. To protect the identify of these voters, the County does not create public reports or lists that show the exact number of protected voters.

Two other situations may contribute to alleged discrepancies identified Cyber Ninjas' analysis. The first occurs when a voter returns an affidavit envelope that is empty, containing no ballot. In this situation during the November 2020 General Election, the voter would be listed in the VM55 Voted File for returning a signed affidavit envelope, but since there was no ballot, the canvass count would not include a ballot. For the November 2020 General Election there were 68 instances of this occurring.

The other situation involves a voter who checks into an in-person voting location but chooses not to vote his/her ballot. While this is very rare, it can happen on occasion. If the poll workers know the identity of the voter, they are trained to work with our poll worker hotline to back out the voter's check-in from the system. This process may not always be followed when a voter does not stay to assist with the process to reverse the check-in. Our post-election analysis identified 17 instances where we believe this occurred. This represented .0091% (nine-one-thousandths of a percent) of in-person voters who voted on Election Day. The voting locations where this occurred are listed in *FLED VOTERS Table #1*.

FLED VOTERS Table #1 - Fled Voters on Election Day by Voting Location	
Locations	Fled Voter
All Saints Lutheran Church	1
Apache Wells Homeowners Association	1
Veterans Memorial Coliseum	1
Church At Litchfield Park	1
LDS Church	2
Lutheran Church of The Master	1
Murphy School District Office	1
Paradise Valley Community College	1
Sheraton Phoenix Crescent	2
Surprise City Hall	1
Youngker High School	5
Total Fled Voters (Percent of Total In-Person Voters)	**17 (.0091%)**
Total In-Person Voters on Election Day including Provisional Voters	**186,756**

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Item #12: Early Ballot Returns and Real-Time Check-in System

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections - 5.4.1, 5.6.3, 5.6.1, 5.6.4, 5.6.9, and 5.7.4)

Cyber Ninjas' report included five claims that speculated that some entries in the Early Voting Request file (EV32) and Early Voting Return file (EV33) were a possible indication of voters who were allowed to cast multiple ballots. These claims demonstrate a lack of understanding of the statutory purpose of the EV32 and EV33 files and how the County's data tracking controls prevent voters from casting multiple ballots. The report also included a finding that questioned the County's use of "real-time provisional ballots." All the claims below have been thoroughly reviewed and confirmed as unsubstantiated or false.

Cyber Ninjas Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.4.1 (pg. 8)	"More Early Ballots Returned by Voter Than Received"	9,041	0
5.6.3 (pg. 24)	"Ballots Returned not in the final Voted File"	430	0
5.6.4 (pg. 25)	"Mail-in Ballot Received Without Record of Being Sent"	397	0
5.6.1 (pg. 20)	"Voters Not Part of the Official Precinct Register"	618	0
5.6.9 (pg. 34)	"Date of Registration Changes to Earlier Date"	193	0
Total(s)		10,679	0
5.7.4 (pg. 51)	"Early Votes Not Accounted For in EV33"	N/A	False Claim
5.7.11 (pg. 59)	"Real-Time Provisional Ballots"	N/A	Misleading Claim

State & Federal Laws

Arizona Law governs the type of early ballot request and return reports that are required to be provided to registered political parties, laws around temporary early ballot requests, curing signatures, and special election boards. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-168 (C.11)(D)
- A.R.S. § 16-542(E)
- A.R.S. § 16-550 (A)
- A.R.S. § 16-549(A)(C)(D)

Maricopa County Findings

Arizona law and the Elections Procedure Manual outline the data files and voter record files that the law requires counties to produce for each election. The naming conventions for these various files (EV32, EV33, VM55, VM34 etc.) may differ from county to county, but the content and prescribed for use of these files is the same. To assist with understanding these reports, below is a summary description and Maricopa County's unique naming convention for each required file:

- **Early Ballot Requests and Returns**: Statute requires all counties to create a daily report of early ballot requests and returns from voters at the request of political parties. These daily reports must begin 33 days prior to the election and for returns, end the day before Election Day. They are not intended to be a reconciliation of all early ballot requests and returns, as they are required to end prior to Election Day. Historically political parties use this for "get-out-the-vote" efforts. This file also does not include any protected voters (A.R.S. § 16-153). Below is how Maricopa County and the political parties agreed to the file creation and sharing:

- **EV32 File**: This is a daily data file created for political parties of early ballot requests from voters. For the November 2020 General Election, these files were provided from October 1-23, 2020. October 23 was the eleventh day preceding the election and the last day to request a ballot to be mailed (A.R.S. § 16-542.E).
- **EV33 File**: This is a daily data file created for political parties of early ballots returned by voters. This is not a list of ballots that were counted. All early ballot envelopes must go through the exhaustive and comprehensive signature review process to have the signature verified before it can be counted. For the November 2020 General Election these files were provided from October 12 to November 2, 2020, the Monday before Election Day.

- **VM55 Voted File:** This file, prescribed for in state law, is the final accounting of voters who participated in the election broken out by early voting and Election Day. The file is run after all early ballot signatures have been verified and after all provisional ballots have been researched. This file does not include any protected voters (A.R.S. § 16-153).
- **VM34 Monthly Voter Roll:** This file is distributed to political parties and jurisdictions conducting elections upon request. The file contains the voter name, voter ID#, mailing and residential address, party affiliation, and voting history for all voters-both active and inactive (A.R.S. § 16-168).

Summary

5.4.1 (More Early Ballots Returned), 5.6.3 (Returned Ballots Not in Voted Filed), 5.6.4 (Ballot Received Without Sent Record) & 5.7.4 (Early Votes Not Accounted For)

> **Cyber Ninjas' apparent lack of understanding of the purpose of the EV32 and EV33 files resulted in inaccurate speculations about the legitimacy of 9,868 ballots.**

Response and Analysis

Voters in Maricopa County may vote early by mail or in person prior to Election Day. Arizona law defines both of these cases as a voter casting an early ballot. Statute requires the County provide registered political parties with direct access to daily early ballot request and returns. As described in the findings section above, those files are called the EV32 and EV33 requested and received files. The political parties generally use the files for get-out-the-vote efforts. These files are not a comprehensive listing of all voters, as they have specific start and end dates outlined in statute, they then would not include voters that dropped off an early ballot on Election Day, nor do they include protected voters (A.R.S. § 16-153).

Any comparison using these files will likely lead to inaccurate conclusions, as was the case with Cyber Ninjas when they incorrectly claimed there were over 74,000 more early ballots returned than were requested for the November General Election.

Our review of Cyber Ninjas' data supporting this finding and Maricopa County voter registration data found no evidence of double voting. These EV33 return entries were related to voters legally curing questionable signatures or blank unsigned envelopes leading to those envelopes to be scanned in as "returned" once again upon receipt of the cured packet. All voters reviewed were eligible to cast a ballot. Below are further details about sections 5.4.1, 5.6.3, 5.6.4 and 5.7.4.

9,041 Ballots

5.4.1 – Cyber Ninjas Appendix C1 (More Early Ballots Returned than Voters Received)

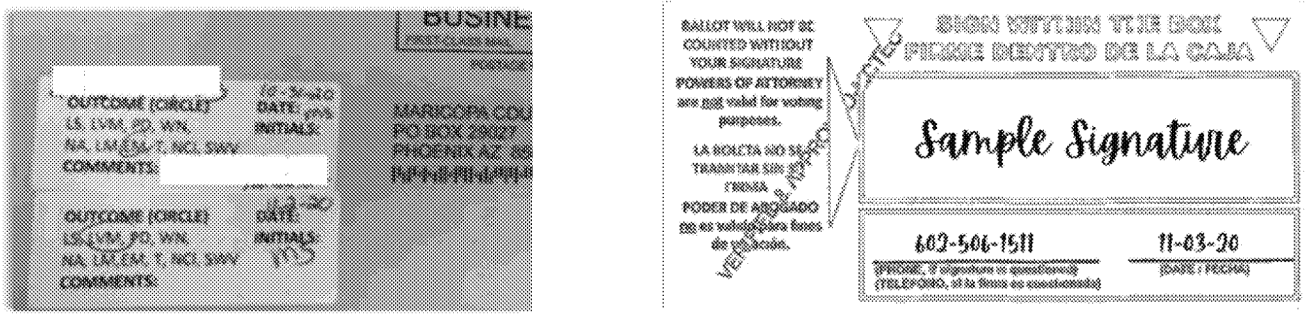
In Cyber Ninjas' report on page 8, they state that there were 9,041 duplicated entries in the EV33 file. Cyber Ninjas' report speculates and offers four potential explanations of why there may be duplicate entries. The second bullet

on that page, *"The same ballot could have been processed more than once on different days, resulting in two EV33s for one ballot"* is mostly correct.

There are some multiple entries on the EV33 report because an early ballot packet envelope can be reviewed more than once. When an early affidavit envelope is flagged as a questionable signature or blank signature, the packet is manually set aside and staff works to contact the voter to cure the signature. If the signature is cured, the packet is rescanned on a different date creating an additional EV33 entry, thereby creating a second entry, one for the initial time the packet was scanned for review (1st EV33 entry), then when it was scanned again for new review (2nd EV33 entry). There can be other additional scans and EV33 entries if a packet was set as a "questionable signature" or if a packet was cancelled. During this process, the early ballot affidavit envelope remains sealed until the signature is cured. After the signature is cured, the ballot packet is opened, and then the ballot is counted. If the signature remains "questionable" after the end of the statutory curing period, the ballot affidavit envelope remains sealed, is not opened, and would be marked as a "bad signature" in the canvass.

Most signatures on early ballot affidavit envelopes match the signature on record—the ballot affidavits do not require curing and are processed as normal. The Elections Department is required to contact voters when their signatures cannot be verified, or if the affidavit envelope was not signed. For those small percentages of affidavits that require further review and are subsequently cured by the voter, we include the stamp "Verified and Approved MCTEC" and physically log on the affidavit envelope all the individual contact attempts and verification methods used to reach the voter (see *EV Image #1*).

EV Image #1 - Example of "Cured" Affidavit Envelopes



(Left) An example of an Early Ballot Affidavit Envelope with Curing Contact Information. (Right) An example of the verified and approved stamp.

On October 20, 2021, Cyber Ninjas issued an 11-page public statement further clarifying its position. In it, Cyber Ninjas said that the explanation above was "a soundbite, not an explanation" and said that EchoMail found that only 2,138 of these voter IDs had more than one scanned envelope. That is not true. Maricopa County reviewed the data for scanned packets for all 9,041 voters and compared this to the affidavit images provided to the Senate (see *Exhibit – EARLY BALLOTS).* Below is a summary of our analysis:

- 8,850 (2 Envelope Images) – These voters were in the EV32 file once and the EV33 file twice. This shows that the initial signature issue was cured and the ballot packet was scanned in a second time. These could be questioned signatures, no signatures or household exchanges (ex. when a husband signs his wife's envelope, and the wife signs her husband's envelope). Once cured, the envelopes were then opened and only one ballot per voter was counted.

- 162 (3 Envelope Images) – These voters were in the EV32 file once and the EV33 file three times. This shows that there was an initial signature issue, but the envelope was scanned in on two other occasions as staff worked to verify signature. These could be questioned signatures or no signatures. Staff was able to contact the voters, use the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp and cure the signature issue. The envelopes were then opened and only one ballot per voter was counted.
- 3 (4 Envelope Images)– While this doesn't happen often, these voters were in the EV32 file once and the EV33 file four times. This shows that there was an initial signature issue, but the envelope was scanned in on three other occasions as staff worked to verify the signature. Staff was able to contact the voters, use the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp and cure the signature issue. The envelopes were then opened and only one ballot per voter was counted.
- 26 (Unique Voter Situations) – There were 26 unique instances where the number of images did not match the number of times the voter appeared in the EV33 file. Below are a few reasons.
    - Voter A's ballot was returned, but a household member signed his own name in place of Voter A. Staff called to cure the signature issue and found out Voter A was eligible to vote a UOCAVA ballot. The first ballot was cancelled, and Voter A was issued a UOCAVA ballot after the 10/23/2020 early ballot request deadline as is permitted under law for military and overseas voters. Voter A's signature was verified and the ballot was counted. In this instance, the voter was in the EV32 file once and the EV33 file once, but would not have any images because the initial packet was voided and we don't scan UOCAVA envelopes, as the verification process is manual.
    - Voter B returned the ballot packet without a signature. The ballot packet was mailed back to the voter. Voter B returned the ballot packet a second time without a signature. The ballot was mailed back to the voter a second time. Voter B returned the signed envelope on Election Day, it was cured and counted. In this instance, the voter would be in EV32 once and EV33 twice, but have three image scans.
    - Voter C had a questionable signature. Staff contacted the voter to cure the signature and added the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp. The ballot packet was scanned again, but the envelope was upside down. The ballot packet was scanned a third time after Election Day and then the ballot was counted. In this instance, the voter would be in EV32 once and EV33 twice, but have three image scans.

In addition to the analysis above, the County performed a random sample of 325 of the 9,041 Voter ID numbers Cyber Ninjas provided to support its claim. Our detailed review of the affidavit envelope images and the voter records confirmed that all 325 instances were the result of the County's early voting team contacting a voter for a questionable signature and curing that signature in accordance with the Elections Procedure Manual (EPM) 2019 (pages 68-69) and A.R.S. §16-550.

430 Ballots

5.6.3 – Cyber Ninjas Appendix K1 (Ballots Returned Not in the Final Voted File)

In Cyber Ninjas report on page 24, they claim 2,472 voters returned an early ballot but are not accounted for in the final VM55 Voted file. They then calculated the 430 "ballots impacted" number by subtracting the total number of early ballots not counted because the envelope did not have a signature (1,455) and the total that did not match any signatures on file (587), as reported in the canvass. Below is a breakdown of the 430 ballots.

- 4 – These were duplicates of the same voters that Cyber Ninjas should have filtered out of the K1 Appendix.

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- 51 – These voters received a new Voter ID number during the election. In this rare circumstance, the initial Voter ID number is accounted for in the EV33 file, and the new Voter ID number is accounted for in the post-election VM55 Voted File, which was prepared on November 24, 2020. Both Voter IDs are tracked and connected to the voter, but the new Voter ID number would be used for the voter moving forward.
- 375 – These records were voided early ballots. There are several reasons why a ballot would be returned, put in this category, and not counted. They can include a ballot returned by a household member noting a voter has moved, an unresolved household exchange packet signed by a household member, a packet damaged by USPS, etc.

397 Ballots

5.6.4 – Cyber Ninjas Appendix M1 (Mail-In Ballot Received Without Record of Being Sent)

The County's review of the 397 records found in Cyber Ninjas Appendix M1 show that all were associated with a legitimate and eligible voter with a verified signature and valid returned early ballot. These records do not appear in EV32 "Sent" file because they were requested or "flagged" after the last day the file was prepared (10/23/2020). We also found Cyber Ninjas mistakenly included four voter records twice. The County verified that each voter cast only one ballot, but had two scans due to signature curing. That leaves only 393 unique voter records for review. Below is a summary of our analysis:

- 200 – All of these ballots were requested by the voter prior to the 5 p.m. deadline on 10/23/2020, many just minutes prior to the deadline. These requests are valid, but our staff needs time to research, finalize and flag the ballots to prepare them for mailing. It can take through the weekend to clear that queue. Ballots requested just before the deadline but processed by staff over the weekend would not be included in the EV32 file.
- 131 – All of these ballots belong to military and overseas voter requests, which are covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), which mandates these voters be allowed to request a ballot up to and including on Election Day. Ballots requested by UOCAVA voters after the 10/23/2020 deadline (applicable to all other voters) would not be included in the EV32 file.
- 54 – These voters updated their voter registration during the election and received a new Voter ID number. The initial Voter ID number is accounted for in the EV32 file, and the new Voter ID number is accounted for in the EV33 file. Both Voter IDs are tracked and connected to the voter, but the new ID number would be used for the voter moving forward, including in the post-election VM55 Voted File prepared on November 24, 2020.
- 8 – While a small number, these voters have an emergency request that occurred after the 10/23/2020 deadline. These voters are usually in the hospital or another setting that prevents them from voting in person or casting an early ballot from home. In these cases, the law allows these voters to request a ballot through Election Day. A bipartisan Special Election Board assists the voter at the hospital or other setting in accordance with A.R.S. §16-549.

Informational

Section 5.7.4 (Early Votes Not Accounted For in EV33)

Much like the error made initially by Cyber Ninjas in July 2021 — when they said that 74,243 records were missing versus this newly adjusted 397 total — this is still a misunderstanding as to the true purpose and actual use of the EV32 and EV33 files. State law is clear. These daily files are created for the "county or state chairman." The start and end dates of each file can be found in A.R.S. § 16-168(D) and in the Elections Procedure Manual (EPM) 2019 (pages 62-63). These files are not intended to capture all voters that participated in the election as the "returned"

file is required to end the Monday before the election. Instead, they have traditionally been used by the political parties for targeted "get-out-the-vote" efforts.

For the 2020 General Election, the EV33 file was last created on the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2020). The Election Department tracks every sent and received ballot through a barcode on the ballot envelope that is unique to each voter, and even to each ballot request by the voter. The voters not included in the EV33 file, but are tracked in the VM55 Voted File include:

- 187,707 mail-in ballots that were dropped off on Election Day or the day prior
- 38,796 voters that voted in-person during the last few days of early voting
- The remaining 28,823 are a combination of two reasons:
    - 28,614 – These voters were in the 10/13/2020 EV33 File. We do not know why Cyber Ninjas did not include these 28,614 voters in their data file.
    - 137 — These voters updated their voter registration during the election and received a new Voter ID number. This is typically caused when a voter submits a voter registration form that has different information than what is already on file. Both Voter IDs are tracked and connected to the voter, but the new ID number would be used for the voter moving forward, including in the post-election VM55 Voted File prepared on November 24, 2020.

It is important to point out that protected voters are not included on any public file, including the EV33 or VM55 Voted files. Arizona law requires that the confidentiality of protected voters be maintained (A.R.S. § 16-153).

Summary

(5.7.11) Real Time Provisional Ballot, (5.6.1) Voter not Part of the Official Precinct Register and (5.6.9) Date of Registration Changes to Earlier Date

> **The County has implemented an award-winning, secure, real-time voter check-in station at voting locations that prevents double voting while also expanding voting access.**

Response and Analysis

Maricopa County's voter check-in system, the SiteBook, has a real-time, secure connection to the voter registration system. Developed in-house by our information technology experts, the SiteBook uses proprietary software and a virtual private network (VPN) connection for enhanced security. It is not connected to the tabulation equipment at the voting locations or the County's Ballot Tabulation Center.

When a voter checks in at the polls, the SiteBook conducts a live check of the voter registration database to ensure the voter is eligible and that the voter has not already cast a ballot. If an early ballot has already been issued, the SiteBook does a "real-time" check of the voter's record. If that ballot was not returned, the SiteBook cancels the early ballot and issues the voter the standard ballot for voting at the polls, referred to here as a "real-time provisional ballot." The provisional ballot check is done behind the scenes and provides voters a much more streamlined voting experience, allowing the voter to receive a ballot that could be counted at the polls if an early ballot has not already been recorded as returned. If an early ballot was already returned by the voter, the SiteBook informs the voter that a ballot was already cast. State and federal law require that the voter still has the option to vote a provisional ballot, which is a fail-safe for voters whose eligibility to

vote is uncertain. The voter's record would be researched by staff separate from the voting location, and the provisional ballot would not be counted if the voter's early ballot was already counted.

The County has been using this real-time provisional ballot approach since 2016. The advancement in e-pollbook technology has allowed jurisdictions nationally to utilize a systematic process to verify a voter's eligibility through a real-time connection, including if a voter has already cast a ballot in person or by mail. This process has been utilized under three separate County Recorder administrations and was initially reviewed and approved for use as an alternative process and procedure by the Secretary of State's Office in 2015 under Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan. There are several statutory requirements for provisional ballots. Below is a summary of the statute and the action taken in Maricopa County to comply:

- The generation of a new ballot for the voter complies with the requirement that such electors vote provisional ballots, A.R.S. §§ 16-579(B) and 16-584, as a provisional ballot requires additional review to determine whether the one casting the ballot is eligible to do so.
- The check of the database in real-time to determine whether another ballot has been counted complies with the required check for provisional ballot voters described in A.R.S. § 16-584(D).
- The voter signing the affidavit on the e-pollbook or SiteBook, as it is called in Maricopa County, complies with the affidavit requirement described in A.R.S. § 16-584(B).
- The counting of the ballot complies with the requirement of A.R.S. § 16-584(D) that, if the elector has not already had her vote counted, then their provisional ballot shall be counted.

In the November 2020 General Election, the real-time provisional ballot casting process and system worked as intended. In Cyber Ninjas' own report on page 59, it states that they "identified no instances of these voters casting more than one ballot, however."

Cyber Ninjas includes a claim on page 20 of its report that there are 618 voters that participated in the November 2020 General Election who were not listed in the November 7, 2020 VM34 Monthly Voter Roll. We did not receive a data set that supported Cyber Ninjas analysis and conclusion. This analysis is another instance of Cyber Ninjas' attempting to compare unrelated data sets that are not intended to match. Cyber Ninjas incorrectly assumed that all voters that were eligible to participate in the November 2020 General Election would show in the November 7 version of the VM34 Monthly Voter Rolls. This is not the case because the VM34 Monthly voter roll file is a snapshot of the voter rolls at that specific point and time. In a County with over 2.6 million voters, there are thousands of changes made to the voter registration database on a daily basis.

There are variety of reasons why a voter that was eligible to participate in the November 2020 General would not show on the 11/7/2020 VM34 Voter Rolls. Below are a few examples of why a voter may appear on the VM55 Voted File and not on the VM34 Voter Rolls file.

- The voter was eligible to vote and then moved after the October 15, 2020 court-ruled cut-off period and before November 7, 2020. Upon the County receiving notification of the move, the County would update the voter registration system and the voter would not appear on the VM34 November 7, 2020 voter roll file. However, the voter would appear in the VM55 Voted File because they were eligible to vote in the November 2020 General Election.
- The voter submitted one or more voter registration forms with incomplete or inaccurate information. The voter would be assigned a temporary voter registration number while the County's Voter Registration staff performed required citizen and residency checks. In some of these instances, the voter already has an assigned voter

registration number. In these cases, the voter registration team would confirm all paperwork was properly provided. After which they would identify the voter as having two assigned voter registration numbers and merge the files. Depending on the timing of when the voter submits the voter registration form and when the voter registration team completes their research, the voter may have one or more records included or not included in the monthly VM34 Voter File.

- The voter submitted a paper registration form prior to 10/15/2020 (the court-ruled voter registration deadline for the November 2020 General Election). The voter would have likely voted provisionally, while the County finished processing the paper registration forms. In addition, the statutory deadline for curing a provisional ballot was 5:00pm on 11/10/2020. This is three days after the VM34 November 7, 2020 file was created. In these instances, the voter may legitimately not appear on the Monthly VM34 file created in November and then be listed on the December file.

Cyber Ninjas also incorrectly concludes that the County creates an official precinct register report that is distributed to voting locations for check-in purposes. Since the County uses an electronic check-in system (SiteBook described above), the County does not create a paper precinct register. Rather, the precinct register is maintained in real-time and updated through Election Day.

Item #13: Early Ballot Envelope Images

(EchoMail Report)

EchoMail made many false, inaccurate, and misleading claims about Maricopa County's early ballots due to a flawed understanding of the County's signature verification process. Addressed in this report are 10 claims made by EchoMail. All were found to be based in a misunderstanding of Arizona laws and County early ballot processes.

EchoMail Report			County Analysis
Page Number	Claim Topic	Envelopes	
Pg. 14	Canvass Requirements	n/a	False Claim
	17,126 "Duplicate" Early Ballot Images	17,126	Misleading Claim
	More Envelopes Processed & Submitted than Identified by EchoMail	6,545	Misleading Claim
Pg. 14-15	No Signatures, Scribbles & Bad Signature Rates	2,580	Inaccurate Claim
		9,589	Inaccurate Claim
Pg. 15	Increase in Envelopes but Decrease in Signature Rejections	n/a	Inaccurate Claim
Pg. 74-75	Daily Duplicate Numbers	7,797	Misleading Claim
Pg. 79	Stamped in Signature Region	n/a	Misleading Claim
Pg. 84	Stamp Behind the Envelope Triangle	n/a	Misleading Claim
Pg. 85-86	Two-Different Voter IDs	n/a	Misleading Claim

State & Federal Laws

Arizona law governs the type of early ballot request and return reports that are required to be provided to registered political parties, laws around temporary early ballot requests, curing signatures, and special election boards. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-168 (C.11)(D)
- A.R.S. § 16-542(E)
- A.R.S. § 16-550 (A)
- A.R.S. § 16-549(A)(C)(D)

Maricopa County Findings

Maricopa County has had "no excuse" early voting since 1992. In the 2020 General Election, over 91% of voters participating in the election cast an early ballot. Maricopa County has a rigorous signature verification process. All ballot affidavit envelopes require a signature that is checked against a known signature on the official voter registration file. The Elections Department has strong internal controls and tracking methods for ballot security. Only verified ballots with signatures on their affidavit envelopes are counted, but we report all uncounted, rejected ballots as well.

The accuracy and completeness of Maricopa County's signature verification process was confirmed in court (*Ward v. Jackson*). The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the lower court ruling, "conclud[ing], unanimously, that...the challenge fails to present any evidence of 'misconduct,' 'illegal votes' or that the Biden Electors 'did not in fact receive the highest number of votes for office,' let alone establish any degree of fraud or a sufficient error rate that would undermine the certainty of the election results." (Ariz. S. Ct., December 9, 2020)

Summary
(EchoMail Report Pgs. 14-16, 74-75, 79 & 84-86)

The "anomalies" EchoMail uncovered are due to a flawed understanding of signature verification laws and practices. The EchoMail analysis did not consider the signature curing process, which accounts for multiple scanned images on an envelope, but only one ballot that was counted.

Canvass Requirements
EchoMail Report (pg. 14): "It is unknown, per the CANVASS report, how many EVB return envelopes were originally received by Maricopa election officials."

The purpose of the canvass is to report final results for each precinct and to officially certify the election. What is required to be reported in the canvass is clearly outlined in state law A.R.S. §§ 16-642-16-651 and the Arizona Elections Procedures Manual (Section II, Pgs. 239-244) 2019. It is not meant to report how many return envelopes were received or how many envelope images were captured, because those envelope images have no bearing on how many valid ballots were tabulated. Return envelopes can be scanned multiple times if there are questions about the voter's signature or if there is not a signature on the envelope. If a return packet is ultimately rejected (bad signatures, no signatures, etc.), that number is required to be reported in the canvass. During a general election, the canvass must be done no later than 20 days after Election Day.

The canvass must contain:

1. A Statement of Votes Cast, which includes:
    a. The number of ballots cast in each precinct and in the county;
    b. The number of ballots rejected in each precinct and in the county;
    c. The titles of the offices up for election and the names of the persons (along with the party designation, if any, of each person) running to fill those offices;
    d. The number of votes for each candidate by precinct and in the county;
    e. The number and a brief title of each ballot measure; and
    f. The number of votes for and against each ballot measure by precinct and in the county. A.R.S. § 16-646.
2. A cumulative Official Final Report, which includes:
    a. The total number of precincts;
    b. The total number of ballots cast;
    c. The total number of registered voters eligible for the election;
    d. The number of votes for each candidate by district or division, including a designation showing which candidate received the highest number of votes;
    e. The number of votes for and against each ballot measure by district, including a designation of which choice received the highest number of votes;
    f. The total number of votes in each district or division.
3. A Write-Ins Vote Report, which includes the name and number of votes for each authorized write-in candidate by precinct

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- In addition, four other reports are required to be created and publicly reported in a general election, which include:
    1. Provisional Ballot Report
    2. Accessibility Report
    3. Voter Education Report
    4. Poll Worker Training Report

As required by the law, Maricopa County reported in the canvass that 1,915,487 early ballots were counted in the November 2020 General Election. An additional 2,976 early ballots were returned but not counted: 587 bad signatures, 1,455 no signatures and 934 late returns. In order to report these figures, the County maintains a full accounting of all ballot returns and keeps a record of each time an envelope is scanned. Federal and state laws do not have a reporting requirement for listing the number of early ballot envelopes received. It is not uncommon for the County to receive a small number of late early ballot affidavits after the canvass is complete and certified.

17,126 "Duplicate" Early Ballot Images

EchoMail Report (pg. 14): "EchoMail identified 34,448 EVB return envelope images being 2-copy, 3-copy, and 4-copy Duplicates originating from 17,126 unique voters, while no Duplicates were reported in Maricopa's CANVASS report."

Maricopa County only counts one ballot per eligible voter. The canvass is designed to report ballots, not envelopes. EchoMail did not understand that Maricopa County may scan an envelope multiple times as a voter "cures" a signature issue or signs a blank envelope. Early ballot envelopes are NOT opened until a signature is verified.

As commanded by the January 12, 2021 subpoena, the County provided the Senate every envelope scan for early ballot envelopes. The Elections Department may scan an envelope multiple times if the signature is questioned or left blank. As required by law, staff work to contact these voters to offer them the opportunity to "cure" the signature issue. During the 2020 General Election, Maricopa County contacted upwards of 25,000 such voters.

EchoMail reported that 17,126 duplicate envelope images were provided to the Senate. It's absolutely true that an envelope may be scanned in multiple times. When an early ballot is returned, the envelope is scanned in and sent to signature verification. 100% of mail-in ballot signatures are verified by trained staff. If a signature is questioned, the voter is contacted to verify the signature. After the signature is cured, the envelope would be scanned a second time, then sent to processing to be opened. There are several reasons why an affidavit envelope may be scanned three or even four times. No matter how many times an envelope is scanned, the envelope is not opened unless the signature is verified.

Some have asked why there is a difference between EchoMail's 17,129 early ballot envelope number and Cyber Ninjas' 9,041 early ballot return number. The reason is straight forward. While EchoMail looked all ballot envelope scans through the "questionable signature" cure period (ending November 10, 2020), Cyber Ninjas looked at the EV33 Returned File, which is a daily file of early ballots returned until the day before Election Day (November 2, 2020). Every voter that cured their signature from November 3-10, 2020 and all voters that did not, would not be included in Cyber Ninjas' total. Envelopes can be scanned multiple times during this process, but as stated above, it is not opened without a good or cured signature.

More Envelopes Processed & Submitted than Identified by EchoMail

EchoMail Report (pg. 14): "6,545 more *unique EVB return envelopes were processed by Maricopa than identified by EchoMail."*

As commanded by the Senate's subpoena in January, Maricopa County provided the Senate with more than 1.9 million early ballot envelope images for ballots that were counted. That file included all scans of the envelopes throughout the election cycle. The Senate's August 2021 subpoena commanded the production of all "envelope" images. Below in *ENVELOPES Table #1* outlines the total number of envelope images provided to the Senate compared to the total number of early ballots counted.

ENVELOPES Table #1 - Ballot Envelope Images Provided to the Senate				
Category	**Scans**	**Date Provided**	**Unique Voters**	**Total Unique Voters**
Envelope Images	1,919,598	August 18, 2021	1,902,276	1,911,919
	9,643	September 16, 2021	9,643	
Early Ballots Counted (Reported in the Official Canvass)				1,915,487
Difference (Empty Affidavit Envelopes, Protected Voters, and Other Situations)				3,568

The difference between the total number of unique envelope images and the number of early ballots counted is due to protected voters and cancelled voters. The County is required under A.R.S. § 16-153 to protect the confidentiality of protected voters (judges, law enforcement, domestic violence victim, etc.). These envelope images were not provided. The County had more than 3,000 protected voters participate in the November 2020 General Election.

No Signatures, Scribbles & Bad Signature Rates

EchoMail Report (pg. 14-15): "464 more 'No Signature' EVB return envelopes were reported by EchoMail... 2,580 scribbles identified...9,589 more EVB return envelopes were submitted for Signature Verification by Maricopa than the EVB return envelope images identified by EchoMail as having signatures."

EchoMail's conclusion that Maricopa County had too few invalid signatures (eg. Reporting only 587 "bad signatures" out of the 1,918,463 counted), or that the County approved scribbles and envelopes without signatures demonstrates a misunderstanding of Arizona election laws. Counties are required to contact voters when their signatures cannot be verified, or when they did not sign the affidavit envelope and offer those voters an opportunity to "cure" their signatures (A.R.S. § 16-550). This "cure" period for the General Election, which is outlined further below, allows voters five business days to verify and validate their signatures. This additional time reduces the number of ballot packets ultimately designated "bad signature."

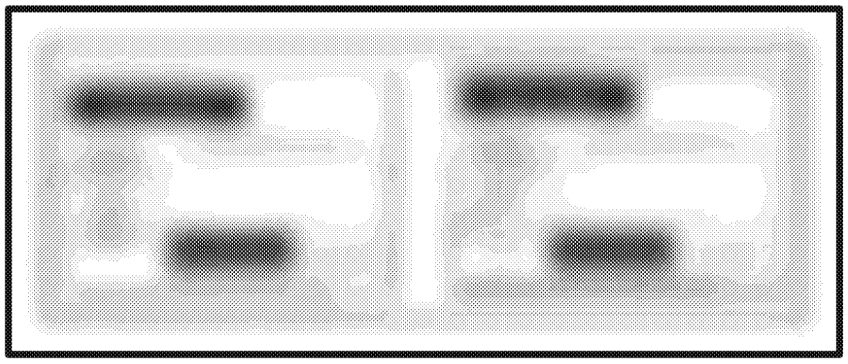
Maricopa County has a multi-level signature verification process to review 100% of the signatures on mail-in ballots. Trained staff first look at the broad and local characteristics of the signature and compare it to one signature on file. In this first review, staff can only select one of two options: approve the signature (if it matches the one signature used for this initial review) or move it to an "exception" status (if it does not). If an envelope is moved to an "exception status," the manager is able to review every signature sample we have on file for that particular voter. Additionally, in every batch of approximately 10,000 signatures, the managers perform a statistically significant 2% audit of the signatures within that batch.

Questioned Signatures

If the signature doesn't match any of the voter's signatures on file, the manager would mark it as a questionable signature and the voter is notified by mail, email, text and phone (if available in the voter record and/or signed up for text alerts). If the voter returns our messages and confirms the ballot and signature is valid, staff stamp the envelope with "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp and it would be rescanned and sent to ballot processing and

tabulation. Pursuant to law, voters had until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10 to cure their signature for the November 2020 General Election. An envelope is not opened unless there is a verified signature.

ENVELOPES Image #1 - Scribble Verified by Voter



(Above) Blurred Image from Figure 49 of the EchoMail report on page 65.

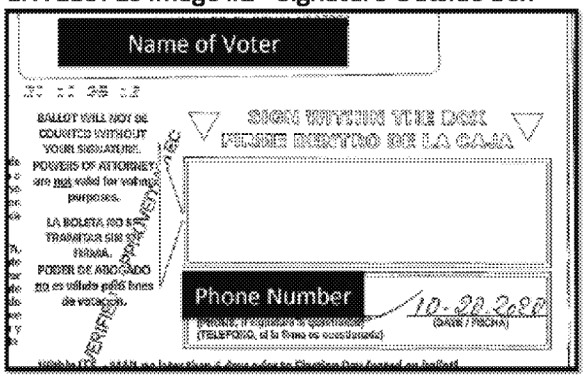
EchoMail provided a great example of this process on in Figure 49 on page 65 of its report. The image on the left is the first scan. If it was questioned, a manager would have reviewed other signature samples or the voter would have been contacted directly to offer him or her the opportunity to cure the signature issue. Once cured, staff would add the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp to the envelope and it would be rescanned and sent to ballot processing and tabulation. To determine the exact path this envelope packet took, the County would need the Voter ID number.The conclusion that a "scribble" could not be viable as a valid signature, is incorrect. In addition to the fact that some people intentionally use a scribble as their signature, other people's signatures degrade or mature over time, even to a point of being a scribble. Below are the most common reasons that a signature could be inconsistent with the other signatures in the voter's registration record:

- Natural shifts and changes overtime
- Maturing (18-years-old versus 40-years-old)
- Deterioration with age
- Professional versus personal signature (i.e. physicians)
- Writing surface
- Writing instrument used to sign the envelope
- Medical conditions or illness impacting handwriting (i.e. stroke)

Blank Signatures

While voters are instructed to sign in the signature box, that doesn't always happen. If the scanned image of the signature area on the affidavit envelope is blank, the manager requests the actual physical packet to see if there is a signature somewhere else on the affidavit envelope. If there is a signature elsewhere that matches the signature on file, the manager would stamp the envelope "Verified and Approved MCTEC" and it would be rescanned for retention of that updated second-scan image and consequently sent to ballot processing and tabulation as valid to count. If there is no signature, the voter is notified by mail, email, text and phone (if available in the voter record and/or signed up for text alerts). Voters had until 7 p.m. on Election Day to sign the envelope or vote a new ballot in-person. If the voter signs the envelope prior to the deadline, staff would add the "Verified

ENVELOPES Image #2 - Signature Outside Box



(Above) Image from EchoMail's September 24, 2021 presentation to the Senate (Page 96).

and Approved MCTEC" stamp and send it to be rescanned. An envelope is not opened unless there is an approved and verified signature.

EchoMail stated they "analyzed, solely [the] signature region" inside the scanned image of the signature box. Without this additional inspection of the full, physical affidavit envelope packet, there can be no conclusions on whether the envelope had a signature. Further proof of this within EchoMail's September 24 presentation (see *ENVELOPES Image #2)*. EchoMail indicated the image was a "blank signature." But it looks to have a signature in the phone number region. If this were the case and the signature matched the voter registration records, that ballot would be counted.

Increase in Envelopes but Decrease in Signature Rejections

EchoMail Report (pg. 15): "While the number of EVB return envelopes in Maricopa for the 2016 general election increased...for the 2020 general election... the number of rejections from Signature Mismatches...decreased. This inverse relationship requires an explanation."

The explanation is simple. The law changed. The increase in the number of cured signatures as compared to 2016 is a result of a law passed in 2019, that allows voters five business days after Election Day to cure a questioned signature. The law also requires that blank envelopes must be signed by the voter no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. As Maricopa County planned for a large number of early ballots dropped off on Election Day, combined with the new curing law, the Elections Department hired 40 additional staff to work October 30 to November 6, 2020. These employees were specifically assigned to contact voters with questioned signatures to offer them the opportunity to cure their signatures, as the law requires.

Daily Duplicate Numbers

EchoMail Report (pg. 74-75): "The graph reveals a significant surge of 7,797 Duplicates during the six days from 11/04/2020 to 11/09/2020."

There are several reasons why more envelope image scans are completed following the election. Arizona law does not require voters to mail their early ballots to the Elections Department. In addition to returning their ballot by mail, a voter is legally allowed to return their voted early ballots to ballot drop boxes at officially designated locations, including voting locations. More than 170,000 early ballots were dropped off on Election Day. On page 85, EchoMail states that "over 85% of the daily" early ballot return envelopes are duplicates. This is consistent with the fact that if a signature is questioned, staff has only a week following the election to contact the voter and offer the voter the opportunity to cure the signature issue. Staff work quickly to identify a signature issue and contact the voter.

Stamped in Signature Region

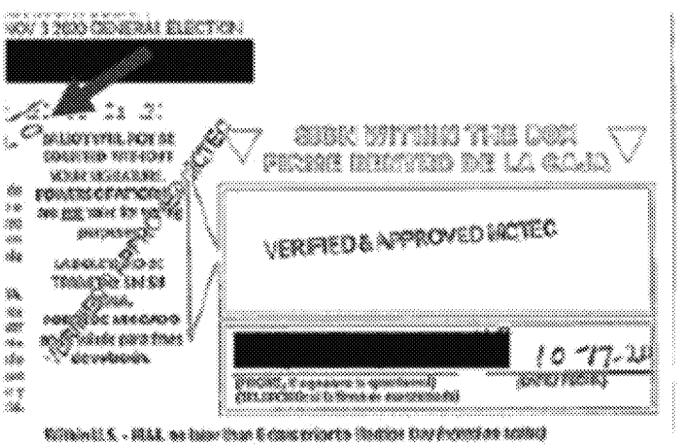
EchoMail Report (pg. 79): Two verified and approved stamps on a single image scan.

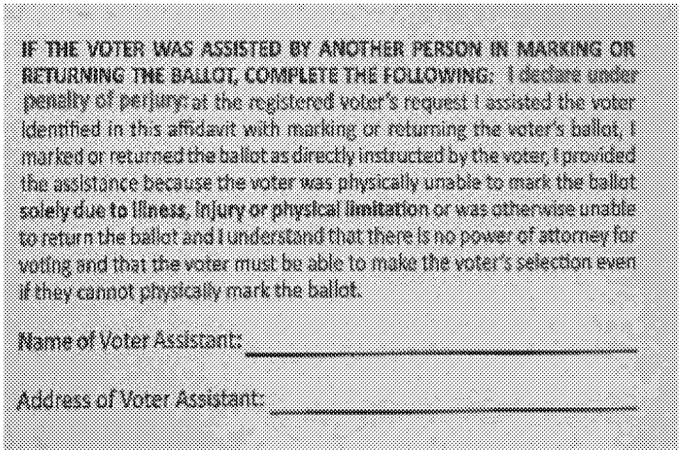
There are viable reasons why two "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamps would appear on a single image scan (see *ENVELOPES Image #3)*. Upon review of the full packet, the staff is adding clarity when a signature is found outside of the clipped signature window. See the image to the left where the red arrow is pointed to what appears to be the voter's signature outside of the "Signature Region" that EchoMail inspected for its analysis.

Alternatively, this can occur when a voter is assisted by a Special Election Board (SEB), such as a disabled voter who does not have use of his/her hands. These boards are made up of two members from differing political parties as outlined in

A.R.S. § 16-549. If a voter is unable to make a mark, the Board can indicate this and sign to the left of the affidavit's signature block in the assistance attestation section also shown above (i.e. Name of Voter Assistant). The Board then uses the "Verified

ENVELOPES Image #3 - Two Verified & Approved Stamps on Envelope




IF THE VOTER WAS ASSISTED BY ANOTHER PERSON IN MARKING OR RETURNING THE BALLOT, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: I declare under penalty of perjury: at the registered voter's request I assisted the voter identified in this affidavit with marking or returning the voter's ballot, I marked or returned the ballot as directly instructed by the voter, I provided the assistance because the voter was physically unable to mark the ballot solely due to illness, injury or physical limitation or was otherwise unable to return the ballot and I understand that there is no power of attorney for voting and that the voter must be able to make the voter's selection even if they cannot physically mark the ballot.

Name of Voter Assistant: _____

Address of Voter Assistant: _____

(Left) Image from the EchoMail Report on page 96 of an envelope with two "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamps. The red arrow was added by the County for clarify. (Right) Image of the early ballot assistance attestation section on the outside of the early ballot affidavit envelope.

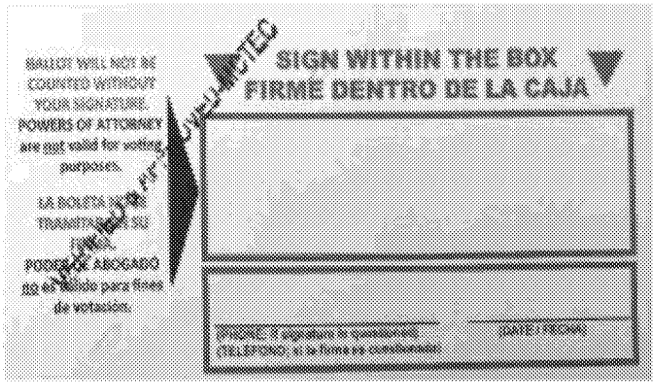
and Approved MCTEC" stamp so signature verification staff know the voter's identity was verified.

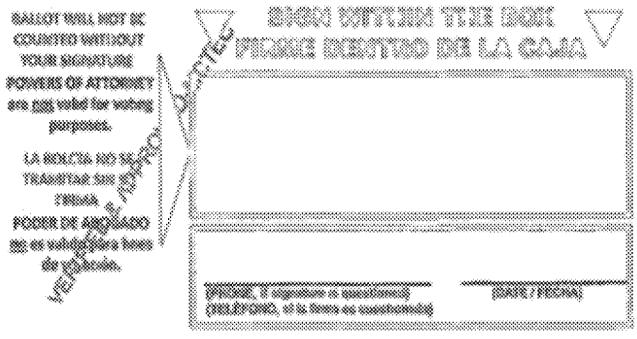
Stamp Behind the Envelope Triangle

EchoMail Report (pg. 84): Verified and approved behind the envelope triangle.

The reason the scanned stamp looks like it's behind the triangle is due to a common practice on high-speed scanners called "binary image format," which means the scanner takes a black pixel or a white pixel only capture. When an early ballot affidavit envelope is returned, it is scanned using this process. The binary image process looks to enhance edges.

ENVELOPES Image #4 - Verified & Approved Stamp Behind the Triangle





(Left) Image of the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp on an early ballot affidavit envelope not using a high-speed scanner. (Right) Image of the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp on an early ballot affidavit envelope after it was scanned using a binary image format.

Once the edges are determined, any filled area on that binary scan is "hollowed out" and only shows the outline of the shape or words (left image). This process improves speed and readability while reducing file size. While the "Verified and Approved MCTEC" stamp is used after the rigorous verification process described above, it appears to be behind the "hollowed out" arrow because it is stamped over the black and red arrows. Images captured in a binary format are standard within the industry and used by most mail sorters to:

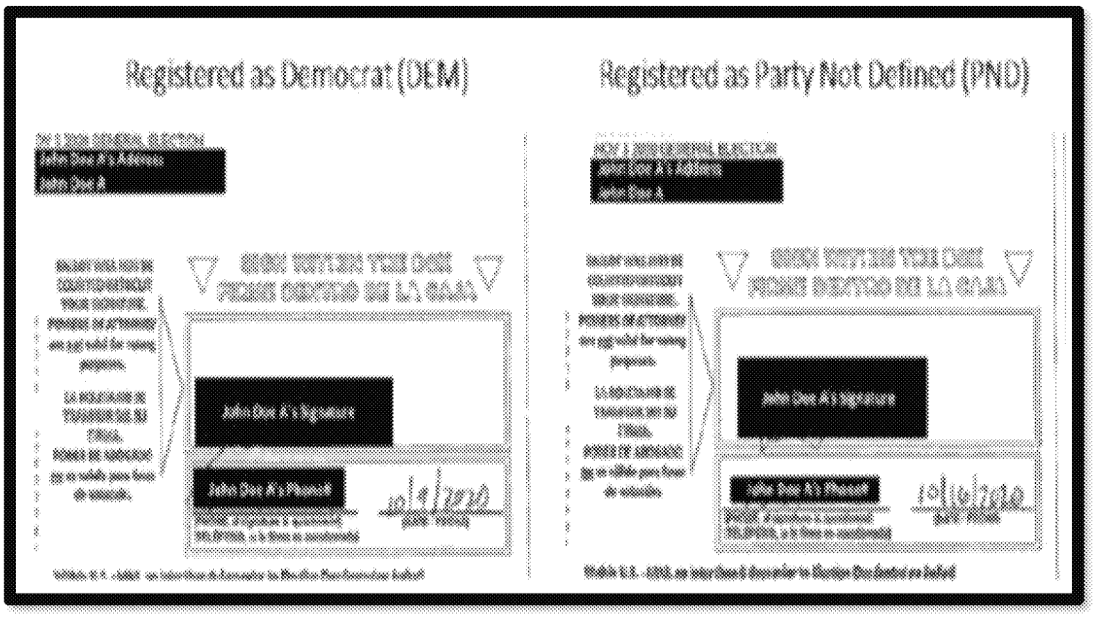
- enhance the barcodes for readability
- reduce image size
- increase rate of transmission across the network for saving the image — the high-speed scanners used to scan in early ballot envelope returns read and take images of 12-15 envelopes per second
- improve resolution — the high-speed scanners used to scan in early ballot envelope returns captures images at approximately 250 dpi. A color scanner would reduce resolution to 100 dpi at these speeds.

Two-Different Voter IDs

EchoMail Report (pg. 85-86): Same Name, Same Signature, Same Phone, Two Different Voter-IDs

Maricopa County has instances of voters with the same name in the same household (e.g., Sr. and Jr.). The example provided on page 85 of the Echo Mail Report and shown in *ENVELOPES Image #5* below shows that in fact the signatures are different. On the left image, the first name downstroke at the beginning of the signature goes into the phone number. The visible markings on the packet on the right stay closer to the bottom of the signature area. Additionally, the dates signed on the affidavits are different. To verify the actual circumstance with certainty, the County would need the Voter IDs associated with these sample records shown in the EchoMail report.

ENVELOPES Image #5 - Two Envelopes, Same Name



(Left) Image from EchoMail Report on page 85 of show two separate envelopes

Item #14: Damaged and Duplicated Ballots

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.5.2, 5.6.2, 5.6.14, 5.7.3)

Cyber Ninjas made four claims about Maricopa County's ballot duplication process. These claims demonstrate a lack of understanding of state law and elections procedures. Additionally, the Senate's machine count also found a variance from Cyber Ninjas' hand count, which reviewed the duplicated numbers below. Those discrepancies cast doubt on the reliability of Cyber Ninjas' methodology and results. All of Cyber Ninjas' claims described below are inaccurate and cannot be substantiated.

Cyber Ninja Volume III			County Analysis	
Reference	Claim	Ballots		
5.5.2 (pg. 13)	"More Duplicates than Original Ballots"	2,592	0	No ballots were found counter to A.R.S. § 16-621(A) or the Elections Procedures Manual (Pg. 201-202)
5.6.2 (pg. 22)	"Duplicated Ballots Incorrect & Missing Serial Numbers"	~500	0	
5.6.14 (pg. 47)	"Duplicate Ballots Reuse Serial Numbers"	6	0	
Total(s)		4,981	0	
5.7.3 (pg. 50)	"Commingled Damaged and Original Ballots"	N/A	Inaccurate Claim	

State & Federal Laws

A.R.S. § 16-621(A) governs how "damaged or defective" ballots that can't be run through the tabulation equipment should be duplicated.

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.5.2 (More Duplicates than Originals), 5.6.2 (Duplicated Ballots Incorrect or Missing Serial Numbers), 5.6.14 (Duplicated Ballots Reuse Serial Numbers) & 5.7.3 (Comingled Damaged and Original Ballots)

> **The courts that examined the County's duplication process found that the process was reliable. There was no evidence of fraud and only a very minimal number of human duplication errors, which the courts conclude had no bearing on the election outcome. At no point were illegitimate ballots duplicated and the County has a thorough accounting of all duplicated ballots.**

Response and Analysis

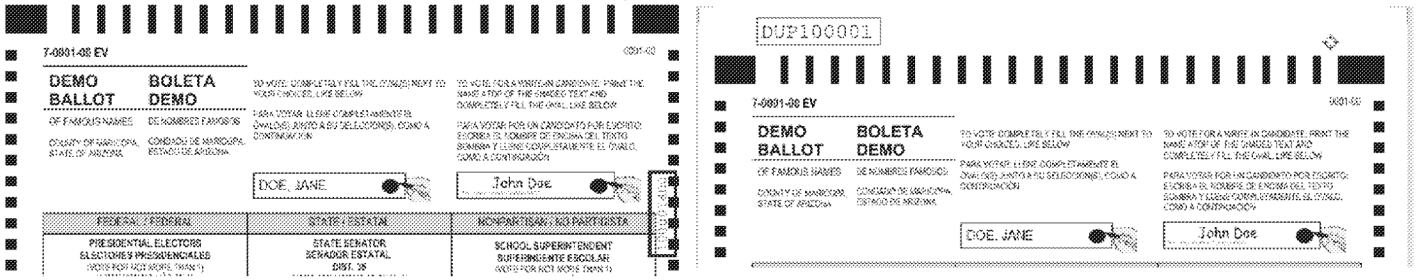
The accuracy and completeness of Maricopa County's duplication process was confirmed in court (*Ward v. Jackson*) where the court ordered a random sampling of 1,626 of the more than 27,000 duplicated ballots that, because of damage or for other reasons, had to be duplicated by bipartisan duplication teams. The court found that the duplication process was reliable, with only a very small number of duplication errors, none of which affected the election outcome and are not evidence of fraud. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the lower court ruling, "conclude[ing], unanimously, that . . the

challenge fails to present any evidence of 'misconduct,' 'illegal votes' or that the Biden Electors 'did not in fact receive the highest number of votes for office,' let alone establish any degree of fraud or a sufficient error rate that would undermine the certainty of the election results." (Ariz. S. Ct., December 9, 2020)

At no point were illegitimate ballots duplicated or inserted into the duplication process. Because the different sizes and formats of ballots cast by voters who are in the military, temporarily overseas, vote using large print or braille ballots, Maricopa County duplicates these ballots as prescribed for in A.R.S. § 16-621(A) and the Elections Procedures Manual (EPM) 2019 (Pg. 201-202). As required by these same laws, the County does the same for ballots that are returned too damaged to be read by the tabulator. During the duplication process, the Elections Department assigns a matching serial number to both the original and duplicated ballot.

If the original ballot is of standard size and can be scanned by our duplication scanners, we scan the ballot using a commercial scanner. We call these duplicated ballots "Dups." The scanner automatically assigns a sequential serial number and prints this number on the left side of the (original) ballot near the timing marks. Our duplication system then affixes a matching serial number to the top of the (duplicated) ballot. For an example see *DUP Image #1* below.

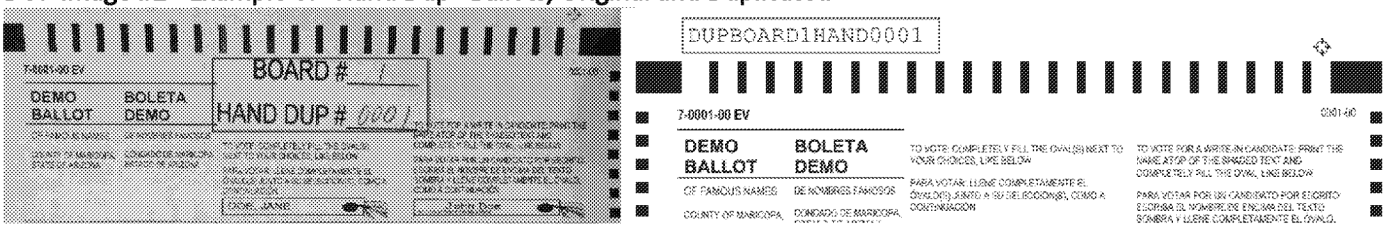
DUP Image #1 - Example of "Dup" Ballots, Original and Duplicated



(Left) An example of an original ballot with a scanned serial number near the timing marks. (Right) An example of a duplicated ballot with a marrying number at the top of the ballot.

If the original ballot is a large print, braille, UOCAVA, or damaged ballot that cannot be scanned, we use a physical stamp that includes the board number and the system generated hand duplication number. We call these duplicated ballots "Hand Dups." When the bipartisan citizen boards duplicate these Hand Dup ballots, the system automatically assigns a sequential marrying number. The duplicated ballot will have this number affixed to the top of the ballot. The citizen boards are instructed to write this system generated serial number on the original ballot. For an example see DUP Image #2 below.

DUP Image #2 - Example of "Hand Dup" Ballots, Original and Duplicated

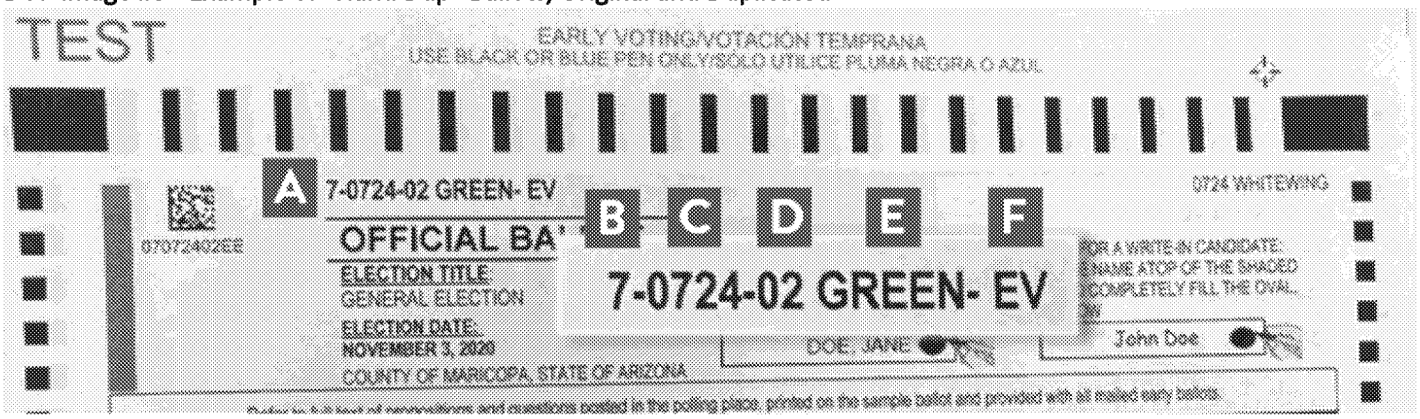


(Left) An example of an original ballot with a hand dupped serial number near the timing marks. (Right) An example of a hand duplicated ballot with a marrying number at the top of the ballot.

There are several indicators that are used to match the original ballot with the duplicated ballot. The system generated numbers, the ballot type and the ballot style. Each ballot has a *type* (EV – Early, ED – Election Day, PV – Provisional) that is identified on the top left of the ballot (see *DUP Image #3*). In the November 2020 General Election there were also 10,920 unique ballot *styles* depending on the voter's precinct, precinct split, language preference, or federal only registration status. This information is found on the top of the ballot as well and can also be used to match the original ballot with the duplicated ballot. Below is an example of a ballot style, each letter corresponds to its purpose.

- A – the entire letter and number sequence is the ballot style
- B – this is only customized in a primary election when voters choose a party ballot
- C – this is the precinct number
- D – this indicates the number of boundary splits within a precinct, meaning there are multiple ballot styles within the precinct
- E – a color is assigned for each precinct split (green, gold, purple etc.)
- F – this is the ballot type. It could be EV (early ballot), ED (Election Day ballot) or PV (provisional ballot)

DUP Image #3 - Example of "Hand Dup" Ballots, Original and Duplicated



(Above) An image of the letters and numbers within the ballot style code. See bulleted list above for descriptions.

2,592 Ballots

5.5.2 – Appendix F1 and F2 (More Duplicates Than Original Ballots)

On page 13, Cyber Ninjas claim that their comparison of original, damaged ballots to duplicate ballots found a discrepancy of 2,592 ballots. The County has a detailed record of all original ballots that were sent to duplication and subsequently duplicated (see *Exhibit - DUPLICATED BALLOTS*). This listing shows that there were 1,748 Election Day ballots and 26,131 early ballots. This totals 27,879, the amount that the County reported during the *Ward v. Jackson* court case. We cannot determine why Cyber Ninjas obtained a different count, but it has been reported that during Cyber Ninjas' hand count, observers noted contractors spilled a box of UOCAVA ballots "across the Coliseum floor." The Senate's machine count also found variance from the hand count, which is an indication that Cyber Ninjas' hand count process was unreliable.

~500 & 6

5.6.2 (Duplicated Ballots Incorrect & Missing Serial Numbers) and Section 5.6.14 (Duplicate Ballots Reuse Serial Numbers)

The County is not aware of any instances in which an original or duplicated ballot was missing a serial number. Cyber Ninjas did not provide a data set that included any information by which to compare. The County acknowledges that there may be some instances where the serial number was printed over a timing mark on the original damaged ballot. This may make it difficult to read the serial number on the original ballot. Since the duplicated ballot and not the original is tabulated, the added serial number overlapping a timing mark does not impact tabulation.

The County has also identified 27 instances where a similar serial number was used for both "Dup" and "Hand Dup" ballots. Due to the three indicators that are used to match the original ballot with the duplicated ballot (dup number, ballot style and ballot type), the original and duplicate ballot could be matched in all instances, which means that there is no confusion concerning which original corresponds to which duplicated ballot (see *DUP BALLOTS Table #1*).

DUP BALLOTS Table #1 - Maricopa County's Analysis of Duplicated Ballots with Similar Serial Numbers

Duplication Number	1st Ballot Type/Style	2nd Ballot Type/Style	Can Ballots Be Matched?
DUPBOARD4HAND0005	Early Ballot-07066501EE	Election Day Ballot-07044100PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0003	Early Ballot-07023101EE	Election Day Ballot-07025301PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0007	Early Ballot-07040100EE	Election Day Ballot-07069001PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0008	Early Ballot-07041099EE	Election Day Ballot-07028201PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0004	Early Ballot-07034801EE	Election Day Ballot-07067101PE	Yes
DUPBOARD9HAND0165	Early Ballot-07008500EE	Early Ballot-07034100EE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0006	Early Ballot-07066501EE	Election Day Ballot-07011100PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0001	Early Ballot-07018900EE	Election Day Ballot-07025200PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0002	Early Ballot-07039400EE	Election Day Ballot-07067700PE	Yes
DUPBOARD4HAND0009	Early Ballot-07044100EE	Election Day Ballot-07069700PE	Yes
DUPBOARD2HAND0001	Early Ballot-07073999EE	Election Day Ballot-07018201DE	Yes
DUPBOARD13HAND0005	Early Ballot-07074300EE	Election Day Ballot-07029000DE	Yes
DUPBOARD13HAND0003	Early Ballot-07009501EE	Election Day Ballot-07040801DE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0001	Early Ballot-07012099EE	Election Day Ballot-07025601DE	Yes
DUPBOARD15HAND0002	Early Ballot-07059000EE	Election Day Ballot-07051199PE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0002	Early Ballot-07009499EE	Election Day Ballot-07030700DE	Yes
DUPBOARD13HAND0002	Early Ballot-07044100EE	Election Day Ballot-07029802DE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0003	Early Ballot-07022400EE	Election Day Ballot-07064200DE	Yes
DUPBOARD13HAND0004	Early Ballot-07071300EE	Election Day Ballot-07023500DE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0004	Early Ballot-07023799EE	Election Day Ballot-07050000DE	Yes
DUPBOARD15HAND0001	Early Ballot-07026099EE	Election Day Ballot-07020599PE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0005	Early Ballot-07003000EE	Election Day Ballot-07045600DE	Yes
DUPBOARD15HAND0003	Early Ballot-07026099EE	Election Day Ballot-07044700PE	Yes
DUPBOARD11HAND0006	Early Ballot-07033700EE	Election Day Ballot-07034100DE	Yes
DUPBOARD2HAND0002	Early Ballot-07051599EE	Election Day Ballot-07027801DE	Yes
DUPBOARD13HAND0001	Early Ballot-07005602EE	Election Day Ballot-07015801DE	Yes
DUPBOARD2HAND0003	Early Ballot-07063200EE	Election Day Ballot-07008900DE	Yes

The County incorporates a continuous improvement philosophy in all of our processes and decision making. When evaluating our duplication process, we had already begin making changes prior to Cyber Ninjas' review. During the 2021 election cycle, we took steps to prevent the duplication number from being printed over the timing marks and are incorporating additional indicators to streamline the serial numbers.

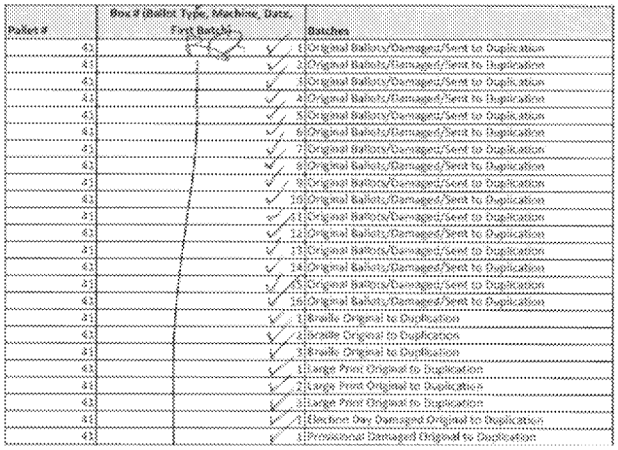
Informational

Section 5.7.3 (Commingled, Damaged, and Original Ballots)

On page 50 of its report, Cyber Ninjas incorrectly state that the County commingled original ballots with duplicated ballots. This is not accurate. All 14 batches listed in Cyber Ninjas report were tabulated ballots and did not contain any original ballots that were sent to duplication.

Cyber Ninjas further claim that both the original ballot and the duplicated ballots must be stored separately. This is also not accurate. There is no statutory requirement to store tabulated ballots in separate boxes – whether that ballot was duplicated or not.

DUP Image #4 – Ballot Custody Transfer Manifest



Pallet #	Box # (Ballot Type, Machine, Date, First Batch)	Batches
41	✓	1 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	2 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	3 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	4 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	5 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	6 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	7 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	8 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	9 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	10 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	11 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	12 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	13 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	14 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	15 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	16 Original Ballots/Damaged/Sent to Duplication
41	✓	1 Braille Original to Duplication
41	✓	2 Braille Original to Duplication
41	✓	3 Braille Original to Duplication
41	✓	1 Large Print Original to Duplication
41	✓	2 Large Print Original to Duplication
41	✓	3 Large Print Original to Duplication
41	✓	1 Election Day Damaged Original to Duplication
41	✓	1 Provisional Damaged Original to Duplication

(Above) Screenshot from page 4 of the Ballot Custody Transfer Manifest

There is, however, a requirement in the Elections Procedures Manual (pg. 202) that states the original ballot that needed to be duplicated must be contained in its own box and clearly marked. All of these ballots from the November 2020 General Election were segregated and the boxes were marked as Original Ballots/Damaged Ballots/Sent to Duplication, Braille Original to Duplication, Large Print Original to Duplication, etc. These original ballots were all included on pallet #41 when delivered to the Senate on March 3, 2021 as commanded by the January 2021 subpoena (*see DUP Image #4*). The County prepared the Ballot Custody Transfer Manifest to track the items provided to the Senate. That manifest included a summary the pallets and what was inside the sealed boxes (see *Exhibit - MANIFEST*).

Item #15: Ballots and Batch Discrepancies

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.6.12, 5.7.2)

Cyber Ninjas' report included two claims about the County's counting and handling of ballots. Our analysis and findings are summarized below.

Cyber Ninja Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.6.12 (pg. 45)	Double Scanned & Counted Ballots	50	50
5.7.2 (pg. 48)	Batch Discrepancies	N/A	False Claim

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.6.12 (Double Scanned Ballots) & 5.7.2 (Batch Discrepancies)

> **After Maricopa County's post-election review of all 2,089,563 ballot IDs, it appears that 50 ballots in one batch were scanned twice. This had no impact on the outcome of any contest.**

Response and Analysis

As part of the County's post-election review, we performed an analysis of the Cast Vote Record and all 2,089,563 unique ballot IDs. The Cast Vote Record is a complete log of how every contest was tabulated for every ballot. It also captures other information about the ballot including the ballot precinct, whether the ballot was adjudicated, and what percent of each oval was completed. By using the information listed below, we can create enough unique pieces of information to determine if there are any instances where a ballot's unique characteristics, matches another ballot's unique characteristics. If so, this could be an indication of a ballot being scanned twice.

- Ballot Style – In the November 2020 General Election there were 10,920 unique ballot styles, which have a unique letter and number sequence. Ballots are customized to ensure voters only vote for the contests and candidates in their area.
- Contests Voted – In the November 2020 General Election the majority of ballots had over 60 contests, with some ballots exceeding 70 contests.
- Percent of Oval Completed within 2% – Voters frequently only complete a portion of each oval. Given 60-70 contests, it is not likely for a voter to complete every oval the same as another voter.

After performing this analysis, we found 137 ballots that had the same combination of unique characteristics to another ballot. We then compared the images for these 137 and found that 87 were unique ballots and not a double counted ballot. After further review, it appears that a tabulator operator inadvertently included an already tabulated stack of 50 ballots from a previous batch in a subsequent batch. The two batches are listed below.

- Tabulator ID# 6004, Batch 287, Ballots 1 – 50 (50 ballots correctly scanned)

- Tabulator ID# 6004, Batch 288, Ballots 150-199 (50 ballots from the previous batch appear have been scanned again)

During the election, tabulation staff and political party observers perform a reconciliation of total ballots tabulated before and after each shift by comparing and confirming the totals on the tabulator screens to the totals collected in the previous shift. The 50-ballot-discrepancy was not identified because the totals from each central count tabulator matched the totals from the tabulation operator logs and early voting ballot reports (created by the bipartisan ballot processing board).

The County performed a review of the votes that were cast on these ballots for every contest and found that the double scanning of 50 ballots did not have an impact on the outcome of any contest. The *BALLOTS Table #1* below provides the vote counts from the 50 double scanned ballots for the Presidential Electors and U.S. Senate Contests.

BALLOTS Table #1 – Results of Presidential and Senate Contests from Batch 287 & 288			
Contest / Candidate	**Batch 287 & 288**	**Impacted Votes**	**Net Impact on Contest**
Presidential Electors (Trump)	188	17	14 - votes more for Biden
Presidential Electors (Biden)	195	31	
Presidential Electors (Jorgensen)	7	1	
Write-in	4	0	
Presidential Electors (Undervotes)	4	1	
Presidential Electors (Overvotes)	1	0	
U.S. Senate (McSally)	182	17	15 - votes more for Kelly
U.S. Senate (Kelly)	207	32	
U.S. Senate (Undervotes)	10	1	
U.S. Senate (Overvotes)	0	0	

No Batch Discrepancies

On Page 48 of Cyber Ninjas' report, they incorrectly conclude that the number of ballots in batch numbers listed in the Cast Vote Record do not match the total number of ballots listed on the blue tabulator operator logs. To support their claim, Cyber Ninjas' show an example of a blue operator log dated 10/31/2020, that logs activity from that day for Central Count Tabulator - Cannon 1. Cyber Ninjas compare these batch totals to the Cast Vote Record for Tabulator ID# 6001, batches 40 and 41.

However, to better organize ballots and to maintain efficient use of storage space, we limit the total number of batches for each tabulator to no more than 1,000 batches. Once we approach 1,000 batches on a single central count tabulator, we renumber the tabulators and restart batches at number 1. On October 28, we were approaching 1,000 batches counted on several of our central count tabulators. We renumbered each of the tabulators to the next sequential number and restarted batch numbers at #1 for all tabulators. For Cannon Central Count #1, the new assigned sequential number was 6021 instead of 6001. According to the Cast Vote records, the blue tabulator logs match with the Cast Vote Record for Tabulator ID# 6021, batches 40 and 41.

Item #16: UOCAVA Ballots

(Cyber Ninjas Volume III Report Sections – 5.6.7, 5.6.13, and 5.7.7)

Cyber Ninjas' report included three claims that made faulty or inaccurate statements about the County's processing or reporting of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots. Their claims were based on faulty data sets and a lack of understanding of elections administration.

Cyber Ninja Volume III			County Analysis
Reference	Claim	Ballots	
5.6.7 (pg. 30)	"Audit UOCAVA Count Does Not Match the EAC Count"	226	0
5.6.13 (pg.46)	"UOCAVA Electronic Ballots Double Counted"	6	0
Total(s)		232	0
5.7.7 (pg. 55)	"Inaccurate Identification of UOCAVA ballots"	N/A	False Claim

State & Federal Laws

There are both state and federal and laws that provide additional protections for active military and overseas voters. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act is commonly referred to as UOCAVA. UOCAVA citizens are U.S. citizens who are active members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. This Act provides the legal basis for these citizens' absentee voting requirements for federal offices. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) amended UOCAVA and other statutes by providing greater protections for Service Members, their eligible family members and other overseas citizens. Among other provisions, the MOVE Act requires states to send absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days before federal elections. Applicable Arizona laws include:

- A.R.S. § 16-542(B)
- A.R.S. § 16-543
- A.R.S. § 16-543.02

Maricopa County Findings

Summary

5.6.7 (Audit UOCAVA Count Does Not Match the EAC Count)

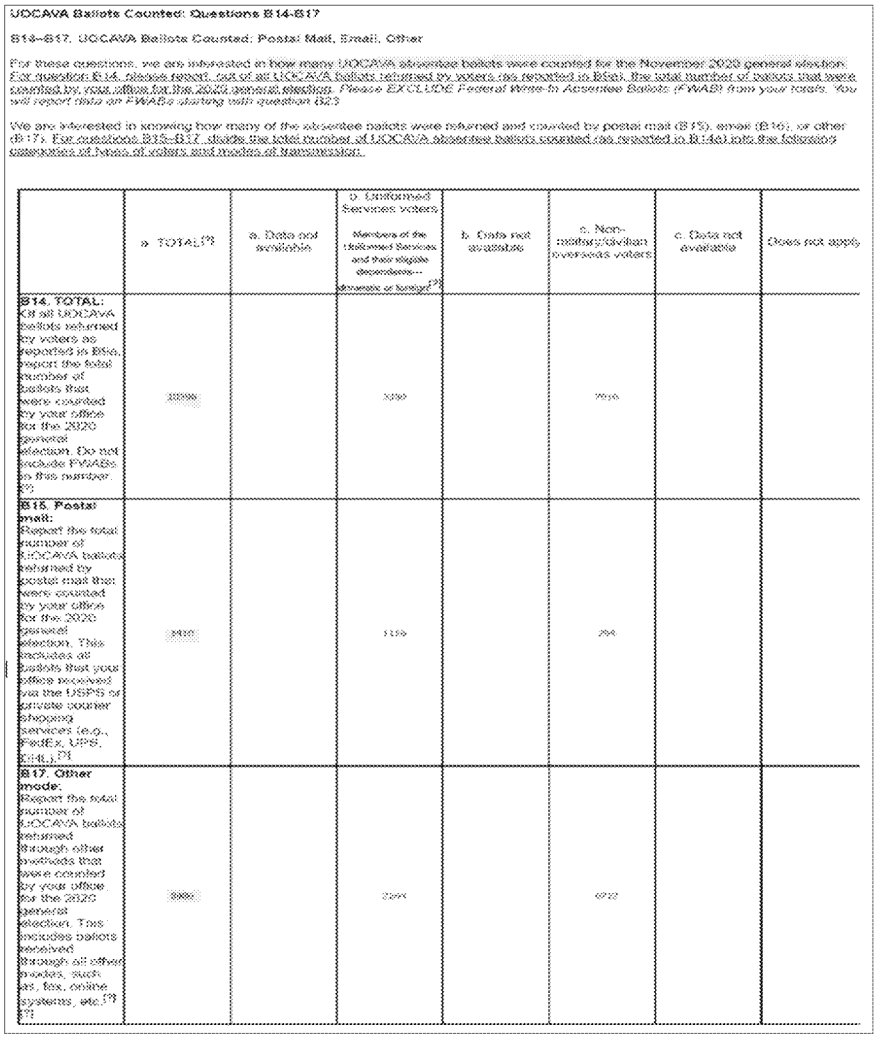
> **Cyber Ninjas incorrectly identified the number of UOCAVA ballots reported by the County to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for the EAVS Report.**

Response and Analysis

When performing this review, Cyber Ninjas used the incorrect data set from the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Report, a state-by-state report that covers data on various topics related to the administration of federal elections published by the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission. On page 30 of Cyber Ninjas report they state that there were 10,408 UOCAVA ballots cast in Maricopa County during the 2020 General Election as reported by the EAVS report. It appears Cyber Ninjas pulled data from the wrong section.

The EAVS report actually shows there are 10,396 UOCAVA ballots that were successfully counted for the November 2020 General Election and not 10,408. See *UOCAVA Image #1* below, which is from sections B14 through B17 of the Arizona specific EAVS Report that shows "Ballots Counted" as 10,396 (8,986 Electronic Voters + 1,410 Mail Voters). "Postal mail" are UOCAVA ballots returned by mail and "other mode" are ballots returned by fax or a secure electronic portal. This misstep in reading the EAVS report points to the lack of expertise by Cyber Ninjas on conducting research or interpreting election related data.

UOCAVA Image #1 - 2020 EAVS Report- Section B14-B17



UOCAVA Ballots Counted: Questions B14-B17

B14–B17. UOCAVA Ballots Counted: Postal Mail, Email, Other

For these questions, we are interested in how many UOCAVA absentee ballots were counted for the November 2020 general election. For question B14, please report, out of all UOCAVA ballots returned by voters (as reported in B9a), the total number of ballots that were counted by your office for the 2020 general election. Please EXCLUDE Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) from your totals. You will report data on FWABs starting with question B23.

We are interested in knowing how many of the absentee ballots were returned and counted by postal mail (B15), email (B16), or other (B17). For questions B15–B17, divide the total number of UOCAVA absentee ballots counted (as reported in B14a) into the following categories of types of voters and modes of transmission:

	a. TOTAL[1]	b. Data not available	c. Uniformed Services voters Members of the Uniformed Services and their eligible dependents—[2] Absentee or foreign[3]	d. Data not available	e. Non-military/civilian overseas voters	f. Data not available	Does not apply
B14. TOTAL: Of all UOCAVA ballots returned by voters as reported in B9a, report the total number of ballots that were counted by your office for the 2020 general election. Do not include FWABs in this number [1]	[redacted]		[redacted]		[redacted]		
B15. Postal mail: Report the total number of UOCAVA ballots returned by postal mail that were counted by your office for the 2020 general election. This includes all ballots that your office received via the USPS or private courier shipping services (e.g., FedEx, UPS, DHL). [1]	[redacted]		[redacted]		[redacted]		
B17. Other mode: Report the total number of UOCAVA ballots returned through other methods that were counted by your office for the 2020 general election. This includes ballots received through all other modes, such as, fax, online systems, etc.[1] [1]	[redacted]		[redacted]		[redacted]		

(Above) Screenshot of the 2020 EAVS Report, Section B14-B17, which shows Arizona's UOCAVA ballots returned by mail, fax or a secure electronic portal.

Cyber Ninjas' analysis further claims that there were 226 more electronically submitted UOCAVA ballots than the EAC reported total, which because of the misstep noted above, the corrected sum would now be 228. On page 30 of its report, Cyber Ninjas indicate that they had 9,214 electronically returned ballots "observed during the audit," which was "226 more electronically submitted UOCAVA ballots than the County reported to the EAC" when compared to the 8,988 they incorrectly found to be reported in that EAVS report – which is actually 8,986 reported to EAC for electronically counted UOCAVA ballots.

Regardless of their reported total, the County has a detailed record of voter-by-voter UOCAVA data records (see *Exhibit - UOCAVA*). This listing shows that there were 10,396 UOCAVA ballots returned and counted, 1,410 returned by mail and 8,986 returned electronically, which matches the EAVS report. We cannot determine why Cyber Ninjas obtained a different count. However, it has been reported that during Cyber Ninjas' hand count, observers noted contractors spilled a box of UOCAVA ballots "across the Coliseum floor." The Senate's machine count also found a variance from the hand count, which is an indication that Cyber Ninjas' hand count process was unreliable.

Summary

5.6.13 (UOCAVA Electronic Ballots Double Counted)

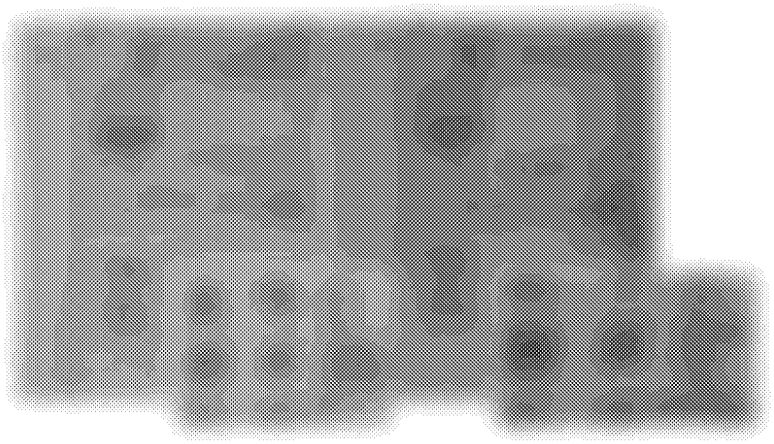
Cyber Ninjas' misunderstanding of the UOCAVA process resulted in an incorrect assumption that the County double counted UOCAVA voters' ballots. These ballots were voted by separate UOCAVA voters and returned in the same fax transmittal.

Response and Analysis

State and federal law provide military and overseas voters additional protections and time to participate in elections. The law allows UOCAVA voters to return ballots by mail, fax or through a secure electronic portal. While Cyber Ninjas did not provide the County with examples to support the six instances where they claim that a UOCAVA voter had their ballot counted twice, Cyber Ninjas included images for two of the six instances on Slide 21 of its presentation provided to the Arizona Senate. Upon inspection of the two separate ballots in the presentation images, it is clear that the ovals for the three voted contests (Presidential, U.S. Senate, and U.S. Representative) on the ballot are not filled-in using a similar fill pattern (see *UOCAVA Image #2. Note: To comply with the Arizona Constitution's guarantee of secrecy of the ballot, as well as A.R.S. § 16-1018(4), which prohibits showing voted ballots in a way that reveals the contents, we have blurred the images taken from Cyber Ninjas' presentation*). This should have been the first indicator to Cyber Ninjas that these ballots were not completed by the same voter.

Since Cyber Ninjas had never previously examined the results of an election and are decidedly not election experts, they may not understand that there are instances where multiple UOCAVA voters (e.g., spouses, parents, adult children) may live together. In such instances, these UOCAVA household voters can and mostly likely would use the same fax to return their ballots to the Elections Department. In the photos, Cyber Ninjas highlight that the fax date and the "*from*" fax number are the same. Based on this information alone, they incorrectly conclude that this indicates that the ballots were the same ballot and counted twice. This is an inaccurate assumption. These ballots were from two separate voters within the same household who returned their voted ballots using the same fax machine and same fax transmission, hence the fax date header would show the same transmission date and the same "*from*" transmission fax number. We have verified in tracking back to the actual fax transmission from these voters that they are indeed accompanied with two faxed back signed affidavits from two different voters noted and shown on file to be in the same UOCAVA household.

UOCAVA Image #2 – UOCAVA Ballot Images from Cyber Ninjas' Presentation



(Above) Blurred Images of UOCAVA ballot images from Cyber Ninjas' September 25, 2021 presentation to the Senate (Slide 21).

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Response and Analysis

5.7.7 (Inaccurate Identification of UOCAVA Ballots)

Cyber Ninjas include a finding where they state that the manifest the County used to transfer the ballots to the Senate does not identify which boxes contain UOCAVA ballots. The County had no operational need or statutory requirement to identify this information when the ballots were boxed and labeled, which occurred prior to the creation of the manifests.

DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(7)(E)

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

ABC News/Breitbart: Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem visits ICE facility at center of Portland protests

ABC News [10/7/2025 9:32 PM, Meredith Deliso, 30493K] reports Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem made a high-profile visit to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Portland on Tuesday amid a legal battle over sending federal troops to the Oregon city. Noem made a brief appearance on the roof of the facility, which has been the site of nightly demonstrations over the administration's immigration crackdown for several months. During her visit to the facility, she met with local law enforcement officials, including Portland Police Chief Bob Day, Oregon State Police Superintendent Casey Codding and Multnomah County Sheriff Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell, according to the Portland Police Bureau. Day thanked Noem for the time, saying during a press briefing

Tuesday evening, "I believe that communication is the first step to resolving our differences." He said Noem is "obviously and understandably" concerned for the safety of her staff, the building and "the ability for it to function." "We really tried to look for ways and solutions that might allow us to reduce some of the conflict and the dissidents down there in a way that's primarily for the safety of all," he said. Day said he would like to potentially see more of a police presence at the location. "We've been trying to coordinate that with the federal response, because we have differing policies and differing expectations around procedures, so we have to work more closely with them," he said. President Donald Trump last month directed Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to provide "all necessary troops" to Portland amid protests at the facility, claiming the city is a "war zone." Over the weekend, a U.S. district judge temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, finding that conditions in the city were "not significantly violent or disruptive" to justify a federal takeover of the National Guard, and that the president's claims about the city were "simply untethered to the facts." Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek said she reached out to Noem upon learning about a possible visit and met with the secretary at the airport upon her arrival Tuesday. "I was clear that I have confidence in local law enforcement to meet the moment," Kotek said in a statement. "I requested that Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents obey Oregon laws when they engage in federal operations. I reiterated that I continue to be focused on doing whatever I can to protect Oregonians from military intervention or harmful federal law enforcement tactics. Oregon is united against military policing in our communities," Kotek said. Breitbart [10/8/2025 2:10 AM, Staff, 2416K] reports that Noem's visit comes days after a federal judge issued two separate rulings blocking the Trump administration from sending federal troops to Portland, stating that nightly protests outside the facility did not amount to a rebellion. Accompanying Noem were conservative social media influencers who posted videos documenting her trip. Those videos included Noem confronting undocumented immigrants, who had been taken into custody by immigration authorities; blessing a meal from local chain Burgerville; and standing on top of the roof of the ICE facility, which President Donald Trump has likened to a "war zone." The video, posted by conservative media personality Benny Johnson, shows dozens of protesters gathered by the fence with some jeering as the Benny Hill theme song plays in the background. When Noem is asked about the protesters, particularly one wearing a chicken costume, she said her goal is for people to peacefully protest while the law is enforced. "It's too bad they are uneducated and ill informed," she said. Homeland Security's X account has posted videos of overnight clashes between protesters and federal agents. Portland City Attorney Robert Taylor has accused federal agents of using excessive force against protesters. Oregon's state and local officials have pushed back against the Trump administration's plans to send federal troops to the city, calling it an overreach that will inflame the situation. Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement that she met with Noem at the Portland airport shortly after her arrival and reiterated "that there is no insurrection in Oregon." "I requested that Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents obey Oregon laws when they engage in federal operations," Kotek said. "I reiterated that I continue to be focused on doing whatever I can to protect Oregonians from military intervention or harmful federal law enforcement tactics. Oregon is united against military policing in our communities." Later that evening, Noem said in a Fox News interview that she "was extremely disappointed" after meeting with Portland Mayor Keith Wilson. She said that if Wilson did not protect federal officers they would send four times the number of federal officers to the city.

Reported similarly:
(B) NBC News Daily [10/7/2025 3:05 PM, Staff]

Reuters: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem visits Portland ICE facility
Reuters [10/7/2025 9:46 PM, Staff, 36480K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem arrived in Portland, Oregon, on Tuesday (October 7), visiting a local ICE facility while a federal lawsuit over National Guard deployment continues to unfold. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
CNN [10/8/2025 4:31 AM, Staff, 23245K]

Washington Examiner: Noem warns Portland mayor she'll flood city with feds if security demands go unmet
Washington Examiner [10/7/2025 10:33 PM, Ross O'Keefe, 1394K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem warned she would send "four times" the number of federal officers to Portland, Oregon, if they don't receive more security assistance. Noem made the comments in an interview on Fox News on Tuesday night. "What I told him is that if he did not follow through on some of these security measures for our officers, we were going to cover him up with more federal resources and that we were going to send four times the amount of federal officers here so that the people of Portland could have some safety, they could have some security," she said, referencing her meeting with Portland Mayor Keith Wilson. She said her meeting with Wilson went poorly, and he did not commit to providing any of her security demands. According to Noem, Wilson said he would get back to her on Wednesday. Noem said she requested more security at Portland's ICE facility, a larger buffer zone between officers and protesters, and for them to open up the streets so the "anarchists" don't "run this city anymore." Noem visited a Portland ICE facility on Tuesday, watching protesters shout to her from below. The facility has seen law enforcement deploy tear gas and smoke to disperse large crowds of protesters. The Trump administration has sought a crackdown on Portland crime, ordering the National Guard to be deployed to the city. For now, a court has blocked the deployment twice, and it is currently in legal limbo. Trump said on Sunday that Portland is "burning down to the ground." Oregon has resisted the administration's demands for the National Guard. Gov. Tina Kotek (D-OR) said there is no insurrection in the state. "I requested that Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents obey Oregon laws when they engage in federal operations," the governor added. "I reiterated that I continue to be focused on doing whatever I can to protect Oregonians from military intervention or harmful federal law enforcement tactics. Oregon is united against military policing in our communities." The administration is confident that it will succeed in court and deploy the National Guard to patrol Portland's streets. "The President," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson told Politico, "will continue to be vindicated by higher courts when liberal activist judges attempt to intervene."

FOX News: Noem prays with ICE officers during Portland visit as Oregon governor orders troops home
FOX News [10/7/2025 6:16 PM, Alexandra Koch Fox, 40621K] reports Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem on Tuesday visited the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Portland, where protests continue amid the administration's immigration crackdown. Videos shared inside the facility showed Noem

meeting with local officials and taking the first few minutes to pray over officers. Her visit followed a heated meeting with Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek at the Portland airport, the governor's office confirmed. Kotek said she personally requested the meeting after hearing "through unofficial channels," Noem may be visiting the city. "Today, in my meeting with Secretary Noem, I reiterated again that there is no insurrection in Oregon," Kotek wrote in a statement. "Twice now, a federal judge has affirmed that there is no legal basis for military deployment in Portland. I was clear that I have confidence in local law enforcement to meet the moment.". The governor added that she requested DHS and ICE "obey Oregon laws when they engage in federal operations.". "I reiterated that I continue to be focused on doing whatever I can to protect Oregonians from military intervention or harmful federal law enforcement tacticsm" Kotek wrote. "Oregon is united against military policing in our communities.". Minutes later, the governor's office released a separate statement, confirming Kotek directed the U.S. Northern Command to take "immediate action" to demobilize Oregon's 200 National Guard members and California's 200 National Guard members, who were deployed to Portland to protect federal property and personnel near the facility.

Daily Caller/Blaze: Illegal Gangbanger Placed Bounty On Top Border Official, Feds Say

The Daily Caller [10/7/2025 8:55 AM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports an illegal migrant gangbanger allegedly offered thousands of dollars to kill one of the top enforcers of the Trump administration's immigration agenda. Federal law enforcement agents arrested Juan Espinoza Martinez, a criminal illegal migrant and member of the ruthless Latin Kings gang, on Monday, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Martinez is accused of offering at least $10,000 to take down Commander at Large of the Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino. "Depraved individuals like Juan Espinoza Martinez – who do not value human life and threaten law enforcement– do NOT belong in this country," Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a public statement. "We will not allow criminal gangs to put hits on U.S. government officials and our law enforcement officers." "Thanks to ICE and our federal law enforcement partners, this thug is off our streets and behind bars," McLaughlin continued. A confidential source provided information to law enforcement on Friday that a "hit" had been placed on Bovino, according to DHS. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) received a screenshot of a Snapchat conversation from a user named "Juan" who appeared to place a $2,000 reward for information on catching Bovino and a $10,000 bounty "if you take him down.". ICE identified the user as Martinez and arrested him shortly afterward in Burr Ridge, Illinois, according to DHS. The Justice Department is prosecuting him for soliciting the murder of a senior law enforcement official. "These attacks on our brave law enforcement officers must END. Secretary Noem has been crystal clear: If you threaten or lay a hand on law enforcement, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," McLaughlin said. Blaze [10/7/2025 12:30 PM, Cooper Williamson, 1442K] reports that Martinez, 37, allegedly sent Snapchat messages that read, "2k on information when you get him," and, "10k if you take him down.". "Putting a price on the life of a law enforcement officer is an attack on the rule of law," U.S. Attorney Andrew Boutros said in a statement to Fox News. "The defendant's actions in this case demonstrate a profound contempt for human life and public safety. Under my leadership, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago will hold defendants accountable for their grave criminal actions and ensure that no federal officer has to fear for their life for doing their job." The Department of Homeland Security identified the targeted official as the commander at large of the U.S. Border Patrol, Chief Gregory Bovino. Bovino was instrumental in the eye-catching operation in Chicago's South Shore at the beginning of the month, during which agents rappelled down from Black

Hawk helicopters to secure an apartment complex. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem previously warned on Sunday about these plots, saying, "These people are organized. They're getting more and more people on their team as far as attacking officers, and they're making plans to ambush them and to kill them. We have specific officers and agents that have bounties that have been put out on their heads. It's been $2,000 to kidnap them, $10,000 to kill them. They've released their pictures."

Reported similarly:
Breitbart [10/7/2025 3:27 PM, John Binder, 2416K]
FOX News [10/7/2025 8:47 AM, Staff, 40621K]
NewsMax [10/7/2025 10:28 AM, Staff, 4109K]
Daily Wire [10/7/2025 8:20 AM, Jennie Taer, 2494K]
(B) NBC 5 News at 6am [10/7/2025 7:33 AM, Staff]

AP: National Guard members from Texas are in Illinois in Trump's latest move to send troops to cities

AP [10/7/2025 10:02 PM, Erin Hooley and Christine Fernando, 4K]
National Guard members from Texas were getting settled at an Army Reserve center in Illinois on Tuesday, the most visible sign yet of the Trump administration's plan to send troops to the Chicago area despite a lawsuit and vigorous opposition from Democratic elected leaders. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, who has accused President Donald Trump of using troops as "political props" and "pawns," said he didn't get a heads-up from Washington. The Associated Press saw military personnel in uniforms with the Texas National Guard patch at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Elwood, 55 miles (89 kilometers) southwest of Chicago. Trucks marked Emergency Disaster Services pulled in and out, dropping off portable toilets and other supplies. Trailers were set up in rows. Extra fencing was spread across the perimeter. The Guard's exact mission was not immediately clear, though the Trump administration has an aggressive immigration enforcement operation in the nation's third-largest city, and protesters have frequently rallied at an immigration building outside Chicago in Broadview. The president repeatedly has described Chicago in hostile terms, calling it a "hell hole" of crime, although police statistics show significant drops in most crimes, including homicides. Trump's bid to deploy the military on U.S. soil over local opposition has triggered a conflict with blue state governors. Illinois and Chicago are urging a federal judge to intervene and stop "Trump's long-declared 'War'" on the state. A court hearing on their lawsuit is scheduled for Thursday. In Oregon, a judge over the weekend blocked the Guard's deployment to Portland, Oregon. Pritzker had predicted Monday that Illinois National Guard troops would be activated, along with 400 from Texas. Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott posted a picture on social media showing troops boarding a plane and declared, "ever ready." Pritzker said he "literally canceled everything" Saturday in anticipation of a call from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. "They have not picked up the phone and called me. Not once," Pritzker said Tuesday at a gathering of business, cultural and political leaders in Minneapolis. In Portland, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility has been the site of nightly protests for months, peaking in June when local police declared a riot, with smaller clashes occurring since then. Over the weekend, larger crowds gathered outside the facility, and federal agents fired tear gas. An appeals court has scheduled arguments for Thursday in the government's bid to overcome a lower court's rulings and deploy the Guard in Portland. Oregon Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek said she met Tuesday with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and told her there's "no insurrection" in the state. "Oregon is united against military policing in our communities," Kotek said. Noem told Fox News on Tuesday that she told Portland

Mayor Keith Wilson that if the city did not boost security at the ICE building, get backup from local law enforcement, and take other safety measures then “we were going to send four-times the amount of federal officers here.”

Reported similarly:
New York Post [10/7/2025 6:12 PM, Steven Vago and Chris Nesi, 42219K]

Daily Wire: Judge Allows Trump To Deploy Troops To Chicago — For Now
Daily Wire [10/7/2025 7:40 AM, Jennie Taer, 2494K] reports a federal judge declined to block President Donald Trump’s deployment of Texas troops to Chicago Monday. While the case is ongoing, the latest decision will allow the feds to send 200 Texas National Guard soldiers to quell anti-ICE violence across the sanctuary city. The next hearing in the case is set for Thursday, according to the New York Times. Troops are expected to arrive in the Windy City Tuesday or Wednesday, according to the report. After announcing the state’s lawsuit against the deployment Monday, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker indicated that he wouldn’t back down. "The state of Illinois is going to use every lever at our disposal to resist this power grab and get [Kristi] Noem’s thugs the hell out of Chicago," Pritzker said in an afternoon press conference. The decision to send troops to Chicago comes after Border Patrol agents were ambushed Saturday when two agitators allegedly rammed the agents’ vehicle in a convoy of cars.

Wall Street Journal: Local Politicians Are Defiant as National Guard Gathers Outside Chicago
Wall Street Journal [10/7/2025 7:12 PM, Victoria Albert, John McCormick, and Mariah Timms, 646K] reports local and state politicians railed Tuesday against the Trump administration’s federalization of the National Guard in Illinois as hundreds of guardsmen gathered and protesters vowed to continue to challenge their presence. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, speaking in Minneapolis, suggested that President Trump’s actions are a precursor to trying to intimidate Democratic voters ahead of next year’s midterm elections. “He wants us all, in big cities, to get used to the idea that it’s OK to have military on the streets,” he said at the Minnesota Star Tribune’s North Star Summit. “You are going to see soldiers outside your polling place. That’s going to intimidate a lot of people. And especially it’s going to intimidate people who are not Republicans.” In response, Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, said Trump won’t turn a blind eye to “the lawlessness plaguing American cities like Pritzker is willing to do.” She said the president has exercised his lawful authority to protect federal officers and assets. Roughly 500 soldiers—300 from the Illinois National Guard and 200 from Texas—are present in the greater Chicago area, according to U.S. Northern Command. The Illinois National Guard is still being “spun up” because the Texas National Guard had been federalized earlier, Pritzker said.

Washington Examiner: DHS rejects Pritzker’s ‘harmful lies’ about ICE operations in Chicago
Washington Examiner [10/8/2025 3:14 AM, Christopher Tremoglie, 1394K] reports the Department of Homeland Security rejected Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker’s claims about Immigration and Customs Enforcement efforts in his state, specifically in Chicago, categorizing his statements as "harmful lies.” Citing an appearance on CNN’s State of the Union and a press conference Pritzker held on Monday, DHS issued a press release condemning the governor’s comments, claiming that he "repeatedly lied about federal law enforcement operations in Chicago." He referred to ICE agents as "Noem’s thugs," in

reference to Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem. "The state of Illinois is going to use every lever at our disposal to resist this power grab and get Noem's thugs the hell out of Chicago," Pritzker said on Monday at a press conference announcing his lawsuit against the Trump administration for its order to deploy National Guard troops to Chicago. "I'm not afraid. I am not afraid and I won't back down." DHS took umbrage with Pritzker's words. The federal agency said it was "setting the record straight about Pritzker's lies and defending the brave men and women of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection from his smears and slander." "Our message to JB Pritzker: Get out of your mansion and see Chicago," said Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs at DHS. "If J.B. Pritzker actually walked the streets of his own city, he would see domestic terrorists and violent rioters attacking police officers and the scourge of violent crime as a direct result of his own policies." Among Pritzker's claims that DHS rebutted were: calling ICE's efforts "an invasion," saying that ICE was racial profiling, "picking up people who are brown and black and then checking their credentials," and stating elderly people and children were "zip-tied" and detained for hours. "For weeks now, Donald Trump, Kristi Noem, and Gregory Bovino have brought their militarized CBP and ICE agents to the streets of Chicago to cause violence and chaos in this city," Pritzker claimed. He called the acts an "unconstitutional invasion by the federal government." DHS denied such a categorization, rebuking the classification of ICE's activities as "unconstitutional" or an "invasion." The agency explained that President Donald Trump has the constitutional power to "deploy troops, wherever they're stationed, to defend federal facilities from attacks." "Whether it's the ICE facility in Broadview or the courthouse in Portland, we will defend federal property wherever they are under siege," DHS said in a release. Pritzker also said that DHS was "raiding neighborhoods" and "picking up people who are brown and black" and asking questions afterward. The implication here is that ICE was rounding up non-white people in some sort of racial profiling activity without any cause or justification. DHS emphatically rejected such a claim, calling it "categorically false." "Allegations that DHS law enforcement officers engage in 'racial profiling' are disgusting, reckless, and categorically false," DHS said. " What makes someone a target for immigration enforcement is if they are illegally in the U.S.— not their skin color, race, or ethnicity." "There are no 'indiscriminate stops being made,'" noted the release. "The Supreme Court recently vindicated us on this question. DHS enforces federal immigration law without fear, favor, or prejudice." DHS also claimed its efforts were constitutional, with the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution granting ICE the power to make its arrests in illegal immigration enforcement crackdowns.

Blaze: 8 things Chicago has done to put illegal immigrants first

Blaze [10/7/2025 2:35 PM, Andrew Chapados, 1442K] reports that tensions are escalating between Chicago's Mayor Brandon Johnson (D), Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D), and the Trump administration. With Trump's White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller delivering strong remarks as of late and promising to rid American streets of crime, liberal cities have been put on notice that the federal government finally wants to put an end to the dangers of gang activity and criminality. Chicago has been known as a dangerous city for decades, but now that the feds are stepping in, Democrats are getting in the way. Chicago has a detailed history of supporting illegal immigrants on the municipal level. Here's how: Chicago's sanctuary city status dates all the way back to 1985, when Mayor Harold Washington (D) signed an executive order that stated city workers could not ask people about their immigration status. The city joined other liberal strongholds like Cambridge, Massachusetts; St. Paul, Minnesota; as well as California cities Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Francisco, and Berkeley. That year, an estimated 80,000 people from Guatemala and El Salvador lived in San Francisco. The ordinance is still promoted today, with Chicago

boasting that it prohibits city employees from assisting in the investigation of a person's immigration status, absent a federal or court order. President Trump, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, and Department of War Secretary Pete Hegseth were all named as defendants. In remarks to Blaze News, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said that Mayor Johnson's demonization of ICE agents has increased assaults against them by "1,000%." She added, "Mayor Johnson has shown time and time again he does not care about the safety of our federal law enforcement officers or Chicagoans... His reckless policies not only endanger our law enforcement, but public safety."

Breitbart: Pritzker: Trump's Goal Is Use Military to Confiscate Ballot Boxes to Steal 2026 Elections

Breitbart [10/7/2025 10:36 AM, Pam Key, 2416K] reports that on Monday, during an appearance on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show," Gov. JB Pritzker (D-IL) said that the Trump administration was normalizing the presence of the military in cities, allowing them to use these forces to confiscate ballot boxes and recount votes to alter unfavorable results of the 2026 midterm elections. Pritzker said, "The broader goal, I believe, is the militarization of major American cities before the 2026 elections. Let me be clear about what's going on on the streets of Chicago. They have dressed ICE and CBP in fatigues, put them in military gear, including with automatic weapons, and had them marching up and down major streets in downtown Chicago. It's a signal that they're trying to send that it's okay to have troops on your street, that this would be a welcome thing for people who live in Chicago. Nobody here welcomes it, by the way. I mean, literally as they're walking down the street, people are yelling at them, but they think they can get people used to the idea." He added, "Next year, I fear that what they're going to do is deploy these folks eventually to polling places and say they're protecting the vote. Donald Trump knows that without shenanigans and without this, these breaches of the Constitution, that he's going to lose the Congress. And if he loses, he's going to immediately in the aftermath of the election, do what he said he might do in 2020, which is use the military to confiscate the ballot boxes and count the votes, claiming that there's fraud."

FOX News: DHS takes on Pritzker's 'Smorgasbord of Lies,' releases list debunking his claims

FOX News [10/7/2025 1:01 PM, Greg Norman, 40621K] reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accused Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker of serving the American public a "smorgasbord of lies" as it released a list that it says "debunks" his claims about federal law enforcement operations in Chicago. The federal pushback comes as the Democratic governor and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson filed a lawsuit Monday to block the Trump administration from deploying hundreds of National Guard troops from Illinois and Texas in Chicago and surrounding cities. "Our message to JB Pritzker: Get out of your mansion and see Chicago," DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. "If JB Pritzker actually walked the streets of his own city, he would see domestic terrorists and violent rioters attacking police officers and the scourge of violent crime as a direct result of his own policies." The DHS added that it "is setting the record straight about Pritzker's lies and defending the brave men and women of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from his smears and slander." During a press conference Monday, Pritzker said there has been an "unconstitutional invasion of Illinois by the federal government," and, "For weeks now, Donald Trump, Kristi Noem, and [Commander at Large of the U.S. Border Patrol] Gregory Bovino have brought their militarized CBP and ICE agents to the streets of Chicago to cause violence and chaos in

this city.". However, the DHS said the "reality" is that, "this is neither unconstitutional nor an invasion."

Breitbart: Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson Calls for Arrests of ICE Officers
Breitbart [10/7/2025 7:49 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports Chicago's Democrat Mayor Brandon Johnson suggested on Tuesday that the Chicago Police should arrest ICE agents and other federal officers who he claims are breaking his new executive order aimed at hampering immigration enforcement. On Monday, Johnson signed a dubious executive order creating "ICE-Free Zones" to ban federal agents from using city-owned properties as staging areas for immigration enforcement. Johnson's proclamation comes as President Donald Trump suggested that the anti-ICE actions by Chicago's leaders are akin to an insurrection against the federal government. Now, the mayor is claiming that violations of his orders are a "crime" and those who break those rules "should be charged.". "It's a crime. Here's the thing, anyone who commits a crime should be charged," Johnson said on Tuesday, according to the Chicago Tribune. "I mean, isn't that the basic rule of what they ostensibly refer to as 'law and order?'" Despite Johnson's bellicosity, Chicago police Supt. Larry Snelling was less willing to support arresting federal officers and noted that he can't really expect CPD officers to arrest federal law enforcement "because someone deems what they are doing is illegal.".

Chicago Tribune: Waukegan mayor intercedes in Border Patrol arrest: 'I want to … make sure our residents are safe'
Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 2L42 PM, Steve Sadin, 4829K] reports U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested a Waukegan woman for allegedly impeding a federal investigation outside City Hall Monday afternoon as Mayor Sam Cunningham tried to intervene on her behalf and de-escalate the situation as a crowd gathered. Dariana Fajardo, 23, was charged with impeding a federal investigation by a group of eight uniformed men whose patches read "Border Patrol" as she failed to move her car with two of the agents standing in front of her. Early in the afternoon, Cunningham said he was leaving City Hall and heard a commotion on West Street. Someone said ICE was there. He went to investigate and saw a crowd forming, along with the Border Patrol agents and Fajardo. "The young lady called out to me by name," he said. "I know her parents. I told her to calm down, and do what they tell you. I said don't worry about your vehicle, we'll get it secured for you. I spoke to one of the agents, and let him know who I am." Earlier in the day, Cunningham was at the College of Lake County's Lakeshore Campus in downtown Waukegan. He said federal agents apprehended someone there. He did not have any additional details. The arrest was made outside the building. In both situations, he said he had a primary purpose. "My goal was discretion," Cummingham said. "I want to keep people calm and make sure our residents are safe."

FOX News: Trump says he'd consider invoking Insurrection Act as courts, governors seek to block his crime crackdown
FOX News [10/7/2025 12:16 PM, Morgan Phillips, 40621K] reports that President Donald Trump said he would consider invoking the Insurrection Act to deploy federal troops in U.S. cities after a federal judge blocked his administration from sending National Guard units to Portland. "I'd do it if it was necessary. So far it hasn't been necessary. But we have an Insurrection Act for a reason," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday. The 1807 law has not been invoked since the 1992 Los Angeles riots. "If I had to enact it, I'd do that. If people were being killed and courts were holding us up or governors or mayors were holding us up, sure, I'd do that. I mean, I want to make sure that people aren't killed. We

have to make sure that our cities are safe," he added. The order allows the president to deploy the military to suppress rebellions and enforce federal laws. If invoked, it would grant Trump the authority to federalize the Guard and deploy active duty forces to restore order. It would temporarily override the Posse Comitatus Act, which normally restricts the use of the military for domestic law enforcement. "If we don't have to use it, I wouldn't use it," Trump later said on Newsmax, before adding, "If you take a look at what's been going on in Portland, it's been going on for a long time, and that's insurrection. I mean, that's pure insurrection." The comments came after a federal judge on Sunday blocked the Trump administration from deploying California and Texas National Guard troops to Portland's streets amid protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The same court earlier had denied Trump from deploying Oregon's own Guard to the city.

Reuters: Trump again threatens Insurrection Act as troops arrive to Chicago
Reuters [10/8/2025 2:34 AM, Gabe Singer, 36480K] reports hundreds of Texas National Guard soldiers gathered on Tuesday at an Army facility outside Chicago, as Donald Trump's threat to invoke an anti-insurrection law and deploy troops to more U.S. cities intensified the battle over the limits to his authority. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
(B) NBC News Daily [10/7/2025 2:18 PM, Staff]

CNN: 'There is no sanctuary here': Meet the Border Patrol chief in charge of Trump's Chicago crackdown
CNN [10/8/2025 5:02 AM, Priscilla Alvarez and Michael Williams, 23245K] reports the heavily armed agents carrying out President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration enforcement push in Chicago are often masked. The man leading them is not. Nearly three decades into his career with the US Border Patrol, Gregory Bovino has become the on-the-ground face of Trump's effort to surge federal law enforcement into blue states and cities regardless of whether local officials want them there — first in Los Angeles, now in Chicago, with other possible cities on deck. But if he and his officers are an unwelcome presence or face interference from protesters, Bovino said he is not dissuaded. "We're going to carry out that mission," Bovino said in an interview with CNN in Chicago on Tuesday. "And that's paramount, or else we shouldn't be here. We're going to carry that mission out." He added that if "someone steps in the way, then … that may not work out well for them, and if we need to effect an arrest of a US citizen or anyone else, then we'll do that." Local officials have described Bovino as leading a branch of law enforcement which deploys tactics that are frighteningly authoritarian and which has been styled into Trump's own personal police force, used by the president as a cudgel against Democrat-led localities and the people — citizens and noncitizens alike — who live in them. "I refuse to let Trump, Noem and Bovino continue on this march toward autocracy," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Monday. "Their plan all along has been to cause chaos, and then they can use that chaos to consolidate Trump's power."

Federalist: Chicago Bans ICE From Public Areas After Withholding Police Backup From Battered ICE Agents
Federalist [10/7/2025 7:34 AM, Beth Brelje, 785K] reports fully embracing anarchy, Democrat leaders in Chicago, a sanctuary city; and in Illinois, a sanctuary state, are using every possible method to thwart federal immigration authorities from removing illegal aliens

and curtailing rampant crime there. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson issued an executive order Monday creating an ICE Free Zone, preventing ICE from using city property, such as parking lots, as staging areas, or for enforcement actions. City agencies are directed to use physical barriers like locked gates to limit access to city property, and report to the mayor any attempted use of city property for immigration enforcement. Chicago taxpayers will fund a city-wide distribution of "Know Your Rights" materials for employees, tenants, and security staff, training them to deal with federal agents wishing to use city property. Gov. JB Pritzker announced the state filed a lawsuit Monday seeking a temporary restraining order to block President Donald Trump from using Illinois and Texas National Guard troops to manage crime in Chicago. "Illinois is going to use every lever at our disposal to resist this power grab and get (DHS Sec. Kristi) Noem's thugs hell out of Chicago," Pritzker said in a Monday afternoon press conference. He also said several times that Texas troops should, "stay the hell out of Illinois."

Chicago Tribune: Oak Park elected officials stand against ICE after township trustee Juan Munoz detained in Broadview

Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 5:19 PM, Bob Skolnik, 4829K] reports a host of local government officials from Oak Park spoke out passionately this week against the temporary detainment of Oak Park Township Trustee Juan Munoz on Oct. 3 at the Broadview Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility and the actions of ICE. Munoz and a host of other Oak Park elected officials were protesting at the Broadview ICE facility on the morning of Oct. 3. According to published reports Munoz was taking video at the Broadview facility Friday morning when he was pulled to the ground by Greg Bovino, the chief patrol agent for the United States Border Patrol's El Central Section. Munoz was detained for a few hours and then released without being arrested or charged with any crime.

The Hill: Chicago news organizations sue ICE over alleged excessive force at protests

The Hill [10/7/2025 5:17 PM, Ryan Mancini, 12595K] reports the Chicago News Guild on Monday joined other news organizations that have sued the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in connection with allegations of excessive force used on journalists at recent protests in the area. The union joined journalists with the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET) Local 41, the Chicago Headline Club and Block Club Chicago. The lawsuit describes violent incidents and rhetoric used by the Trump administration as it attempts to send the National Guard into Chicago, with federal officials citing "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness." State and local officials have filed separate lawsuits and slammed the administration's actions. Mentioned in the lawsuit is a CBS News Chicago reporter who was burned inside a car after a masked ICE agent shot a pepper ball at her vehicle. The complaint also describes an incident where a Presbyterian minister offered prayers to a crowd of demonstrators before being sprayed with tear gas and struck by pepper balls.

The Hill: Chicago suburb sues over fence around ICE facility

The Hill [10/7/2025 3:59 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12595K] reports a suburb outside Chicago has sued the Trump administration for erecting an 8-foot fence around an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) processing facility, alleging that the barrier blocks emergency services and patrons from accessing the site and surrounding businesses. The Village of Broadview asked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials to remove the fence in the lawsuit, filed Friday, and cited a lack of medical staff present at the facility as another

reason for concern, according to the nonprofit news organization Block Club Chicago. The outlet also has joined a separate lawsuit against ICE for what is being alleged as the unlawful treatment of journalists. Local fire department officials have also complained about the fence. Prior to the fence's installment, protesters attempted to block the barrier from being put in place. Demonstrators have alleged those being processed at the facility are being forced to use toilets outside and sleep in rooms without beds before being sent to other federal sites, WBEZ Chicago reported. Broadview Mayor Katrina R. Thompson attempted to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Friday to discuss the "danger created by the fence and to again ask for its removal," Block Club Chicago reported, citing the lawsuit. Noem, however, reportedly was unable to meet. The plaintiffs have requested a temporary restraining order in order to have the fence removed. They also asked a judge to declare the action unlawful under the Administrative Procedures Act and urged constituting the fence as a continuing trespass and public nuisance under state and local law, per Block Club Chicago.

Chicago Tribune: Judge to rule this week whether ICE security fence in Broadview must come down

Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 1:23 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports that a federal judge said Tuesday she'll rule within a day or two on whether a controversial security fence constructed around the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Broadview is violating the west suburbs right to access its own land. The village of Broadview is seeking a restraining order requiring the removal of the 8-foot-tall fence, which was constructed around the temporary holding facility on Beach Street that has seen daily protests and federal agents using tear gas and other weapons on crowds. During arguments in the lawsuit Tuesday, U.S. District Judge LaShonda Hunt began by warning both sides she didn't want to get caught up in the politics of the moment. "It is very charged, it is very challenging," Hunt said. "There are so many words we could use here, but it is volatile. But those issues are not before me." Attorneys for Broadview argue that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, constructed the fence "in the middle of the night without notice," and that it not only physically deprives the village of its right to control its own land, but constitutes a public safety hazard by blocking emergency service personnel and vehicles from reaching several commercial and industrial properties located on the other side. Lawyers for the government, meanwhile, said the village still has access to the area through a key-card gate on another street, and that complaints that the gate was too small for fire trucks did not hold water. In response, ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons wrote that rioters were "laying siege and interfering with legitimate law enforcement operations" and that the agency had no intention to change its "operational posture."

Politico: Chicago journalists, protesters sue Trump administration, alleging 'extreme brutality'

Politico [10/7/2025 2:43 PM, Faith Wardwell, 2100K] reports a group of Chicago press associations, journalists, nonprofits and unions sued the Trump administration and its top officials Monday, saying federal agents had used "extreme brutality" at local protests to silence both the press and civilians. The organizations — who were also joined in the suit by individual protesters — allege in the 52-page suit that federal agents acted to "intimidate and silence" civilians and members of the media who did not pose an imminent threat to law enforcement at protests outside a local Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility — posing a violation to protesters' and journalists' First Amendment rights. "Never in modern times has the federal government undermined bedrock constitutional protections on

this scale or usurped states' police power by directing federal agents to carry out an illegal mission against the people for the government's own benefit," the suit states. The litigation is the most recent push against the Trump administration's use of force in Chicago, as federal agents continue to clash with protesters and Trump moves to send National Guard troops into the city. The plaintiffs are urging the court to protect the First Amendment rights of protesters to peacefully demonstrate around the facility and of journalists to "observe, record, and report on the federal agents' activities and the public's demonstrations against them."

Blaze: Pam Bondi tears into Democratic senator: 'I wish you loved Chicago as much as you hate President Trump'

Blaze [10/7/2025 11:55 AM, Rebeka Zeljko, 1442K] reports Attorney General Pam Bondi sparred with Democrats during her congressional hearing on Tuesday, and she did not back down. Bondi testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the attorney general ripped into Ranking Member Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) over the legality of deploying the National Guard. Durbin challenged Bondi about President Donald Trump's legal authority to deploy the Texas National Guard to Chicago, the crime-ridden city in the Democratic senator's jurisdiction. Over the weekend, protesters and agitators clashed with law enforcement in Chicago, with some apparently ramming their vehicles into federal cruisers. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem even said that cartels have placed bounties on Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Despite this dramatic uptick in violence, Durbin questioned the rationale for deploying additional resources. "I wish you loved Chicago as much as you hate President Trump," Bondi said in response. "And currently, the National Guard are on the way to Chicago." "If you're not going to protect your citizens, President Trump will," Bondi added.

The Hill: Bondi declines to comment on conversations with Trump about National Guard deployments

The Hill [10/7/2025 10:23 AM, Alexander Bolton, 12595K] reports Attorney General Pam Bondi declined on Tuesday to answer a question about whether she's had any discussions with President Trump about the legal justification for deploying National Guard troops from California and Texas to Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, despite the objections of Democratic governors. "I am not going to discuss any internal conversations with the White House," Bondi said when Sen. Dick Durbin (Ill.), in response to a question from the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. That prompted a surprised response from Durbin. "What's the secret? Why do you want to keep this secret to the American people [who] don't know the rationale behind the deployment of National Guard troops in my state," Durbin said. Bondi responded hotly by pointing out that Durbin "voted to shut down the government." She said that means federal law enforcement officers aren't being paid while they're working to protect Democratic lawmakers and Democratic cities, such as Chicago. "I wish you love Chicago as much as you hate President Trump and currently the National Guard are on the way to Chicago. If you're not going to protect your citizens, President Trump will," Bondi said, her voice rising.

CNN: Bondi gets upset about senator's merger question

CNN [10/7/2025 1:24 PM, Zane Heinlein, 18595K] reports that during an oversight hearing, Attorney General Pam Bondi got visibly angry with Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) after he asked her about any conversations she had about a merger lawsuit. In an interview with Jake Tapper, Gov. JB Pritzker (D) responds to DHS Secretary Kristi Noem who claimed

Chicago residents are applauding the work of federal law enforcement conducting immigration operations in Illinois. Chicago Alderperson Jessie Fuentes claims she was handcuffed by two Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents while attempting to visit a man detained by ICE at a hospital emergency room. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said on "The Benny Show" she requested the Department of War be deployed to Chicago. Her comments come as DHS released a stylized video of an ICE raid in Chicago and during her visit to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Broadview, Illinois. [Editorial note consult video at source link]

The Hill: Bondi, Democratic senator get into heated shouting match, forcing chairman to intervene

The Hill [10/7/2025 1:22 PM, Alexander Bolton, 12595K] reports that Attorney General Pam Bondi got into several heated exchanges with Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla (Calif.) during which Bondi accused the senator of not caring about his home state and having "stormed" Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem at a press conference earlier this year. Bondi ripped Padilla for delivering a long statement criticizing her leadership of the Department of Justice before asking his first question. "First, Sen. Padilla you've gone on for over five minutes and I wish that you loved your state of California as much as you hate President Trump. We'd be in really good shape then because violent crime in California is currently 35 percent higher than the national average," Bondi retorted. Padilla tried to cut her off and ask his next question, but Bondi refused to yield the mic. "No, you can't go on for five minutes and criticize my agents who are out working without pay right now," she said, waving her index finger at him. That proceeded to loud crosstalk and confusion in the room until Padilla called on 92-year-old Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the committee's chairman, to restore order. Padilla then asked Bondi what he called a "simple question," specifically who made the decision to end the investigation of Trump border czar Tom Homan for accepting $50,000 in cash from undercover FBI agents. Bondi appeared frustrated by the question and scolded the senator for missing earlier parts of the hearing.

Reported similarly:
CBS News [10/7/2025 1:31 PM, Staff, 39474K]

Politico: Troop deployments deepen chasm between Trump and Dem governors

Politico [10/7/2025 9:15 AM, Blake Jones and Shia Kapos, 2100K] reports Donald Trump's continued deployment of National Guard troops to major cities over the objections of their Democratic state leaders is shattering a decades-long norm of cooperation between presidents and governors. What began this year as a one-off deployment to Los Angeles has spread to Washington, Portland, Oregon and Illinois, spurring furious pushback from local and state officials. Governors, including potential 2028 presidential contenders Gavin Newsom in California and JB Pritzker in Illinois, have said they were notified at the last minute that Guard troops were being dispatched to American streets. The precedent-skirting lack of communication is prompting high-profile Democrats — who have already sued the administration — to escalate their rhetoric and press for Republican condemnations. Newsom and Pritzker both threatened to withdraw their states from the National Governors Association on Monday, accusing the bipartisan group of silence in wake of Trump's test of states' rights. "There is no invasion here, there is no insurrection here, and local and state law enforcement are on the job and managing what they need to," Pritzker said at a news conference Monday, while calling for people to stand up to the Trump administration. "I refuse to let Donald Trump, Kristi Noem and Gregory Bovino

continue on this march toward autocracy." The call-ups, the first against sitting governors' wishes since the racial integration of American schools in 1965, have infused uncommon partisanship into the use of the military branch. While Republican Gov. Greg Abbott enthusiastically approved of Trump sending Texas troops to Portland, Oregon's Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek called the overtaking of her state's Guard members, which a federal judge blocked over the weekend, "not American."

AP: Bipartisan US governors' group faces division over Trump's deployment of troops to states

AP [10/7/2025 3:46 PM, Geoff Mulvihill and David A. Lieb, 2416K] reports that the Democratic governors of California and Illinois are threatening to leave the National Governors Association because of its silence on President Donald Trump's deployment of National Guard troops across state lines despite objections from the receiving states' leaders. "If we cannot come together, on a bipartisan basis, on this basic principle of state sovereignty, what purpose does the National Governors Association serve?" California Gov. Gavin Newsom asked in a letter to the nation's other governors. The bipartisan governors' group, founded in 1908, advocates for issues on which governors find common ground and hosts meetings where they can exchange ideas. Separate Democratic and Republican governors' associations take more partisan positions and help finance campaigns. Newsom and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, both potential 2028 presidential candidates, contend Trump's troop deployments should be a matter of concern for all governors. But some Republican governors have supported Trump's actions, and the national governors' group has not taken a position. "I'm not sure the policy issue of whether the Constitution allows for federal involvement in the state and the National Guard is something that the NGA would want to tackle," said Republican Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe, who co-chairs the organization's task force on emergency management and public health. The Democratic governors of Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota already have left the NGA this year. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly said she didn't think the roughly $100,000 annual dues paid by the state were a good investment and encouraged the group to push back against canceled federal grants.

FOX News: Feds charge 'keyboard warriors' who threatened ICE deportation officer and wife on Instagram

FOX News [10/7/2025 3:28 PM, Alexandra Koch, 40621K] reports a federal grand jury in Georgia has charged two out-of-state men with knowingly making threats to injure a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officer and his wife. Frank Andrew Waszut, 41, of Knoxville, Tennessee, is accused of posting a video on Instagram that identified and showed photos of an ICE deportation officer who lives and works in the Northern District of Georgia, according to court documents. Waszut is in Texas law enforcement custody, where he is charged with making separate terroristic threats against Republican lawmakers. Noto was taken into federal custody and arraigned on the indictment. Both men were indicted by a federal grand jury on Sept. 23. The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Washington Examiner: White House opposes joint resolution to block attacks on drug cartels without congressional approval

Washington Examiner [10/7/2025 6:01 PM, Mabinty Quarshie, 1394K] reports President Donald Trump's administration sent notice to Congress on Tuesday opposing a joint resolution introduced by Senate Democrats to stop U.S. military strikes on drug cartel boats in the Caribbean Sea without congressional approval. The Washington Examiner obtained a

copy of the Office of Management and Budget's statement of administration policy, which called for the joint resolution to "be rejected" as it would interfere with the president's ability to address national security threats from cartels. Senate Democrats will likely force a War Powers Act vote as soon as this week on the resolution that was spearheaded by Sens. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA). The resolution is privileged, meaning it will come up for a vote on the Senate floor. However, it faces no chance of passing in the Republican-controlled Senate or House, although Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) could vote for the resolution, given his opposition to Trump's attacks on the cartels. The measure would require Congress to authorize military action against cartels in the aftermath of U.S. strikes against boats from Venezuela that Trump said are carrying fentanyl. So far, at least four known strikes on vessels in international waters have occurred.

New York Post: Kristi Noem goes scorched earth on country music star Zach Bryan over anti-ICE song — as singer responds to backlash

New York Post [10/8/2025 1:40 AM, Nicholas McEntyre, 42219K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem went scorched earth on country music superstar Zach Bryan over his controversial new song targeting ICE raids — as the singer said the tune is about "how much I love this country." Noem said she was "disappointed and disheartened" after she listened to the short demo of Bryan's song "Bad News," which was released on Oct. 3. "I hope he understands how completely disrespectful that song is, not just to law enforcement but to this country," Noem told conservative podcaster Benny Johnson on Tuesday. "To every single individual that has stood up and fought for our freedoms. He just compromised it all by putting out a product such as that, that attacks individuals who are just trying to make our streets safe." Bryan, 29, shared the short snippet on social media, captioning the post "the fading of the red white and blue." The song follows the protagonist struggling in life, but not "dead or in jail," with only a group of degenerate friends. Cocky motherf–kers, ain't they? Bryan claims kids are scared, houses aren't being built, but everyone has a telephone, even as bars stopped being the social spot of the town. "The middle fingers rising, and it won't stop showing. Noem spoke out against the song during a short media briefing in Portland after federal agents arrested several illegal immigrants, including an accused child rapist, earlier in the day, according to Johnson. The former South Dakota governor was elated to share that she was never a fan of Bryan — who served in the US Navy — before he released the clip of the song. "Zach, I didn't listen to your music. I'm happy about that today," Noem said. That makes me very happy that I never gave you a single penny to enrich your lifestyle, if you truly believe what that song stands for." The former South Dakota governor threw her support behind other country singers, such as Jason Aldean, John Rich, Jon Pardi and Kid Rock. "Those guys know what it means to stand up to freedom," she said. "Glad I didn't waste any money on Zach." Noem called out Bryan's apparent hypocrisy for releasing the anti-law enforcement song while having police protect him at his concerts. "That's what's so special about law enforcement, is that they don't pick and choose who they defend when they do their jobs. They will even defend and protect people that don't respect them or stand up for them so that's who I'll point to when I tell my grandkids to grow up like someone."

Axios: Why MAGA is outraged at Zach Bryan over ICE lyric

Axios [10/7/2025 1:03 PM, Herb Scribner, 12972K] reports that Country music star Zach Bryan is facing backlash from fans and MAGA listeners over a new song snippet that criticizes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Why it matters: Bryan joins a chorus of artists and celebrities speaking out against President Trump's agenda and immigration

policy. Singers such as Bad Bunny, Shakira and Doechii have specifically called out Trump's immigration policies. Bad Bunny, picked by the NFL to headline next year's Super Bowl LX halftime show, fell under scrutiny from MAGA over his comments on immigration enforcement. ICE has faced widespread scrutiny for raids within the United States, leading to widespread protests and legal challenges nationwide. The White House has been highly critical of anti-ICE backlash, saying it leads to violence against law enforcement. Driving the news: Three days ago, Bryan shared the song clip on Instagram captioned: "the fading of the red, white and blue." In the preview, he sings: "My friends are all degenerates, but they're all I got. The generational story of dropping the plot. I heard the cops came. Cocky mother-----ers, ain't they?" Another line: "ICE is gonna come bust down your door. Try to build a house, no one builds no more, well I got a telephone. Kids are all scared and all alone." The song, seemingly titled "Bad News," comes days after Bryan reportedly shattered the record for the largest ticketed concert in U.S. history. The White House responded to the controversy with puns of Bryan's songs: "While Zach Bryan wants to Open The Gates to criminal illegal aliens and has Condemned heroic ICE officers, Something in the Orange tells me a majority of Americans disagree with him and support President Trump's great American Revival. Godspeed, Zach!" said spokeswoman Abigail Jackson in a statement.

Bloomberg: Trump Halts Venezuela Talks as US Considers Cartel Targets on Land

Bloomberg [10/7/2025 1:15 PM, Eric Martin, 18207K] reports that President Donald Trump has called off US diplomatic engagement with Venezuela, people familiar with the move said, a decision that favors Secretary of State Marco Rubio's more hardline approach and may lead to further military escalation. Trump told Richard Grenell, a long-time aide who had been leading diplomacy with Venezuela, that he should stop pursuing a deal with Nicolas Maduro's administration, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. Grenell had been speaking to Venezuelan officials every few days. The decision was reported earlier by the New York Times. It marks a victory for Rubio, who had waged a turf war with Grenell and favors a more hardline approach to the Maduro government. The White House and State Department didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Trump has already ordered multiple strikes on drug trafficking vessels at sea and has recently suggested he could order the US military to escalate those attacks by hitting cartel infrastructure on land — a move that may also involve risky strikes on Venezuelan military targets. Last week, the White House declared that the US was in a "non-international armed conflict" with drug cartels flooding the country with illegal drugs like fentanyl.

Reuters: How many alleged drug boats has the US attacked? It depends on who you ask

Reuters [10/7/2025 12:56 PM, Phil Stewart and Idrees Ali, 36480K] reports how many suspected drug boats has the U.S. military destroyed in the waters off Venezuela? It might be as high as six or as low as four, depending on who you ask. The latest confusion arose on Sunday when U.S. President Donald Trump announced the United States carried out yet another strike on a boat allegedly transporting drugs off the coast of Venezuela on Saturday. "We did another one last night," Trump told reporters during a speech at Naval Station Norfolk, next to the Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier. The Pentagon has yet to confirm that strike, however, and the White House did not respond to a request for clarification. Two U.S. officials told Reuters they are unaware of any such operation on Saturday. The fuzzy accounting adds to the mystery surrounding the attacks, which have

alarmed Democratic lawmakers and some experts, who see Trump testing the limits of the law as he expands the scope of presidential power. It was unclear whether Trump might have mistaken the Saturday strike for one announced by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Friday in the waters off Venezuela that killed four suspected drug traffickers.

Opinion – Editorials

Chicago Tribune: [IL] We need our leaders to stay cool as ICE-related chaos gets hot
Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 4829K] reports the provocateurs on both the right and the left over the weekend defined the narrative around the Trump administration's immigration enforcement surge into Chicago and its suburbs. On the right, we had Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers "patrolling" Latino neighborhoods in Chicago and tear-gassing scenes that arguably didn't call for such heavy-handed tactics. We had the Department of Homeland Security making Hollywood-style videos of a wee-hours South Shore apartment building raid that looks more over-the-top with each passing day. On the left, we had activists who were attempting - with cars or otherwise - to physically impede ICE and Customs Border Patrol agents from doing the work they're legally allowed to do. With those tactics, these militant activists are imperiling the far greater number of peaceful protesters striving mightily to make their voices heard without breaking the law. In the middle is everyone else. The Chicagoans who are aghast at the chaos the ICE incursion is creating in our city. The public officials who are trying to remain cool in the face of such pressure, some more successfully than others. And even Chicago police officers who are catching intense heat from the right in following state and local laws that don't allow them to cooperate with ICE in enforcing federal immigration laws in the absence of a warrant signed by a judge - even after more than two dozen of them were exposed to ICE-sprayed chemical agents while responding to a scene involving the federal agents. The entire spectacle leaves all of us distraught.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Federal officials are using the Broadview ICE facility as a photo-op — with the help of state police
Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 4829K] reports this past Friday, I attended a protest at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing center in Broadview to exercise my First Amendment rights and practice my faith. As a pastor, I believe that what is happening at that facility and others like it across the country is a moral and spiritual emergency. When I show up to a protest, I am 100% committed to nonviolence. I wear a clerical collar, and my behavior is completely nonthreatening. In tense situations, I have found a pastoral presence can help bring down the temperature in helpful ways. I attended Friday's protest in part due to concern that someone could eventually be killed by ICE due to the agency's escalation of violence against protesters. I assumed that was the same concern that caused the Illinois State Police to be deployed to the ICE facility. When I heard state police would be present, I thought that their actions would match Gov. JB Pritzker's tough anti-ICE rhetoric. I hoped they might even protect protesters' First Amendment rights. I was gravely mistaken. At that protest, Illinois State Police hit me with their hands and pushed me and others with truncheons. This violent escalation took place when I was praying at the front line of the protest, on the curb and not in the street, which we were told was off-limits. While protesters were arbitrarily and forcibly moved by state police, a right-wing influencer was allowed access to shoot footage from the roadway we were not allowed on. When U.S. Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino arrived, we were pushed back by the Illinois State Police and federal agents, even though we were not on federal property. In

response to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's visit to the ICE facility in Broadview, Pritzker said, "Illinois is not a photo opportunity." I wish that were the case. From what I saw on Friday, not only was our state made into a photo-op, but also, our state police rolled out the red carpet for Bovino and Noem. Instead of talking a big game, the governor should make sure that the state police are there to protect Illinoisans exercising their First Amendment rights.

Opinion – Op-Eds

New York Post: Democrats have only themselves to blame for Trump's National Guard patrols

New York Post [10/7/2025 11:25 AM, Rich Lowry, 42219K] reports President Trump wanted an excuse to send National Guard troops to Chicago, and now he's got one. The Windy City in recent days has done its best imitation of Los Angeles, where resistance to Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations created the justification for a Guard deployment a couple months ago. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson hate the notion of the National Guard in the streets of the city, but have failed to rally Chicago residents to do the one thing necessary to avoid the deployment — let federal officers do their job. The word should have gone out long ago: Don't riot outside ICE facilities. Don't ram cars into ICE vehicles. Don't keep ICE officers from making arrests. Don't follow ICE vehicles in an attempt to disrupt operations. Don't act as though the Gestapo has descended on your city and civil disobedience, or violence, is the only answer. None of this should be a big ask. Instead, Pritzker and Johnson consider ICE operations inherently out of bounds and have played into the belief that something terrible is being done to Chicago. According to Johnson, "The president of the United States has declared war on the people of Chicago" — as if detaining people who have no right to live or work here is a hostile act against US citizens. The resistance to ICE shows that we have created enclaves that, as far as their political leaders and a significant element of the population are concerned, are supposed to be no-go zones for federal immigration enforcement.

Blaze: [Mexico] Cartels are now 'unlawful combatants.' About time.

Blaze [10/7/2025 8:00 AM, Ammon Blair, 1442K] reports President Donald Trump has finally named the enemy: Mexican drug cartels. Declaring them unlawful combatants and recognizing a "non-international armed conflict" marks one of the most consequential national security shifts in modern history. For decades, Washington treated cartel violence as a crime — a problem for prosecutors, not generals. Indictments were filed, assets seized, and sanctions imposed. But the cartels fought a different kind of war, one that combined terror, intelligence, and territorial control. Calling it "crime" guaranteed defeat. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, Mexico ranks among the world's most violent conflict zones — behind only Palestine, Myanmar, and Syria. It is also the second-most dangerous country for civilians. Those numbers are not from a failed state overseas. They come from our southern border, where cartel wars spill into American communities daily. For decades, federal authorities insisted on using a law-enforcement lens. Agencies operated under Title 21, Title 50, and limited "detect and monitor" authorities. They punished crimes but never broke campaigns. The narrow scope bred strategic blindness. While U.S. prosecutors filed indictments and built cases, cartels corrupted institutions, coerced populations, and built empires. As the Marine Corps teaches: How you define the environment determines how you operate in it. We refused to define the cartels as belligerents — and fought the wrong fight.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Washington Post: ICE closes detention oversight group in shutdown despite surge in detainees

Washington Post [10/7/2025 11:00 AM, Douglas MacMillan, 24149K] reports the Trump administration has said immigration enforcement will “remain unchanged” through the government shutdown. Officers continue to arrest migrants; detention centers remain fully operational; and the government issued new contracts for additional migrant holding facilities just last week. But at least one team at Immigration and Customs Enforcement isn’t going into work: the Office of Detention Oversight, which inspects detention centers to ensure they meet federal standards for the safe and humane treatment of immigrants. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, confirmed in an email Monday that the entire Office of Detention Oversight has been furloughed, saying, “We hope Democrats will open up the government swiftly so that this office can resume its work.” The contrast between that office’s temporary closure and the ongoing immigration crackdown at ICE highlights how the administration’s priorities have steered the agency’s operations during the funding impasse. During a budget shutdown, department leaders must determine which roles are “nonessential,” because only essential employees are allowed to stay on the job when federal funding has expired.

New York Post: ICE on track to deport 600K migrants in 2025, 2 million have left: ‘Just the beginning’

New York Post [10/7/2025 4:41 PM, Chris Nesi, 42219K] reports President Trump’s deportation effort is on track to kick 600,000 illegal migrants out of the country in the first year of his sweeping nationwide crackdown, new data released to The Post says. But the impact of the mass deportation push has been even larger — with more than 2 million illegal migrants leaving the US since January, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said. ICE agents and other feds have also arrested more than 457,000 illegal immigrants, which officials pledge is “just the beginning” of things to come. Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem “jumpstarted an agency that was vilified and barred from doings its job for the last four years,” said DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin. DHS has deported more than 493,000 illegal aliens since the start of Trump’s second term, and 1.6 million more have voluntarily “self-deported.”

Federalist: Exclusive: Pedophiles, Abusers Among Aliens Arrested By ICE While Dems Withhold Agents’ Paychecks

Federalist [10/7/2025 5:43 PM, M.D. Kittle, 785K] reports much of the federal government may be closed for business, but the men and women of ICE continue to remove the "worst of the worst" criminal illegal aliens from communities large and small. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are keeping up the pace even as leftist city mayors, blue state governors, and woke law enforcement officials do all they can to undermine their mission and put their lives at risk. The latest in-custody list of dangerous criminal aliens includes pedophiles, domestic abusers, and drug traffickers, according to the Department of Homeland Security’s latest tally, exclusively provided to The Federalist. "Our officers continue to risk their lives every day to arrest criminal illegal aliens despite not getting paid and the more than 1000% increase in assaults against them," DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to The Federalist. "Just yesterday, DHS arrested criminal illegal aliens convicted of child sex crimes, assault, domestic abuse, manslaughter, drug trafficking, and burglary," she added, reiterating that "under President Trump and

Secretary Noem, criminals are not welcome in the United States.". Jose Alberto Hernandez-Alvarado. The criminal illegal alien from Mexico was convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child in Texas, according to Homeland Security. Kemar Hamilton, a Jamaican foreign national, was convicted of manslaughter and assault in the Bronx, DHS reported.

Axios: [PA] Moshannon Valley ICE center holds hundreds in solitary confinement
Axios [10/7/2025 6:20 AM, Steph Solis and Isaac Avilucea, 12972K] reports a Pennsylvania immigrant detention center that's come under scrutiny in recent months has held a high number of people in solitary confinement in 2025, according to new data obtained by Axios. Immigrant detention centers nationwide are reporting placing more people in solitary confinement this year, sometimes for weeks at a time, per a report from Harvard University researchers and Physicians for Human Rights. The researchers found that U.S. solitary confinement placements increasingly drag on for 15 days or longer, which the United Nations considers to be psychological torture. They focused on immigrant detention centers, which experts say are primarily used to hold immigrants and ensure they make their court hearings and check-ins — not to punish them for immigration violations. Nearly 14,000 people were placed in solitary confinement in immigrant detention centers nationwide between April 2024 and August 2025, per the data. More than 1,900 people were isolated at Philipsburg's Moshannon Valley Processing Center between April 2024 and this past May — the highest number among the detention centers evaluated in the report.

Breitbart: Jon Stewart: ICE Is a 'Well-Funded Paramilitary Group' Attacking Grandmothers and 'Zip-Tying Children'
Breitbart [10/7/2025 2:24 PM, Alana Mastrangelo, 2416K] reports that Jon Stewart smeared the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) a "well-funded paramilitary group" that is attacking grandmothers and "zip-tying American children" during a recent episode of Comedy Central's The Daily Show. "ICE went from deporting the worst of the worst to throwing grandmothers onto linoleum and zip-tying American children," Stewart declared during Monday's episode of The Daily Show. "And everyone's just supposed to be cool with the new, masked, incredibly well-funded paramilitary group," Stewart continued in his rant smearing U.S. law enforcement, adding that "Democrats are just reduced to petty gestures of restroom resistance." The Daily Show host then played a clip of CNN reporting U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem recently revealing "that she was blocked from entering a city building in Illinois." "Victory is ours!" Stewart sarcastically exclaimed, poking fun at Democrats for apparently thinking that locking Noem out of a building is some sort of win. "Look, I've given Democrats an enormous amount of shit for their poor leadership: lack of specific and actionable plans, terrible messaging, abysmal wordplay. Did I mention poor leadership?" Stewart said. "But standing up for 75 million Americans in this moment to defend the rights of people to go into a little less medical debt seems like the least they can fucking do," the television host continued.

Axios: [GA] Lawyers say ICE detainees held for days in poor conditions at Atlanta office
Axios [10/7/2025 6:15 AM, Thomas Wheatley, 12972K] reports people accused of immigration violations say they've been detained for days in poor conditions in ICE's Downtown Atlanta field office. Lawyers for detainees told the AJC their clients stayed overnight without easy access to showers or legal help in the field office's holding center blocks away from the Georgia Capitol and City Hall. Since Jan. 20, more than 1,200 people

have been detained in the Ted Turner Drive building for more than 24 hours, which also houses the Atlanta U.S. Immigration Court, according to the Deportation Data Project. According to the database compiled by lawyers and academics using ICE records, only eight people spent longer than 24 hours in the holding room from September 2023 until President Trump began his second term in office. The holding centers are meant to house detainees for short periods of time as their cases are processed. One lawyer interviewed by the AJC said her clients included a mother of two who slept on the facility's floor for more than a week and a man who spent several nights sleeping next to an open toilet. In a statement, DHS assistant secretary of public affairs Tricia McLaughlin said ICE follows agency standards "to ensure the safety, security, and humane treatment of individuals in custody." McLaughlin said "detainees are receiving three meals a day, have access to phones, showers, legal representation, blankets, and medical care." "When will the media stop covering sob stories of illegal alien processing and detention centers and start focusing on the victims of illegal alien crime?" she said.

Univision: [FL] Two immigrants arrested in Florida under a law that was suspended by federal court

Univision [10/7/2025 9:13 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports two men were indicted last weekend under a state immigration law that is suspended by court order, according to a report released Monday by Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier's office. Both cases occurred in Bradenton and add to a series of improper arrests made at different points in the state since a federal court blocked enforcement of the rule. According to the court filing, the men were arrested in separate incidents and faced charges of "illegal entry" to the state, a figure established in the immigration law promoted by Governor Ron DeSantis. However, a federal judge in Miami, Kathleen Williams, ruled in April that the legislation could not be enforced while her court challenge continues. Attorney General Uthmeier was forced to deliver periodic reports on the enforcement of that court order after being declared in civil contempt. In April, Williams sanctioned him for instructing state and local agents who could continue to enforce the law, even though she had issued an injunction temporarily suspending her. As part of the punishment, the judge ordered the attorney general to report twice a month on any police action or arrest linked to the immigration rule. In the first case, an agent stopped a driver after observing loose branches and unsecured equipment in the back of his truck. The man acknowledged that his driver's license was expired. Following a call to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sergeant, his irregular immigration status was confirmed and a federal arrest warrant was issued. In the second case, another agent responded to a traffic block caused by the fall of an engine block in the middle of the road. The driver, who also had no driver's license, admitted by phone to an ICE agent who was illegally in the United States. Both were charged under state illegal entry law, but local prosecutors announced that the charges would be dropped as a currently suspended rule.

Breitbart: [IL] Democrats Want ICE Investigated After Agents Arrest Illegal Aliens in Chicago

Breitbart [10/7/2025 3:22 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Democrats on the House Homeland Security and House Judiciary committees are demanding a federal investigation into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after agents arrested dozens of illegal aliens in the South Shore of Chicago, Illinois. Late last month, ICE agents arrested almost 40 illegal aliens during the raid, some of whom may be linked to the Tren de Aragua gang. On Tuesday, Democrats on both committees urged Attorney General Pam Bondi and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem to open an investigation

into the ICE raid, answering a series of detailed questions regarding the enforcement action.

Univision: [TX] Trash and dirty bathrooms: poor conditions reported at immigration detention center in Texas
Univision [10/7/2025 11:12 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports Univision News obtained exclusive footage showing for the first time how prisoners live at the East Montana immigration detention center in Texas. For its part, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a statement that allegations of inhumane conditions at the facility are false. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Breitbart: [OK] ICE Arrests 91 Illegal Migrant Semi-Truck Drivers in Licensing Crackdown
Breitbart [10/7/2025 3:54 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the arrests of 91 illegal aliens driving semi-trucks on fraudulent licenses in Oklahoma as the feds continue a crackdown on migrants driving commercial trucks. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol made the arrests during a three-day operation along Oklahoma's I-40. Along with the 91 illegal drivers, ICE took an additional 29 illegal aliens into custody during the operation, DHS said in an October 6 press release. The criminal activity committed by those taken into custody includes driving on multiple DUIs, illegal re-entry into the U.S., money laundering, human smuggling, assault, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and possession of a controlled substance.

Blaze: [OR] Inside the Portland ICE facility under siege by Antifa extremists
Blaze [10/7/2025 3:50 PM, Julio Rosas, 1442K] reports the ongoing violent protests at the facility in the southern portion of the city in response to President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts have become a months-long problem. The focus on Portland was renewed after Trump said he wanted to deploy the National Guard there to help protect federal assets and personnel. The day of my visit came after a federal judge put a temporary halt on the deployment of Oregon National Guardsmen. The facility had been prepared to receive the reinforcements, but now it was business as usual. The previous day saw a large number of protesters attempt to block the movement of federal vehicles from the building, resulting in clashes with federal agents and officers who went outside to clear the roadway.

New York Post: [CA] Undocumented migrant deported multiple times charged with six murders after drunken crash
New York Post [10/7/2025 4:18 PM, Jared Downing, 42219K] reports an undocumented immigrant had been arrested and deported multiple times before allegedly killing six people in a drunk driving crash in California, ICE said. A man going by Norberto Celerino, 53, faces six murder counts after he drunkenly crashed his packed car into a tree last month, Napa County prosecutors say. But US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Celerino — who has gone by many aliases — is actually 49-year-old Beto Cerillo-Bialva, who has been arrested and deported multiple times. The crash left Cerillo-Bialva and one other passenger critically injured, authorities said. ICE blamed the tragedy on California's longstanding sanctuary laws that block local law enforcement from cooperating with federal authorities and help even repeat deportees fly under the radar. Cerillo-Bialva also faces six counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in addition to the murder raps.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Federal agents held, shackled a seriously injured man to hospital bed for 37 days without charging him

Los Angeles Times [10/7/2025 6:15 PM, Brittny Mejia, 14862K] reports for more than a month, federal immigration officials surveilled Bayron Rovidio Marin in a hospital bed at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he lay recuperating from serious injuries to his leg after an encounter with agents at a Carson car wash they raided. He was never charged and his lawyers say he was shackled to his bed for several days and couldn't speak privately with doctors or legal counsel. Over the weekend, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order requiring immigration officials to remove the guards watching over Bayron Rovidio Marin, take off the handcuffs and leave him unrestrained. "He is presently detained under restrictions that limit his access to counsel, medical providers, and family," U.S. District Judge Cynthia Valenzuela wrote in her Oct. 4 order. "He has been questioned by government officials while in pain and under the influence of medication. He cannot place phone calls and remains handcuffed to a hospital bed despite a broken leg that prevents him from walking. He has received no more than a vague explanation for his detention, and Respondents' proffered excuses for delaying a formal notice are unsupported by facts.". Despite Immigration and Customs Enforcement's insistence on holding the man, Valenzuela said the government failed to provide any proof that he had "violated any law or regulation" or show that he was a "flight risk.". To date, ICE has not placed Rovidio Marin in removal proceedings, charged him with violating immigration law, set bond, issued a Notice to Appear or otherwise processed him, according to the order. The government told the court that they would determine the immigration status of Rovidio Marin once he was released from the hospital. His attorneys argued being indefinitely held without any charges is a clear constitutional violation. The Department of Homeland Security and the medical center did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Telemundo20: [CA] Chinese immigrant dies in ICE custody in Calexico

Telemundo20 [10/7/2025 3:14 PM, Staff, 57K] reports in a statement released last Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), it reported that an immigrant from China died at El Centro Regional Medical Center on September 29. The victim is Huabing Xie, 18, who, according to the center's staff, suffered a seizure and underwent pulmonary resuscitation maneuvers. Emergency services transported the victim to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. According to information reported by ICE, Border Patrol agents arrested Xie on several occasions, the first time in Tecate on December 31, 2023. After being released on bail, he was arrested again on September 12 in Indio, California, and transferred to ICE custody. In addition to this death, on September 22, Ismael Ayala-Uribe, 39, also died in the hospital after being transferred from the Adelanto ICE Processing Center, the agency reported. Ayala-Uribe was originally from Mexico and a DACA recipient from 2012 to 2016, NBCLA reported. His immigration status was denied after two DUI charges. He was arrested during an immigration raid in Orange County and held at the Los Angeles-area detention center for about a month before his death. ICE has reported 13 deaths in custody this year through August 31. The two latest reports bring the number to 15, although they are not yet listed on ICE's reporting website.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Immigration sought to deport 88-year-old. But he already died

Los Angeles Times [10/7/2025 10:26 AM, Rachel Uranga, 14862K] reports Jose Mario Rodriguez Grimaldi was weak and unable to eat in his final days after contracting COVID. He died peacefully in his daughter's Winnetka home two years ago, at age 88. Years after

his death, he was facing deportation proceedings. In August, his daughter received a notice addressed to him from the Department of Homeland Security: "It is charged that you are subject to removal from the United States.". Homeland Security ordered Rodriguez Grimaldi to appear before a judge in December. Then a few weeks later came another notice to appear for a hearing in September. If the feeble man were still alive, his fate might have been clear. The department has been aggressively seeking to deport unauthorized immigrants, scanning records for expired visas and reviving cases once administratively closed for deportation, sometimes a decade ago. But in the case of Rodriguez Grimaldi and several others confirmed by The Times, they died before officials could go after them. Some of the immigrants were in their late 80s. Some had legal status. But the intense push to ramp up deportations is dragging in even the dead, unnerveing immigrant households, cramming court calendars and sapping stretched immigration attorneys' time.

Daily Caller: [CA] Whoopi Goldberg Suggests Disgusting Way To React To ICE At Super Bowl
Daily Caller [10/7/2025 12:41 PM, Media Madness, 835K] reports while reacting Monday on "The View" to Homeland Security Department (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem warning that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will be present at the Super Bowl, Whoopi Goldberg suggested people should put cocoa butter on their skin and peak with a Latin accent to throw agents off the scent. People in attendance chuckled and clapped in response. The Daily Caller's Natalie Sandoval breaks down the situation for Media Madness.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Roll Call: Lawsuit challenging Trump H-1B visa fee details potential harms
Roll Call [10/7/2025 4:42 PM, Chris Johnson, 548K] reports a lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's new $100,000 fee on H-1B visas describes the kinds of harms it could have on health care, education and religious groups that seek to employ foreign talent to complement their workforce. The complaint, filed by a mix of employers and unions Friday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, details the economic fallout as a central part of its lawsuit that argues the Trump administration overstepped congressional authority. Trump's Sept. 19 proclamation says the new $100,000 fee on companies for every new H-1B visa application is necessary to reverse "systemic abuse of the program has undermined both our economic and national security." But the proclamation focuses on information technology and software, along with science, technology, engineering and math fields. The plaintiffs, represented by attorneys with Justice Action Center, Democracy Forward Foundation and other groups, say the proclamation's harms will be more widespread.

Blaze: The visa that ate America's tech jobs
Blaze [10/7/2025 11:00 AM, Matt O'Brien, 1442K] reports last month, Sen. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) introduced the American Tech Workforce Act — legislation aimed at curbing abuses in the H-1B visa program and protecting American workers. One key provision would restrict remote work by foreign nationals employed in the United States under H-1B visas. Yes, you read that right. Foreign workers can enter the country and "work remotely," often from locations nowhere near the companies that hired them. A foreign national can take a tech job with a firm in San Francisco or Dallas, then live and work from Peoria or Plattsburgh.

The arrangement makes little sense — unless your goal is to undercut American wages. The H-1B program was sold to Americans as a way to fill gaps in "specialty occupations" that supposedly lacked qualified domestic talent. In practice, it became a pipeline for cheap, compliant foreign labor. Vague definitions of "specialty occupation" and toothless wage protections made it easy for corporations to game the system and drive down costs. Workers from India, China, and the Philippines accept lower pay for two simple reasons. First, they see the H-1B as a path to permanent residence and eventual citizenship. Many arrive and immediately ask their employers to petition for green cards. They believe that if they keep quiet and work long hours for less money, they'll earn the right to stay. Second, even when underpaid by American standards, they make far more than they could at home. A senior computer engineer in India earns roughly $16,000 to $28,000 per year. In the United States, even a low-paid engineer makes about $58,000. The math works for them — but not for American graduates struggling to enter the same field.

Reuters: Nvidia CEO Huang says chipmaker will continue to sponsor H-1B visas, Business Insider reports

Reuters [10/7/2025 1:22 PM, Staff, 36480K] reports that chipmaker Nvidia's (NVDA.O) CEO Jensen Huang said that the company will continue to sponsor H-1B visas and cover all associated costs following U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order last month that imposed a $100,000 fee on each new application, Business Insider reported on Tuesday. Huang's reported message, aimed at reassuring employees, comes after panic and confusion had ensued among tech workers on H-1B visas, a large chunk of whom are from India and China. Akin to the wider chip and tech industry, Nvidia has a significant number of employees from overseas. Huang has repeatedly asserted that about half the AI researchers in the world are Chinese. "As one of many immigrants at Nvidia, I know that the opportunities we've found in America have profoundly shaped our lives," Huang wrote in a message to staff, cited by Business Insider. "And the miracle of Nvidia — built by all of you, and by brilliant colleagues around the world — would not be possible without immigration," Huang added, according to the report. Nvidia declined to comment when contacted by Reuters.

Customs and Border Protection

Breitbart: Trump's DHS Releases Zero Migrants into U.S. for Fifth Consecutive Month

Breitbart [10/7/2025 3:11 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports for the fifth consecutive month this year, President Donald Trump's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released zero migrants into the United States interior. "September marked the fifth consecutive month with ZERO releases by the Border Patrol along the southwest border, compared to 9,144 releases in September 2024," DHS officials boasted in a news release. The elimination of the federal government's Catch and Release policy is a massive victory for the Trump administration — particularly after former President Joe Biden blew the pipeline wide open with a network. Under Biden, it is estimated that millions of migrants were released into the U.S. interior in just four years. Also under Trump, DHS officials note, Fiscal Year 2025 ended with the fewest southern border crossings in 55 years, with less than 238,000 migrants crossing in the last 12 months.

New York Post: Illegal border crossings drop to lowest level since 1970: 'Most secure border in American history'

New York Post [10/7/2025 7:56 PM, Victor Nava, 42219K] reports illegal crossings along the US-Mexico border plummeted to a 55-year low in fiscal year 2025 – with the vast majority of unlawful attempts to enter the country taking place during the final months of the Biden administration. Federal authorities apprehended a total of 237,565 migrants along the southwest border during the period between Oct. 1, 2024 and Sept. 30, 2025, according to data released Tuesday by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The figure is the lowest fiscal year total for apprehensions since 1970, when authorities caught 201,780 migrants attempting to cross the US-Mexico border. It is also 87% less than the average number of apprehensions over the last four fiscal years, which was about 1.86 million, according to DHS. "We have had the most secure border in American history and our end of year numbers prove it," DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said in a statement. "We have shattered multiple records this year and once again we have broken a new record with the lowest number of Southwest border apprehensions in 55 years.". "Under President Trump, we have empowered and supported our law enforcement to do their job and they have delivered."

Reported similarly:
The Hill [10/7/2025 8:57 PM, Tara Suter, 12595K]
NewsMax [10/7/2025 11:49 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4109K]
Washington Examiner [10/7/2025 2:00 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K]

FOX News: Chief patrol agent with bounty on his head explains why gang members feel 'comfortable' to place them
FOX News [10/7/2025 2:23 PM, Staff, 40621K] reports that Customs and Border Protection chief patrol agent Greg Bovino addresses the bounty put on his head by a gang leader and Illinois fighting President Donald Trump's intensifying crackdown on 'America Reports.' [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Arab Times: [DC] Kuwait, US sign border security and customs cooperation agreement
Arab Times [10/8/2025 4:25 AM, Staff] reports Kuwait and the United States signed an agreement Tuesday in Washington, D.C. to strengthen cooperation in customs operations, border security, and the exchange of technical expertise, as part of broader efforts to modernize and secure cross-border activities between the two nations. The agreement was inked during a meeting between Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Rodney Scott, at the agency's headquarters in the US capital. According to a statement issued by Kuwait's Ministry of Interior, the two sides explored avenues for enhancing customs procedures and port safety, while discussing mechanisms for exchanging operational expertise to improve the movement of passengers and cargo between Kuwait and the United States.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Border Patrol arrestee gets hero's welcome at Waukegan meeting: 'Stand up for what you believe in'
Chicago Tribune [10/7/2025 3:26 PM, Steve Sadin, 4829K] reports slightly more than an hour after she was released Monday from federal custody for allegedly impeding a federal investigation, Dariana Fajardo arrived at Waukegan City Hall to say thank you to supporters, and before she left, she received four standing ovations. Arriving during a City Council meeting, she quietly took a seat and initially went unnoticed. As she sat there, she

heard speaker after speaker talk about what happened to her earlier in the afternoon, when U.S. Border Patrol agents pulled her from her car and took her into custody. More than 30 people spoke collectively for more than an hour during the time allotted for audience participation. Many talked about the impact of President Donald Trump's pursuit of undocumented people in the country, others about Fajardo's treatment and a few about different subjects. Fajardo received a hero's welcome when she identified herself at the meeting in front of the standing-room-only crowd of more than 150 people. Assuring the crowd she was "okay," Fajardo said she came to thank Mayor Sam Cunningham for intervening with federal agents on her behalf earlier in the day to secure her car, as well as Dulce Ortiz, the executive director of Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, for finding her a lawyer. "I want you to take the attention off me and focus on something that really matters because I'm okay," Fajardo said. "Stand up for what you believe in. Go out there. There's power in numbers. "They can't arrest everybody," she added, prompting her third standing ovation. Speaking early in the meeting, Cunningham said he was saddened by the fear gripping Waukegan as federal agents, including those from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), look for people not legally in the country. "There is a real sense of fear spread throughout our city," he said. "Businesses are seeing fewer customers. Children are going to school worrying about what's happening around them. Quite frankly, it hurts."

ABC News: [TX] Trial date set for former Uvalde officer

ABC News [10/7/2025 1:48 PM, Josh Margolin, 30493K] reports that one of the two senior police officers charged in connection with the failures on the day of the Uvalde, Texas, elementary school mass shooting will go on trial Jan. 5, the judge overseeing the case told ABC News. Judge Sid Harle said there has been an agreement to move the case of former school officer Adrian Gonzales from Uvalde to Corpus Christi for trial on 29 counts of abandoning and endangering a child. A pretrial hearing in the case, scheduled for Oct. 14, has been canceled now that trial arrangements are under way. Nineteen children and two teachers were killed in the May 2022 rampage at Robb Elementary School. Law enforcement waited some 77 minutes at the scene before breaching a classroom and killing the gunman. Also charged is former Uvalde school police chief Pete Arredondo, who was the on-site commander on the day of the shooting. Arredondo faces 10 counts of child endangerment and abandonment on behalf of the injured and surviving children in classroom 112. The judge said Arredondo's case remains on hold pending the outcome of ongoing litigation between the Uvalde District Attorney's Office and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which has refused to allow its personnel to cooperate with the investigation into the shooting, according to the litigation. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters/Washington Post: US air traffic control staffing hit for second day, delaying flights

Reuters [10/7/2025 6:18 PM, David Shepardson, 36480K] reports air traffic control staffing issues are delaying flights for a second straight day at numerous U.S. airports as the government shutdown reaches its seventh day, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a notice on Tuesday. The FAA said many flights were being delayed at Nashville and Newark airports, among others. The FAA is reducing the number of arriving flights per hour at Chicago O'Hare, citing staffing, with average delays of 41 minutes. The FAA also reported staffing issues at Atlanta Air Route Traffic Control Center. Severe weather is also impacting

flights across the country. Some 13,000 air traffic controllers and about 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers must still turn up for work during the government shutdown, but they are not being paid. Controllers are set to receive a partial paycheck on October 14 for work performed before the shutdown. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on Monday the FAA had seen a slight increase in controllers taking sick leave and air traffic staffing has been cut by 50% in some areas since the shutdown started last week. The Washington Post [10/7/2025 12:04 PM, Victoria Bisset and Lori Aratani, 24149K] reports that according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware, more than 6,000 U.S. flights were delayed Monday — although it was unclear how many of those were related to staffing issues, because weather and traffic volume also can cause delays. The Thursday before the government shutdown, nearly 7,000 flights were delayed, according to the site. In a statement, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) said it is not unusual for people to call in sick, and it emphasized that the vast majority of controllers remain on the job, even though they are not being paid during the shutdown. However, the union added that the shutdown underscores the fragility of the system. “NATCA has consistently warned that the controller staffing shortage leaves the system vulnerable, and [Monday’s] events underscore the urgent need to accelerate training and hiring,” the union said. According to NATCA’s estimates, the system is roughly 3,800 short of the number of qualified controllers it needs. Essential workers such as air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration officers are expected to continue working without pay during the shutdown, which began Wednesday, and receive back pay once the government reopens.

NewsMax: Staffing Woes Delay More Flights as Shutdown Hits Day 7

NewsMax [10/7/2025 8:19 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports staffing shortages led to more flight delays at airports across the U.S. on Tuesday as the federal government shutdown stretched into a seventh day, while union leaders for air traffic controllers and airport security screeners warned the situation was likely to get worse. The Federal Aviation Administration reported staffing issues at airports in Nashville, Tennessee; Boston; Chicago; and Philadelphia and at its air traffic control centers in Atlanta and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The agency temporarily slowed takeoffs of planes headed to the first three cities. Major flight delays a day earlier also were tied to insufficient staffing during the shutdown, which began Oct. 1. The FAA reported delays on Monday at the airports in Burbank, California; Newark, New Jersey; and Denver. Travel industry analyst Henry Harteveldt said the risk of significant disruptions to the U.S. aviation system "is growing by the day" as federal workers whose jobs are deemed critical continue working without pay. The longer the shutdown drags on, the more likely it is to affect holiday travel plans in November, he said. "I’m gravely concerned that if the government remains shut down then, that it could disrupt, and possibly ruin, millions of Americans’ Thanksgiving holidays," Harteveldt said in a statement. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Monday that there has already been an uptick in air traffic controllers calling out sick in a few locations. When there aren’t enough controllers, the FAA must reduce the number of takeoffs and landings to maintain safety, which in turn causes flight delays and possible cancellations. That’s what happened Monday afternoon, when the control tower at Southern California’s Hollywood Burbank Airport shut down for several hours, leading to average delays of 2 1/2 hours. When a pilot preparing for takeoff radioed the tower, according to communications recorded by LiveATC.net, he was told: "The tower is closed due to staffing.” Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, said the shutdown highlighted some of his union’s members already face on a regular basis due to a national airspace system that is critically understaffed and relies on outdated equipment that tends to fail. A couple of

controllers missing work can have a big impact at a small airport already operating with limited tower staffing, he said. "It's not like we have other controllers that can suddenly come to that facility and staff them. There's not enough people there," Daniels said Tuesday. "There's no overtime, and you have to be certified in that facility." Johnny Jones, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employees chapter that represents TSA workers, said he was hearing questions like, "How are we going to handle paying our bills?" and "How are we going to pay our child support? How are you going to pay for child care? How are you going to pay your mortgage payments? If I have to miss work, am I going to get terminated?". "The employees are struggling. They're assessing what they need to do and they're assessing how this is all going to work out," said Jones, who has worked as a screener since the TSA was established.

Reported similarly:
CNN [10/7/2025 5:17 PM, Alexandra Skores, Pete Muntean, Aaron Cooper, 18595K]

Washington Examiner: Airline industry showing signs of distress as government shutdown grinds on
Washington Examiner [10/7/2025 5:42 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K] reports the airline industry is among the first to show signs of strain as a result of the government shutdown, just one week after funding lapsed on Oct. 1. Flight delays, an air traffic controller shortage, and long security lines have been reported this week across the United States — problems that President Donald Trump dubbed during remarks in the Oval Office on Tuesday as "Democrat delays" because Senate Democrats have declined to support the House Republican-passed spending bill. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said as many as 50% of employees at individual facilities have called out on some days since last week. The Federal Aviation Administration has roughly 13,000 air traffic controllers still working during the shutdown. About one-quarter of the agency's total 45,000 employees were furloughed last week, while the remainder are on the job but will not receive pay for their work on their normal payday, according to the government's shutdown contingency plan. As of Monday, a dozen FAA facilities reported staffing shortages, according to an advisory from the agency. There were delays in Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Indianapolis, and Washington. In Newark, New Jersey, and Hollywood Burbank Airport near Los Angeles, ground delays were put into place, meaning that the control towers had to halt planes because they were short-staffed in their ability to monitor the activity. Duffy said a "slight increase" in sick leave at two air traffic control facilities contributed to delays at East Coast airports. Others fear that the worst is yet to come.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

CBS Miami: Tropical Storm Jerry forms over the central Atlantic, becoming the 10th named storm this hurricane season
CBS Miami [10/7/2025 12:26 PM, Emily Mae Czachor, 39474K] reports that Tropical Storm Jerry formed Tuesday over tropical waters in the central Atlantic Ocean, the National Hurricane Center said. It is the 10th named storm of the 2025 hurricane season. The newly developed system was far from land when the hurricane center issued its first advisory for Jerry at 11 a.m. ET. Forecasters said the storm was more than 1,300 miles east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands, the Caribbean chain east of Puerto Rico that starts with the Virgin Islands and extends down to Guadeloupe. Jerry had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph as it tracked westward at 24 mph across the open ocean, according to

forecasters. It was expected to steadily strengthen in the coming days and eventually grow into a hurricane. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect, but forecasters said tropical storm watches could be required for the northern Leewards by the end of Tuesday night. On its forecast track, Jerry is expected to be near or north of the northern Leewards on Thursday or Friday, the hurricane center said. Although the storm isn't currently expected to touch land, the swells it generates will likely reach the islands on Thursday, causing life-threatening surf and rip currents, according to the latest advisory. Jerry developed on the heels of several Atlantic storm systems, including Hurricane Humberto and Hurricane Imelda, which emerged at the end of September. Concerns that both could strike Bermuda briefly circulated, but only Imelda ultimately brushed the coast of the island as a Category 2 hurricane, before quickly weakening on its way out to the open ocean. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
CNN [10/7/2025 10:51 AM, Briana Waxman and Chris Dolce, 18595K]

CBS San Francisco: Hurricane Priscilla strengthens into Category 2 storm off Mexico's west coast. Maps show forecast path.
CBS San Francisco [10/7/2025 11:23 AM, Emily Mae Czachor, 39474K] reports that Hurricane Priscilla has intensified into a Category 2 storm off the west coast of Mexico and is expected to continue strengthening, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Tuesday. Priscilla could become a Category 3 storm by day's end, which would make it a major hurricane with minimum sustained winds of 111 mph, according to the hurricane center. The storm's winds have already reached 110 mph, the center said. Priscilla's outer bands were spreading over Baja California Sur on Tuesday afternoon. Forecasters anticipate that the storm will bring heavy rains and gusty winds to sections of the peninsula later Tuesday into Wednesday, with a tropical storm watch in effect from Cabo San Lucas to Cabo San Lazaro, Mexico. On the forecast track, Priscilla's center will move parallel to the coast of west-central Mexico and Baja California Sur over the next several days, while remaining offshore. "Additional strengthening is expected, and Priscilla could be at or near major hurricane strength later today. Weakening is forecast to begin on Wednesday and continue through the rest of the week," the hurricane center said. According to the center's latest update Tuesday, the storm was located about 320 miles west of Cabo Corrientes, Mexico, near the resort town of Puerto Vallarta, and about 210 miles south-southwest of Baja California's southern tip. It was traveling northwest at about 10 mph, the center said. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Axios: [UT] Salt Lake City declares emergency after record rain floods homes
Axios [10/7/2025 5:32 PM, Staff, 12972K] reports Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall declared a 30-day state of emergency Monday night after record-setting rainfall over the weekend caused significant flooding. More than two dozen homes and public property were impacted on the city's westside near 2000 West and 800 North after a drainage canal overflowed into backyards and spilled into the street, KSL TV reported. The order grants city officials more flexibility to request aid, buy materials and partner with other government agencies to help residents affected by the flooding. It also allows the city and residents to seek federal relief. Salt Lake City tallied nearly 2.5 inches of rainfall Saturday — the city's second-rainiest day recorded since 1901, per the National Weather Service.

Reuters: [CA] US sues Southern California Edison over Saddleridge wildfire

Reuters [10/7/2025 5:59 PM, Jonathan Stempel, 36480K] reports the U.S. government sued Southern California Edison to help restore National Forest System lands burned in the Saddleridge wildfire near Los Angeles in 2019. Tuesday's lawsuit seeks damages for fire suppression costs and rehabilitation stemming from the Edison International-owned (EIX.N) utility's alleged negligence, trespass by fire and violations of California public safety laws. Southern California Edison spokesperson Gabriela Ornelas said in a statement the utility is reviewing the complaint and will respond through the legal process. The utility also expressed sympathy for fire victims. The Department of Justice said the Saddleridge Fire ignited at the base of a transmission tower near Sylmar, California, during high winds, after a power line attached to a nearby tower fell onto a steel arm and caused an electrical fault. According to the complaint filed in Los Angeles federal court, the October 10, 2019 fire burned about 800 acres (324 hectares) within Angeles National Forest, in addition to damaging neighboring communities and causing one death. The Saddleridge Fire burned 8,799 acres (3,561 hectares) overall, Cal Fire said. Southern California Edison "knew about the potential danger posed by high winds," and failed to properly maintain its power and transmission lines and equipment, the government said.

Coast Guard

AP: Students for Fair Admissions Files Federal Lawsuit Challenging Coast Guard's Race-Based Commissioning Program

AP [10/7/2025 11:51 AM, Staff, 31753K] reports that today, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida challenging the U.S. Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI), a scholarship-to-commissioning program that bars most students from applying solely because of the racial composition of their colleges. Under the CSPI program, students may apply only if they attend a federally designated Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) or a campus where fewer than half of students are white. This means that thousands of otherwise qualified young Americans—students with the grades, character, and desire to serve—are denied even the opportunity to apply if their university's demographics do not meet the Coast Guard's race-based cutoff. Edward Blum, president of SFFA said, "The Supreme Court has made clear that our nation's institutions may not sort individuals by race. America asks much of the men and women who choose to wear a Coast Guard uniform. We ask for competence, courage, and character—not a particular skin color." Blum added, "Programs like CSPI are antithetical to the principles of equal treatment under law. Every American who is willing to serve should be given that opportunity, regardless of the racial makeup of their college." Blum concluded, "Excluding patriotic and qualified students because of where they attend school, or what their classmates look like, is both unconstitutional and unfair."

CISA/Cybersecurity

New York Times: Chinese Hackers Said to Target U.S. Law Firms

New York Times [10/7/2025 6:22 PM, Michael S. Schmidt, 135475K] reports Williams & Connolly, one of the country's most prominent law firms, has told clients that Chinese hackers infiltrated some of its computer systems as part of a broader effort by the Chinese to target American law firms, according to two people briefed on the matter. The F.B.I.'s Washington field office is investigating the hack and similar ones executed by the same

Chinese hackers, according to one of the people briefed on the matter. The hackers are suspected of breaching the networks of more than a dozen other law firms and technology companies in recent months. The people briefed on the hack and the F.B.I. investigation spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to be identified discussing a matter that was being investigated by federal authorities. Williams & Connolly, which has a reputation for aggressively fighting the government, represents high-profile American politicians including Bill and Hillary Clinton. It was the first firm to step up and represent one of the law firms that had been targeted by President Trump with a punitive executive order as part of Mr. Trump's campaign against firms he felt had opposed him legally and politically. In recent days, the firm has sought to reassure clients by telling them that to the best of its knowledge the hackers are not looking to make the information they took public or sell it. It told clients that some of the email accounts for its lawyers had been breached and that the hackers may have gained access to some client emails. "During the incident, a small number of Williams & Connolly attorney email accounts were accessed by leveraging what is known as a zero-day attack," the firm said in a statement to The New York Times in response to questions about the hack. "Importantly, there is no evidence that confidential client data was extracted from any other part of our I.T. system, including from databases where client files are stored." The firm said, "We have taken steps to block the threat actor, and there is now no evidence of any unauthorized traffic on our network."

CyberScoop: Microsoft pins GoAnywhere zero-day attacks to ransomware affiliate Storm-1175

CyberScoop [10/7/2025 4:25 PM, Matt Kapko] reports Microsoft Threat Intelligence said a cybercriminal group it tracks as Storm-1175 has exploited a maximum-severity vulnerability in GoAnywhere MFT to initiate multi-stage attacks including ransomware. Researchers observed the malicious activity Sept. 11, Microsoft said in a blog post Monday. Microsoft's research adds another substantive chunk of evidence to a growing collection of intelligence confirming the defect in Fortra's file-transfer service was exploited as a zero-day before the company disclosed and patched CVE-2025-10035 on Sept. 18. Despite this mounting pile of evidence, Fortra has yet to confirm the vulnerability is under active exploitation. The company has not answered questions or provided additional information since it updated its security advisory Sept. 18 to include indicators of compromise. Storm-1175, a financially motivated cybercrime group known for exploiting public vulnerabilities to gain access and deploy Medusa ransomware, exploited CVE-2025-10035 to achieve remote code execution, according to Microsoft. "They used this access to install remote monitoring tools such as SimpleHelp and MeshAgent, drop web shells, to move laterally across networks using built-in Windows utilities," Sherrod DeGrippo, director of threat intelligence strategy at Microsoft, told CyberScoop in an email. "In at least one instance, the intrusion led to data theft via Rclone and a Medusa ransomware deployment." Microsoft's findings bolster research from other firms including watchTowr, which said it obtained credible evidence of active exploitation of the GoAnywhere vulnerability dating back to Sept. 10, a day before Fortra maintains the vulnerability was discovered.

CNN: [DC] US law firm with major political clients hacked in spying spree linked to China

CNN [10/8/2025 12:25 AM, Sean Lyngaas, 606K] reports suspected Chinese government-backed hackers have breached computer systems of US law firm Williams & Connolly, which has represented some of America's most powerful politicians, as part of a larger spying campaign against multiple law firms, according to a letter the firm sent clients and a

source familiar with the hack. The cyber intrusions have hit the email accounts of select attorneys at these law firms, as Beijing continues a broader effort to gather intelligence to support its multi-front competition with the US on issues ranging from national security to trade, multiple sources have told CNN. The hackers in this case used a previously unknown software flaw, coveted by spies because it allows for stealth, to access Williams & Connolly's computer network, said the letter sent to clients this week and reviewed by CNN. The letter did not name the hackers responsible, but the source familiar with the hack told CNN that Beijing was the prime suspect. "Given the nature of the threat actor, we have no reason to believe that the data will be disclosed or used publicly," the letter said, in a hint that the intruder was focused on espionage rather than extortion. CNN has reached out to the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC for comment. Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the embassy, told CNN in response to a separate hacking allegation last month: "China firmly opposes and combats all forms of cyber attacks and cybercrime." It was not immediately clear which Williams & Connolly attorneys or clients were affected by the hack. Williams & Connolly is known for its politically influential clientele and a storied bench of courtroom lawyers. The firm has represented Bill and Hillary Clinton; corporate clients, including tech, health care and media companies; and white-collar criminal defendants like Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes. A Williams & Connolly spokesperson declined to answer questions on who was responsible for the hack. The hackers are "believed to be affiliated with a nation-state actor responsible for recent attacks on a number of law firms and companies," Williams & Connolly said in a statement to CNN. "We have taken steps to block the threat actor, and there is now no evidence of any unauthorized traffic on our network." Another prominent US law firm hit by suspected Chinese hackers is Wiley Rein, CNN reported in July. With clients that span the Fortune 500, Wiley Rein is a powerful player in helping US companies and the government navigate the trade war with China. The suspected Chinese hackers have been rampant in recent weeks, also hitting the cloud-computing firms that numerous American companies rely on to store key data, experts at Google-owned cybersecurity firm Mandiant have told CNN. In a sign of how important China's hacking army is in the race for tech supremacy, the hackers have also stolen US tech firms' proprietary software and used it to find new vulnerabilities to burrow deeper into networks, according to Mandiant.

Washington Examiner: [China] Chinese corporations fight efforts to protect American GPS infrastructure from cyberattacks

Washington Examiner [10/7/2025 9:00 AM, Robert Schmad, 1394K] reports opposition to land-based infrastructure that could serve as a backup for satellite GPS is being spearheaded by groups linked to Chinese corporations, potentially putting America's national security at risk, according to a newly released report from the Bull Moose Project. The Bull Moose Project identified five industry groups representing a large number of Chinese corporations, many with government connections, that are working to kill a proposal before the Federal Communications Commission that would approve the use of terrestrial 5G technology to provide GPS services. Establishing a ground-based alternative to satellite GPS is a pressing national security concern, according to the Bull Moose Project, industry experts, and the Trump administration itself. "We rely on GPS for so many facets of modern life — from emergency response to military operations to simple driving directions," FCC Chairman Brendan Carr wrote in March. "While GPS may be indispensable, it is not infallible. Continuing to rely so heavily on one system leaves us exposed. Disruptions to GPS have the potential to undermine the nation's economic and national security.". With this in mind, the FCC initiated a Notice of Inquiry in March to explore the development of alternatives to space-based GPS infrastructure. Standing athwart this effort, as uncovered

by the Bull Moose Project, is a collection of trade associations and industry standards development organizations that represent corporations based in China. Chief among these groups is the Z-Wave Alliance, an organization that has submitted dozens of filings to the FCC opposing the ground-based backup to satellite GPS and which has met with commission staffers to advocate against it.

Terrorism Investigations

NPR: When cartels start to diversify
NPR [10/8/2025 3:00 AM, Wailin Wong, Adrian Ma, Cooper Katz McKim, Kate Concannon, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports the Sinaloa Cartel made the bulk of its money on cocaine. But cartels are diversifying into new operations including things like wildlife trafficking. Think sharks, jaguars, capybaras. The result is something called “narco-degradation.” On today’s show, we look at what’s driving cartels beyond drugs and how this is wreaking havoc on ecosystems in Central America.

The Hill: [DC] Man arrested at outside Mass marking start of Supreme Court term had 200 explosive devices: Police
The Hill [10/7/2025 2:26 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12595K] reports that a man arrested outside the annual Red Mass ceremony held at St. Matthew’s Cathedral had over 200 explosive devices in a tent on the church’s stairs, according to police. Louis Geri, 41, touted homemade explosives when officers approached him on the step ahead of the service typically attended by Supreme Court justices to ring in a new term, according to court records reviewed by the Washington Post. Devices were found inside his front pocket and a backpack he was carrying on the scene, in addition to a tent encampment set up in close proximity to the cathedral, the records show. Authorities also found vials of nitromethane, a colorless, organic compound used in explosive devices, the court records showed. Geri said he had a background in explosives and told officers at the scene that the vials were intended to be used as grenades with rubber bands to secure the fuse, according to court records, per the Post. In addition to the nitromethane, he was found in possession of Molotov cocktails and modified bottle rockets covered with aluminum foil and treated in a pyrotechnic solution. Court documents said the devices appeared "fully functional," the Post reported. "You might want to stay back and call the federales, I have explosives," Geri told officers when he was asked to leave, according to court records. He later told officers, "several of your people are gonna die from one of these" and eventually handed over a nine-page document outlining his disdain for Catholicism, Judaism, Supreme Court justices and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Daily Caller: [TX] Texas AG Declares Top-Secret War On ‘Leftist Terror Cells’… By Announcing It To Everyone
Daily Caller [10/7/2025 2:28 PM, Melissa O’Rourke, 835K] reports that Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced the launch of "undercover investigations" into groups affiliated with left-wing political violence by announcing the operations publicly. The public unveiling of what was described as an undercover operation drew some light-hearted laughs Tuesday, but that didn’t detract from the deadly serious challenges facing law enforcement and federal officials in Texas and across the country. In a public statement released Tuesday, Paxton said the investigations aim to identify and disrupt "radical leftist organizations" involved in or supporting political violence in Texas, citing recent attacks on

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities and the Sept. 10 assassination of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk. "Leftist political terrorism is a clear and present danger. Corrupted ideologies like transgenderism and Antifa are a cancer on our culture and have unleashed their deranged and drugged-up foot soldiers on the American people," said Paxton, who is currently locked in a hotly contested Texas Senate race. "The martyrdom of Charlie Kirk marks a turning point in America. There can be no compromise with those who want us dead. To that end, I have directed my office to continue its efforts to identify, investigate, and infiltrate these leftist terror cells," Paxton added. "To those demented souls who seek to kill, steal, and destroy our country, know this: you cannot hide, you cannot escape, and justice is coming." Paxton's office did not respond to the Daily Caller News Foundation's request for comment.

National Security News

AP: [Argentina] Argentina to extradite to US a suspected drug trafficker with ties to President Milei's ally

AP [10/7/2025 9:18 PM, Staff, 19051K] reports Argentina's top court on Tuesday approved the extradition of an Argentine businessman to face drug trafficking and money laundering charges in the United States, the latest development in a politically explosive case that has tainted a key ally of President Javier Milei. The Argentine Supreme Court ruled that the businessman, Fred Machado, should be handed over to American authorities in Texas, where a Justice Department indictment for drug trafficking, money laundering, wire fraud and other financial misdeeds stands against him. Machado denies the charges. Tuesday's court order to extradite Machado must be signed within 10 days by Milei's government, which is now negotiating a $20 billion lifeline with the Trump administration to stem a run on the peso before the country's crucial midterm elections. Since Milei took office in 2023, he has imposed a sweeping austerity program aimed at balancing Argentina's budget for the first time in decades, but recent political scandals have threatened his political agenda. Machado, who has been in custody in Argentina since 2021, is the center of the latest controversy. His long-running case sparked a media firestorm last week when documents surfaced showing that Machado had sent a $200,000 payment in 2020 to a member of Milei's Libertad Avanza party, José Luis Espert. Espert, one of Milei's top candidates for upcoming Oct. 26 midterm elections, admitted accepting the money in a social media video posted Thursday, claiming it was for consulting work to help a mining company linked to Machado. He denied knowledge of Machado's allegedly illicit activities. The revelation piled pressure on the president, who has suffered a series of political setbacks in recent weeks including a landslide loss in a provincial vote, a separate bribery scandal engulfing his powerful sister and several votes in Congress that overturned presidential vetoes and boosted social spending that threatens his hard-won fiscal balance. Espert, a current lawmaker and economist, withdrew his candidacy Sunday for Milei's libertarian party in Buenos Aires Province.

Washington Post: [Israel] Trump administration intervenes to secure woman's rescue from Gaza

Washington Post [10/7/2025 2:44 PM, Hope Hodge Seck and Adam Taylor, 24149K] reports that a Palestinian woman whose son serves in the U.S. Navy was secretly evacuated from war-torn Gaza in recent weeks after an intervention by the Trump administration and the Israeli and Jordanian governments, according to people familiar with the matter and correspondence reviewed by The Washington Post. The operation, entailing

a coordinated pause in Israeli military strikes to safeguard the woman's movements, illustrates the extreme difficulty of orchestrating a legal exit from Gaza without resources and influence. The unusual operation occurred as the Trump administration has, at turns, been accused of turning a blind eye to the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza — even, in some cases, when they are U.S. citizens. For Ahlam Firwana, 59, the escape to safety required $10,000 in donated transportation costs, sophisticated software to monitor her movements amid the Israeli military's ongoing assault, and the direct involvement of senior U.S. officials who helped secure agreements from the governments of Jordan and Israel to facilitate the woman's departure from Gaza. Firwana's son, Navy Petty Officer Younis Firwana, 32, joined the military in 2023 seeking a path to U.S. citizenship. After the Gaza war began that October, his mother and six siblings faced ever-increasing danger and privation, he recalled in an interview. In 2024, the family's seven-story home was leveled in the bombardment. Food and medicine grew scarce. "They had a point," he said, "where they were eating birdseed." The evacuation of U.S. citizens from Gaza has been a contentious issue since the war began after Hamas militants staged a deadly, coordinated attack in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

The Hill: [Syria] US military kills senior al Qaeda-affiliated attack planner

The Hill [10/7/2025 6:39 PM, Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports the United States military killed a senior al Qaeda-affiliated attack planner last week in Syria, U.S. Central Command (Centcom) announced on Tuesday. Centcom said its forces conducted a strike on Oct. 2 that killed Muhammad Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ahmad, who the U.S. military says was a member of Ansar al-Islam, an al Qaeda affiliated terrorist group. "U.S. forces in the Middle East remain postured to disrupt and defeat efforts by terrorists to plan, organize and conduct attacks," Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of Centcom, said in a statement on Tuesday. "We will continue to defend our homeland, warfighters, allies and partners throughout the region and beyond," Cooper added. It is unclear in which part of Syria al-Ahmad was killed. The Hill has reached out to Centcom for additional information. A U.S. airstrike killed a senior al Qaeda-affiliated leader in Northwest Syria earlier this year. Centcom said its forces killed Muhammed Yusuf Ziya Talay, a senior military leader of the Hurras al-Din, in February. The U.S. military began withdrawing hundreds of service members from Syria in April, looking to bring the number to fewer than 1,000.

AP: [Russia] Russia hosts Taliban delegation and warns against foreign military presence in Afghanistan

AP [10/7/2025 10:51 AM, Vladimir Isachenkov, 31753K] reports that Russia hosted a delegation of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban government Tuesday and issued a strong warning against a foreign military presence in the country. Speaking at the start of an international meeting on Afghanistan in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov praised the Taliban government for efforts to combat the Islamic State and other extremist groups, as well as eradicate illegal drugs. Lavrov emphasized that "the deployment of military infrastructure of any third countries on the territory of Afghanistan, as well as on the territories of neighboring states, is categorically unacceptable under any pretext." Last month, the Afghan government rejected a bid by U.S. President Donald Trump to retake Bagram Air Base, four years after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country left the sprawling military facility in the Taliban's hands. "The military presence of any extra-regional players could only lead to destabilization and new conflicts," Lavrov said. "The history of Afghanistan has seen a lot of situations with foreign military presence. I believe everyone should have drawn the right conclusions long time ago." The former Soviet Union fought a

10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with Moscow withdrawing its troops in 1989. Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021 after the pullback of U.S. and NATO forces, they have sought international recognition while also enforcing their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Reuters: [China] OpenAI bans suspected China-linked accounts for seeking surveillance proposals

Reuters [10/7/2025 7:50 AM, Jaspreet Singh, 36480K] reports OpenAI said on Tuesday it has banned several ChatGPT accounts with suspected links to the Chinese government entities after the users asked for proposals to monitor social media conversations. In its latest public threat report, OpenAI said some individuals had asked its chatbot to outline social media "listening" tools and other monitoring concepts, violating the startup's national security policy. The San Francisco-based firm's report raises safety concerns over potential misuse of generative AI amid growing competition between the U.S. and China to shape the technology's development and rules. OpenAI said it also banned several Chinese-language accounts that used ChatGPT to assist phishing and malware campaigns and asked the model to research additional automation that could be achieved through China's DeepSeek. The Chinese embassy in the U.S. did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Saturday, October 25, 2025 8:00 AM ET

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Top News

Reuters/SFGate/New York Times/Axios: Immigration surge called off for entire San Francisco Bay Area, officials say

Reuters [10/24/2025 6:04 PM, Nathan Frandino, 36480K] reports that a planned immigration enforcement push by U.S. Border Patrol has been called off throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, including Oakland, local officials said on Friday, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would not go forward with a deployment of additional federal officers to San Francisco. As part of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, he has increased federal immigration officers in several U.S. cities and dispatched National Guard to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. He had planned to send agents into San Francisco but agreed to hold off after speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie and tech leaders, who said the city was making progress. It was unclear at first whether other Bay Area cities like Oakland would still be affected. Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee said on Thursday the city was preparing for peaceful protests in response. On Friday, Alameda County Sheriff's department spokesman Roberto Morales said Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez was informed by federal authorities that the enforcement plan was canceled for the entire Bay Area. Lee said she had been told the same thing by Sanchez. The SFGate [10/24/2025 9:53 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Lee made the announcement one day after federal agents arrived on Coast Guard Island in the Oakland Estuary, a move widely seen as the first step in a "surge" of enforcement sweeps involving immigration agents and the National Guard. "I spoke with Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, who confirmed through her communications with ICE that Border Patrol operations are cancelled for the greater Bay Area -- which includes Oakland -- at this time," Lee said. President Donald Trump said Thursday he was canceling plans for such activity in San Francisco after hearing from a handful of Silicon Valley billionaires and speaking with Mayor Daniel Lurie. Still, it remained unclear until Lee made her announcement Friday if those plans were also canceled for other cities in the region. The New York Times [10/24/2025 3:50 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports the Department of Homeland Security officials also called off plans to bring staff members from Los Angeles to the Bay Area to help with the operation, one of the federal officials said. Mayor Barbara Lee of Oakland confirmed later on Friday that federal agents had canceled their operation in Oakland and the rest of the Bay Area. She said that she was told that by Yesenia Sanchez, the Alameda County sheriff, who was in communication with federal officials. Axios [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Shawna Chen, 12972K] reports that concerns remained that the agents — who clashed with protesters after arriving in Alameda early Thursday morning — would conduct enforcement activities in other parts of the Bay Area, community leaders told Axios. The FBI is investigating a shooting that took place near the entrance of Coast Guard Island in Alameda Thursday night, she added. Tensions flared Thursday as federal agents reached the Coast Guard Island in Alameda ahead of an anticipated immigration crackdown in the Bay Area. Protesters attempted to block U.S. Border Patrol agents from entering the base. The

confrontation grew heated as agents used apparent flash-bang grenades and pepper rounds to disperse the crowd. A San Mateo pastor was wounded after an apparent pepper round from a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent hit him in the face, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The shooting occurred later in the evening when a truck driver tried to back into the base, leading law enforcement officers to open fire, per footage obtained by CBS News Bay Area. The driver and a bystander were both injured. San Francisco Supervisor Bilal Mahmood is working on legislation to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property, following in the footsteps of Santa Clara County and San José.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, Kevin Rector, 14862K]
San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:17 PM, Dominic Fracassa, Kate Talerico, 4722K]

Wall Street Journal: Inside the Tech CEO Campaign to Stop Trump From Sending Troops to San Francisco

Wall Street Journal [10/24/2025 8:52 PM, Keach Hagey, Sebastian Herrera, and Robbie Whelan, 646K] reports President Trump was ready to send troops into San Francisco. The city's business leaders needed a way to talk him out of it. A frenzy of phone calls and text messages between Trump and members of his administration, Mayor Daniel Lurie and chief executive officers of major Bay Area technology companies culminated in Trump's announcement on Thursday that he had decided not to do a law-enforcement "surge" in San Francisco using federal forces. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Salesforce Chief Executive Marc Benioff were among those who played a role in the discussions, as was OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, whose involvement hasn't been previously reported. The executives helped broker a 25-minute phone call Wednesday night between Lurie and Trump and coordinated with him on a message that would prove persuasive: that a deployment of federal troops could cause civic unrest to a degree that would hurt the local economy and have ripple effects on the national economy, given the city's centrality to the artificial-intelligence boom. Trump had occasionally mused in public about ordering the National Guard to San Francisco for quasipolice operations, as he has done in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Memphis, Tenn. But the idea quickly came into focus after Benioff, in an Oct. 10 article in the New York Times, said he thought the National Guard was needed to combat crime in the city. Benioff apologized for his comments a week later and told Trump on an Oct. 19 phone call that he had changed his mind after his company's annual Dreamforce conference concluded with no major safety incidents, according to people familiar with the contents of the call. But in a Fox News appearance that day, Trump said, "We're going to go to San Francisco." Three days later, the Department of Homeland Security sent a force of Customs and Border Protection agents to a Coast Guard base on San Francisco Bay. In the days in between, Lurie's office fielded a barrage of calls from local business and political leaders anxious to avoid a confrontation that could cause mass protests and bring work and commerce to a standstill.

AP: Shots fired, driver hurt and held after truck rams into Coast Guard base in California

AP [10/24/2025 9:15 PM, Kathy McCormack, 31753K] reports a truck driver who backed into a U.S. Coast Guard base in the San Francisco Bay Area — the site of earlier protests against federal immigration agents — was shot by law enforcement officers and wounded, authorities said Friday. The driver was held for a mental health evaluation after "attempting to weaponize the vehicle to ram into Coast Guard Base Alameda " on Thursday night, the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security posted on X. The FBI later said the driver was in custody. A bystander was struck by a “fragment,” treated at a hospital and released, the Department of Homeland Security statement said. It did not elaborate. No Coast Guard personnel were hurt, it said. Officers issued “multiple verbal commands” to stop, but the driver failed to comply, “suddenly accelerating backwards at a high rate of speed directly toward them,” the statement said. “When the vehicle’s actions posed a direct threat to the safety of Coast Guard and security personnel, law enforcement officers discharged several rounds of defensive live fire,” it said. The driver was wounded in the stomach and was expected to survive, the statement said. The FBI was investigating. It sent evidence, crisis management and bomb technician teams to the scene. “At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public,” FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. No other details were immediately released. Video from the scene showed what appeared to be a U-Haul truck trying to back into the base. “U-Haul is assisting law enforcement to meet any investigative needs they have,” company spokesperson Jeff Lockridge said in a statement. Coast Guard Island is a 67-acre (27-hectare) human-made island formed in 1913 in the Oakland Estuary between Oakland and Alameda. It is federally owned, does not allow visits from the general public without an escort or specific government identification, and it has been home to the current base, Base Alameda, since 2012, according to a Coast Guard document from 2016. Base Alameda provides a variety of services for Coast Guard activities throughout the West Coast. Earlier Thursday, protesters had assembled at the island, with many singing hymns and carrying signs saying, “Protect our neighbors” and “No ICE or troops in the Bay,” a reference to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Guard. The Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:48 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K] reports that two civilians were injured and are expected to survive. The truck driver was wounded in the stomach and is being held for mental health evaluation. A bystander was struck by a fragment, treated at a local hospital, and released," the statement said. The DHS X account attached a video of the incident, showing the vehicle backing up at high speed toward a line of officers who riddled it with fire, causing the driver to stop and speed off in the opposite direction. The FBI is leading the investigation into the incident, sending evidence, crisis management, and bomb technician teams to the site of the crime. "At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public," FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. U-Haul spokesman Jeff Lockridge said the company cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation. The Daily Wire [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports that the shooting happened as anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement protesters gathered near the entrance of the military installation. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents recently arrived at the Coast Guard base as part of the federal government’s illegal immigration crackdown. Earlier on Thursday, federal agents and California Highway Patrol officers clashed with protesters outside of the Coast Guard base, as civilian employees left the base located on a small island on San Francisco Bay. The base has only one entrance, reached by a bridge. The Coast Guard security personnel were positioned on the bridge as the protests continued late into the night.

Reported similarly:
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Summer Lin, 14862K]
New York Post [10/24/2025 8:24 AM, Patrick Reilly, 42219K] r
The Hill [10/24/2025 9:27 AM, Surina Venkat, 12595K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 11:39 AM, Jon Haworth, 30493K]
(B) CBS Mornings [10/24/2025 10:08 AM, Staff]
FOX News [10/24/2025 8:04 AM, Elizabeth Pritchett and Michael Dorgan, 40621K]

NewsNation [10/24/2025 11:41 AM, Staff, 8017K]
Blaze [10/24/2025 1:20 PM, Julio Rosas, 1442K]
Univision [10/24/2025 1:59 PM, Staff, 5004K]

AP: After truck ramming incident in San Francisco, Noem warns sending National Guard is on the table

AP [10/24/2025 7:57 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said Friday that her department won't tolerate violence like the truck that rammed into a Coast Guard station in the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday night. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

FOX News: Dems urged to 'stop siding with illegal aliens' after activist rams agents in sanctuary city

FOX News [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports the Trump administration is urging sanctuary Democrats to "stop siding with illegal aliens" after a Los Angeles immigrant activist and social media personality rammed ICE agents in attempts to escape arrest, prompting agents to open fire. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told Fox News Digital that during a targeted enforcement stop on Tuesday, 44-year-old Mexican illegal immigrant Carlitos Ricardo Parias "weaponized his vehicle and began ramming the law enforcement vehicle in an attempt to flee." "Fearing for the safety of the public and law enforcement," McLaughlin said, "Our officers followed their training and fired defensive shots." Now, DHS is pursuing criminal charges against Parias for assaulting, resisting, or impeding federal law enforcement. McLaughlin said that "these are the consequences of conduct and rhetoric by sanctuary politicians and activists who urge illegal aliens to resist arrest." "We are once again calling on sanctuary politicians, agitators, and the media to turn the temperature down and stop calling for violence and resistance against ICE law enforcement," said McLaughlin.

ABC 5 Minneapolis/KTTC 10 Rochester: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem discusses ICE operations in Twin Cities on Friday

ABC 5 Minneapolis [10/24/2025 11:30 PM, Staff, 31733K] Video: HERE reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem talked Friday afternoon about immigration operations nationwide and highlighted a few people here, including a man from Mexico and one from El Salvador, who she said were serious criminals and were arrested and taken off the street in the Twin Cities area. "Under the leadership of Mayor Frey, under the leadership of Gov. Walz, more violent crimes are being perpetuated in these communities because of their refusal to defend American citizens," Noem said during the press conference. "Regardless, our federal officers, our ICE officers, ERO, HSI and partnership with our Department of Justice, agencies and other individuals throughout the federal government, we will continue to do the work to make sure these criminals are removed from our communities." However, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's annual crime report, which was recently released for 2024, showed that murders have decreased in Minnesota for the third year in a row. Overall, violent crime was steady throughout the state, with a 1% rise reported in the seven-county Twin Cities metro and a 3% dip in the rest of the state, the report showed. A spokesperson for Gov. Walz said in response, "It appears that this visit was perhaps more about pulling a political stunt than about solving a problem. The Governor wishes the Trump Administration would stay focused on the real issues facing Americans: skyrocketing health care costs, a crisis for farmers, and the ongoing federal government shutdown." 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS asked Noem if she plans to deploy the National Guard or increase

the presence of other federal agents in Minneapolis, St. Paul or the surrounding metro area. “It’s up to the president on if he believes the National Guard should be deployed to any situation in any city across our country, but we do have an increase in federal officers that will be coming,” said Noem. “We had a bill pass through Congress that allocated 10,000 new ICE officers to us across the country, we have received over 175,00 applicants for those jobs.” [Editorial note: consult video at source link] KTTC 10 Rochester [10/24/2025 9:48 PM, Ryan Paris] reports Friday’s visit came on the heels of ICE operations across the country, including ones in Chicago and Portland. Noem highlighted work done by the Trump administration within the first 10 months of his second presidency as well. Since January, more than 4,300 undocumented immigrants have been either detained or deported. Noem said, of that number, 3,316 had a previous criminal history, and asked for public support of ICE agents and law enforcement. “I’m here today to ask all of the people in Minnesota, all of the people in the Midwest and across the country, to support your law enforcement officers,” Noem said. “Support them and protect them as they go out there and do their jobs. Each and every one of them took an oath to support and defend this country, defend their communities and to protect people. That’s what they are doing every day when they go out and enforce the law.” In response to Noem’s visit, protestors gathered earlier on Friday at Fort Snelling to voice their frustrations with the Trump administration and its immigration enforcement policies. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsNation: Noem: 4,300-plus migrants removed from Minneapolis since Jan.
NewsNation [10/24/2025 6:39 PM, Damita Menezes, 8017K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Friday that more than 4,300 illegal immigrants have been removed from the Minneapolis area since January, including 3,316 with criminal histories, 98 gang members, 11 known or suspected terrorists and two foreign fugitives. Speaking at a press conference with ICE officials, Noem said the administration has arrested and deported 515,000 illegal immigrants nationwide since January, with 70% facing pending criminal charges. Noem said it’s up to the president to deploy the National Guard to any city. She said dozens of federal agents and officers will arrive in Minneapolis as part of a congressional funding bill and are "trained, qualified and equipped" for enforcement operations.

The Hill: Senate Democrats press Education secretary on immigration enforcement near schools
The Hill [10/24/2025 11:35 AM, Lexi Lonas Cochran, 12595K] reports a group of Senate Democrats sent a letter Friday to Education Secretary Linda McMahon demanding the Trump administration make efforts to ensure Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers don’t conduct operations close to schools. The letter, led by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) and signed by seven colleagues, says ICE has increased its presence around Chicago Public Schools and other educational institutions, which "disrupt[s] learning and school operations.” The letter describes an incident of ICE throwing canisters of tear gas 700 feet away from an elementary school during lunch and recess time. Another incident cited in the letter involved two women getting dragged out of their car by ICE in front of a Chicago school building with students around. "Why was the tear gas deployed? Because of violent rioters," Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told NBC News. "This is not that hard.” For the second incident, McLaughlin previously said the women "were driving recklessly, including weaving between lanes and putting other motorists at risk. Following the driver abruptly stopping in the middle of traffic near a school, law enforcement approached the vehicle. The occupants refused to exit the

vehicle and follow law enforcement commands.” The Democrats in their letter Friday are demanding ICE operations be at least 1,000 feet away from school property. "Federal agents continue to use unwarranted, excessive levels of force around Chicago, demonstrating an alarming lack of care or regard for the health and wellbeing of children, particularly by conducting unfocused, inflammatory operations within close proximity of school grounds," the letter states. The latest in politics and policy. Direct to your inbox. By signing up, I agree to the Terms of Use, have reviewed the Privacy Policy, and to receive personalized offers and communications via email, on-site notifications, and targeted advertising using my email address from The Hill, Nexstar Media Inc., and its affiliates. The Hill has reached out to the Education Department for comment. The Democrats called on McMahon to "pressure" Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, whose department oversees ICE, to restore restrictions around conducting enforcement operations near schools. At the beginning of the Trump administration, restrictions were lifted on ICE operations inside schools or places of worship, although no known incident has occurred of ICE entering classrooms. "Considering DHS' failure to protect American students, we demand you pressure your colleague, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, to reinstate restrictions on Federal immigration enforcement operations in and around places of education," the Democrats wrote.

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [10/24/2025 10:44 AM, Sandy Fitzgerald, 4109K]

Reuters: Trump's troop deployments to Portland and D.C. face tests in court
Reuters [10/24/2025 3:20 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 36480K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon and Washington, D.C. held hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. Immergut did not immediately issue a ruling on the Trump administration's request. The judge said she would decide by Monday. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb was considering a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful.

NewsMax: Troop Deployments to Portland, D.C. Face Tests in Court
NewsMax [10/24/2025 9:24 PM, Dietrich Knauth, 4109K] reports federal judges in Portland, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., will hold hearings on Friday in legal battles over the deployment of National Guard troops to the U.S. cities, as President Donald Trump seeks to expand his rare use of the U.S. military for domestic purposes. In Portland, Justice Department lawyers will ask U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut to lift the second of her two orders restricting Trump's attempts to send troops to the city. This week, an appeals court

ruled the president likely has the authority to do so. In Washington, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb will consider a challenge to Trump's deployment of about 2,500 National Guard troops to the nation's capital. The local government argues the Guard has improperly been serving as a "federally run police force." Trump has sought to deploy National Guard troops to cities run by Democratic officials, saying they are needed to protect immigration enforcement operations, suppress protests, and fight crime over the objections of local elected leaders. Troops are on the ground in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and Trump has announced plans to send them to other cities, including Portland and Chicago. States and cities have filed lawsuits to block the deployments, arguing they are based on exaggerated descriptions of crime and chaos. Courts have yet to issue final rulings on whether the actions are lawful. In Portland, Immergut on Oct. 4 blocked Trump from taking control of Oregon's National Guard and sending troops to Portland. The next day, after Trump attempted to circumvent that order by sending troops from California and Texas to Portland, the judge barred deployment of troops from any state, including Oregon. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this week paused Immergut's Oct. 5 order while the court battle plays out. But troops have not yet deployed to Portland because the Oct. 5 order remains in effect. The Justice Department is asking Immergut to lift her Oct. 5 order in light of the 9th Circuit's ruling. If Immergut, who was appointed by Trump during his first term, agrees, the administration could move forward with the deployment. Oregon has argued the three-judge 9th Circuit panel, which included two Trump-appointed judges, got it wrong. The state has asked Immergut to maintain the status quo while it appeals and has asked the 9th Circuit to reconsider the case with a larger panel of 11 judges. State and local officials say Trump's action violates several federal laws that govern the use of military forces as well as the states' rights under the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment.

Reported similarly:
Washington Post [10/24/2025 11:13 AM, Jenny Gathright and Meagan Flynn, 24149K]
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 3:30 PM, David G. Savage, 14862K]

Washington Examiner: Trump prepares for Portland troop deployment as he awaits three separate National Guard court decisions
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Jack Birle, 1394K] reports the Trump administration is preparing to deploy the National Guard to Portland while waiting for three different federal courts to make decisions over the previous deployment of troops to three Democrat-run cities. In the Democrat-run states to which President Donald Trump has deployed troops, state governments have filed lawsuits alleging that the federalization and deployment of the National Guard is unlawful. Trump has used the National Guard to protect federal officials and property amid unruly protests over federal immigration operations, which the administration claims have put federal officers in danger.
After a victory in a federal appeals court earlier this week, which allowed Trump to federalize and deploy members of the Oregon National Guard to Portland, the administration is still awaiting rulings from the Supreme Court, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and a three-judge panel on the Ninth Circuit, in three separate cases over his use of the National Guard.

Daily Wire: Trump Admin Warns California Democrats: Arresting ICE Agents Is A 'Criminal Conspiracy'
Daily Wire [10/24/2025 10:14 AM, Zach Jewell, 2494K] reports the Department of Justice warned multiple top Democratic California politicians, including Gov. Gavin Newsom and

former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of potential charges on Thursday, after Pelosi suggested that federal immigration agents could be arrested by state and local police. Earlier this week, Pelosi, along with Democratic Rep. Kevin Mullin, threatened that ICE agents could be detained as President Donald Trump considered a major immigration operation in San Francisco. In response, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche sent a letter to Newsom, Pelosi, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, and San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, urging them to "abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy." "The Department of Justice views any arrests of federal agents and officers in the performance of their official duties as both illegal and futile," Blanche wrote. The deputy attorney general then cited multiple federal laws that prohibit interfering with federal law enforcement operations. The California Democrats addressed in the letter were told to "preserve all written and electronic communications and records related to any attempts to or efforts to impede or obstruct federal law enforcement officials." "We urge you and other California officials to publicly abandon this apparent criminal conspiracy, to stop threatening law enforcement, and to prioritize the safety of your citizens," Blanche added. "In the meantime, federal agents and officers will continue to enforce federal law and will not be deterred by the threat of arrest by California authorities who have abdicated their duty to protect their constituents." Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced on Monday that the Trump administration would soon target San Francisco as part of its crackdown on crime and illegal immigrants. However, after Trump said some of his friends in San Francisco urged him to hold off on the federal law enforcement "surge," the president had a phone call with Democratic San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie and decided to hold off on the operation. "The Federal Government was preparing to 'surge' San Francisco, California, on Saturday, but friends of mine who live in the area called last night to ask me not to go forward with the surge in that the Mayor, Daniel Lurie, was making substantial progress," Trump wrote on Truth Social Thursday. "I spoke to Mayor Lurie last night and he asked, very nicely, that I give him a chance to see if he can turn it around. I told him I think he is making a mistake, because we can do it much faster, and remove the criminals that the Law does not permit him to remove."

New York Times: How the San Francisco Mayor Avoided Trump's Enforcement Surge
New York Times [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Heather Knight and Kellen Browning, 153395K] reports Mayor Daniel Lurie of San Francisco did what he does best after the Trump administration prepared to send border agents to the Bay Area for a major crackdown on immigration this week. He stayed calm. He worked the phones. He "power mapped." In doing so, Mr. Lurie and his team visualized concentric circles of prominent business leaders who could persuade President Trump and determined who might lobby the executives to make those important calls. They wanted to deliver the message, in the most diplomatic way possible, that San Francisco was not the apocalyptic landscape that the president sees on Fox News. Soon, a host of billionaires with strong ties to the city were on the phone with Mr. Trump and Vice President JD Vance, a former venture capitalist in San Francisco. Four people familiar with the situation described the City Hall discussions to The New York Times on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

NPR: DOJ hires immigration judges after months of layoffs
NPR [10/24/2025 7:03 PM, Ximena Bustillo, 28013K] reports the Justice Department has hired 36 immigration judges, including 25 temporary ones, for its Executive Office for Immigration Review, marking the first class to join the immigration courts after months of cuts to the workforce. Judges will soon take the bench across 16 states, according to a

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Justice Department announcement. These include courts that saw the biggest losses of judges this year such as Chelmsford, Mass., and Chicago. "EOIR is restoring its integrity as a preeminent administrative adjudicatory agency," the announcement states. "These new immigration judges are joining an immigration judge corps that is committed to upholding the rule of law." The incoming class of permanent judges comprises mostly those with a background in federal government work, including EOIR itself and the Department of Homeland Security. Previously, they trained Immigration and Customs enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents, were asylum officers and worked for ICE's legal arm. One judge was originally going to take the bench at the start of the year but was among the initial class of judges fired before they could start. The temporary immigration judges include military lawyers from the Marines, Navy, Army and Air Force. Earlier this summer, the Pentagon authorized about 600 military lawyers to work for the DOJ. The DOJ changed who could qualify as a temporary immigration judge — effectively lowering the requirements and removing the need to have prior immigration law experience.

Bloomberg Law: Border Patrol's Bovino Ordered to Appear in Chicago Courtroom
Bloomberg Law [10/24/2025 5:20 PM, Megan Crepeau, 803K] reports US Border Patrol chief patrol agent Gregory Bovino, the face of the intensive "Operation Midway Blitz" immigration crackdown in Chicago, must appear in federal court next week after facing allegations he threw tear gas into a crowd of people without warning or justification. In a brief docket entry Friday, Judge Sara L. Ellis of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois required Bovino's appearance at a hearing in her courtroom on Oct. 28. Her order comes on the heels of allegations that Bovino, who was spotted with federal agents this week in a predominantly Mexican-American neighborhood, violated Ellis' order prohibiting agents from using tear gas or pepper spray without issuing proper warnings. But unlike a deposition, if Ellis questions Bovino in her courtroom on Oct. 28, his answers will be public and subject to scrutiny of attorneys, journalists and citizens closely following his agency's actions. Ellis's order hit the docket Friday almost simultaneously with news reports that federal agents used tear gas on people in a wealthy part of the Lakeview neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.

CBS News: Border Patrol chief says agents' use of force in Chicago "has been exemplary"
CBS News [10/24/2025 3:23 PM, Nicole Sganga, 39474K] reports Border Patrol Chief of Patrol Gregory Bovino, the architect of the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Midway Blitz," defended the sweeping campaign to arrest undocumented migrants and quell demonstrations in the Chicago area, calling federal agents' use of force "exemplary." The Border Patrol Chief of Patrol defended forceful tactics used by federal agents during the Chicago immigration crackdown, even as new videos and court filings raise questions about whether agents and even Bovino himself violated a judge's order barring tear gas and pepper balls at protests. Asked whether agents had defied that order, Bovino replied, "I do not. All uses of force were well within CBP policy."

CBS News: Gov. Pritzker and Border Patrol chief talk protest tactics
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports shots were fired by U.S. Coast Guard security personnel at a protest near Oakland, California, against President Trump's immigration policies. It comes amid widespread controversy over federal agents' tactics against protesters nationwide. CBS News' Nicole Sganga spoke to U.S. Customs Border Patrol chief Gregory Bovino and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

CNN: US Border Patrol chief accused of violating judge's order
CNN [10/24/2025 8:19 AM, Augusta Anthony, 606K] reports a notice of violation has been filed by community members filing citing a video showing US Border Patrol chief, Gregory Bovino, appearing to throw at least one tear gas canister at protesters in Chicago. The filing accuses Bovino of being in potential violation of a federal judge's temporary restraining order restricting federal agents from using aggressive crowd control tactics at Chicago anti-ICE protests. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Situation Room: Border Patrol Chief Accused to Tossing Tear Gas at Protesters
(B) The Situation Room [10/24/2025 10:47 AM, Staff] reports that a top Border Patrol official is accused of potentially violating a judge's restraining order in Chicago. In a video, Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino appeared to throw a tear gas canister toward anti-ICE protesters on Thursday. The Department of Homeland Security says protesters threw rocks, prompting Bovino to throw the canister of tear gas.

Washington Times: DHS uses riot response as anti-ICE protests become more violent in Chicago
Washington Times [10/24/2025 11:14 AM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports anti-ICE protesters are escalating their confrontations with federal immigration authorities in Illinois, forcing officers to use riot responses to suppress what the Department of Homeland Security called "one of the most violent days." The department said it had to grapple with at least five dangerous incidents on Wednesday alone, including a death threat to Customs and Border Protection Commander Gregory Bovino and four attempts to ram Border Patrol vehicles. A day later, Chief Bovino was mobbed by a large group of protesters who began to box in Border Patrol agents, then attacked a government vehicle and fired mortar-style fireworks at the agents, Homeland Security said. Chief Bovino was struck in the head by a thrown object, then he deployed what the department called "riot control measures," said Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public," she said. The department's legal adversaries didn't agree. The Chicago Headline Club, a journalism group, rushed to U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis to accuse Chief Bovino of violating her restraining order placing limits on the riot control tactics federal agents can use in the Chicago area. They filed a video with Judge Ellis showing Chief Bovino tossing a canister at a small crowd of unruly demonstrators. CHC told Judge Ellis that there did not appear to be proper warnings, in violation of her orders. But Ms. McLaughlin said "multiple warnings" were given and ignored. The clashes come as President Trump tries to deploy National Guard troops to the area to protect the federal officers and agents carrying out his mass deportation plans. Another federal judge in Chicago, April Berry, has issued a restraining order blocking the troops from being deployed, saying she didn't see enough violence on the streets to justify the call-up. The Supreme Court is deciding whether to let her blockade stand. Homeland Security's description of the events this week suggests confrontations are getting more heated as emboldened protesters accuse U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the main deportation agency, of "kidnapping" migrants. In Thursday's clash involving Chief Bovino, the video submitted to the judge shows demonstrators aggressively approaching a line of Border Patrol agents, screaming vulgar insults and at times bumping into the federal officers. Agents are seen pushing people away. Wednesday's events, meanwhile, included one man the government identified as a member of the Latin Kings street gang who was accused of trying to ram a Border Patrol vehicle head-on. The agent's car swerved away,

but the man, a U.S. citizen, then drove his vehicle into a bystander's car, Homeland Security said. In another incident, three U.S. citizens are accused of tailing Border Patrol vehicles and trying to ram one of them. And in the threat incident, authorities identified the suspect as Isabel Mata, who they say said she would "put a hit out" on Chief Bovino. "While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents and caused multiple accidents across town," Ms. McLaughlin said. All told, she said, six U.S. citizens and three illegal immigrants were arrested in the incidents.

Chicago Tribune: Federal immigration agents tear-gas Lakeview, raid Lincoln Park as feds focus on city's affluent North Side

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Gregory Royal Pratt and Rebecca Johnson, 4829K] reports for most of the fall, President Donald Trump's immigration agents have set out every day to scour Chicago neighborhoods where immigrants live. On Friday, Operation Midway Blitz fanned out across the wealthier white communities on the North Side where they work. Throughout the day, caravans of federal agents hit neighborhoods that had so far avoided serious confrontations. In Lakeview, agents threw tear gas into the street, even as their use of chemical agents has drawn intense scrutiny from a federal judge. Masked officials arrested a man at the Laugh Factory comedy club. They detained a man at a gas station near the tony Latin School where the city's elite send their children.

Daily Caller: Lawyers Argue Anti-ICE Protesters Who Allegedly Threw Rocks, Fireworks Didn't Deserve Tear Gas

Daily Caller [10/24/2025 4:05 PM, Hudson Crozier, 835K] reports the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other left-wing legal groups claimed in court Thursday that using crowd control gas was not justified to disperse a crowd allegedly throwing rocks and fireworks at law enforcement. Protesters blocked immigration agents' path on a road in Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday morning and began throwing hard objects until "chemical munitions" were used to repel them, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a Friday X post. Lawyers argued law enforcement acted "without justification" in a court filing from their ongoing lawsuit against the Trump administration's handling of anti-deportation protests. The court motion referenced an image purportedly from the incident that appeared to show a Border Patrol official throwing a silver canister but did not mention any alleged violence against federal agents. The document also linked to 12 minutes of shaky video footage of a crowd confronting agents and calling them "terrorists" and "kidnappers." Lawyers claimed the gas' use violated an Oct. 17 court order from the protest case that prohibited law enforcement from using such methods against demonstrators in the Northern District of Illinois, with exceptions for when agents' safety is in jeopardy. Protesters boxed in agents with a truck and then "shot at agents with commercial artillery shell fireworks," the DHS alleged. Throughout the incident, people continued advancing toward agents despite warnings that they would use crowd control munitions if they did not stop, according to the DHS. A Border Patrol official was hit in the head when they began throwing "rocks and other objects," the agency said.

Chicago Tribune: Federal judge appears poised to order release of at least some 'Operation Midway Blitz' arrestees

Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 6:20 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports a Chicago federal judge appeared poised Friday to order at least a portion of the thousands of people detained in "Operation Midway Blitz" released on electronic monitoring while litigation

continues over whether immigration officials have violated a consent decree restricting so-called warrantless arrests. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cummings asked for simultaneous briefs next week that will lay out how many of the some 3,000 people arrested since early September would qualify for automatic detention under federal law, as well as others that federal law enforcement argues should stay in custody as a safety threat. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have accused federal officials of repeatedly breaking the terms of the consent decree and asked that Cummings issue a blanket order releasing most of the detainees on ankle monitoring. The government, meanwhile, said plaintiffs were trying to "paint with a broad brush" and that the validity of detaining someone should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. During Friday's 90-minute hearing, Cummings ruled that the consent decree, which was originally hashed out in 2022 with only the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, now covers all agents participating in Chicago immigration operations, including Customs and Border patrol. It also applies to other immigration enforcement going on in cities nationwide. Cummings also had tough questions for government lawyers about the treatment of people swept up in the Chicago area, asking at one point whether they could certify that detainees were being held in "safe and sanitary conditions" and had access to an attorney. Cummings said he'd rule on the detention issue after receiving the updated briefs, which are due Oct. 31.

NewsMax: DHS Says Chicago Shows Its 'Sicario' Side

NewsMax [10/24/2025 6:40 PM, Jim Mishler, 4109K] reports the Department of Homeland Security issued a release describing crime and immigration enforcement issues in the metropolitan Chicago area Wednesday. The document is called "Cicero or Sicario: A Day of Crashes." The title focuses on the contrast between the suburban community of Cicero and "sicario," Spanish for hitman, and highlights the violent criminal attacks that have targeted federal agents. A violent day of coordinated interference with federal agents in the Chicago area on Wednesday led to the arrest of more people for attacking or obstructing officers than for immigration offenses, according to DHS. Federal authorities said six people were taken into custody Wednesday for threatening or obstructing law enforcement, compared with three illegal aliens arrested for immigration violations. The incidents unfolded across multiple sites as immigration enforcement agents carried out Operation Midway Blitz. Federal officers reported repeated vehicle rammings, threats, and assaults, as agitators tried to block or follow Border Patrol units. Assistant DHS Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said, "While conducting immigration enforcement operations in Cicero and Glendale Heights, agitators stalked law enforcement, rammed vehicles, fled scenes, injured agents, and caused multiple accidents across town, putting law enforcement and the public in danger." "Our officers," she said, "are facing a surge in assaults against them as they put their lives on the line to arrest murderers, rapists, and gang members."

USA Today: What's happening with the troops in Chicago? What to know on legal cases against 'blitz'

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:27 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown pushes forward in Chicago despite continued pushback on the ground and in court. Operation Midway Blitz started Sept. 8, with the Department of Homeland Security saying it would target "the worst of the worst," among people who are in the country illegally. They say they have arrested more than 1,500 people, though USA TODAY has not been able to independently verify their count. Federal immigration officials have followed people in their cars, rappelled from helicopters in an apartment building raid and clashed with protesters at a facility in the suburbs. Trump

had deployed the National Guard to assist immigration agents, but it was challenged in court along with other DHS efforts.

USA Today: Where are ICE arrests happening in Chicago? What to know after latest raid

USA Today [10/24/2025 3:02 PM, Kinsey Crowley, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports large-scale immigration raids have continued in Chicago, even as the legality of deploying the National Guard awaits a decision from the Supreme Court. On Oct. 22, federal immigration officers descended on Little Village, a South Side neighborhood at the heart of Chicago's Mexican community. Alderperson Mike Rodriguez told USA TODAY at least eight people were arrested, four of whom were U.S. citizens. It was the latest in President Donald Trump's Operation Midway Blitz, his Chicago-area immigration enforcement crackdown. Trump launched the blitz on Sept. 8, saying it was needed to catch "the worst of the worst" criminal immigrants. Many local critics say instead innocent people are being left terrorized. As of Oct. 8, the Department of Homeland Security said it had arrested more than 1,500 people. But USA TODAY has been unable to confirm that number or track down exactly where all of the incidents are occurring. At an Oct. 20 federal court hearing, a top Homeland Security official said around 75 people had been arrested in connection with protesting immigration enforcement.

AP/CBS News: US says it now plans to deport Abrego Garcia to Liberia as soon as Oct. 31

The AP [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Staff, 31753K] reports the U.S. government plans to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia, and could do so as early as Oct. 31, according to a Friday court filing. Since he cannot be re-deported to El Salvador, ICE has been seeking to deport him to a series of African countries. Meanwhile, a federal judge in Maryland has previously barred his immediate deportation. Abrego Garcia's lawsuit there claims the Trump administration is illegally using the deportation process to punish him for the embarrassment of his earlier mistaken deportation. Additionally, Abrego Garcia is facing criminal charges in federal court in Tennessee, where he has pleaded not guilty to human smuggling. He has filed a motion to dismiss the charges, claiming the prosecution is vindictive. CBS News [10/24/2025 11:59 AM, Melissa Quinn, 39474K] reports that in a filing with a federal judge in Maryland, Justice Department lawyers said that immigration officials expect to formally notify Abrego Garcia later Friday that Liberia has been designated as the new country of removal. They said the Trump administration expects to be able to deport Abrego Garcia as soon as Oct. 31. The administration has "received diplomatic assurances regarding the treatment of third-country individuals removed to Liberia from the United States and are making the final necessary arrangements for [Abrego Garcia's] removal," they wrote. In the court filing, the Justice Department said that Abrego Garcia had identified more than 20 countries that he fears would persecute or torture him if he were removed there, and Liberia is not on the list. "Liberia is a thriving democracy and one of the United States's closest partners on the African continent," they wrote. Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Abrego Garcia's attorney, said the administration "has chosen yet another path that feels designed to inflict maximum hardship." "Their actions are punitive, cruel and unconstitutional," Sandoval-Moshenberg said. "Unless Liberia guarantees that it will not re-deport Mr. Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, then sending him to Liberia is no less unlawful than sending him directly to El Salvador a second time." The Trump administration's plan to remove Abrego Garcia to Liberia comes as the Maryland judge, Paula Xinis, is weighing whether to release the Salvadoran man from immigration custody while a challenge to the

Department of Homeland Security's ongoing efforts to deport him for a second time moves forward. Abrego Garcia was removed to his home country of El Salvador in March and imprisoned there despite having been granted a legal status in 2019 that prohibited the Department of Homeland Security from removing him there because of possible persecution by local gangs. An immigration official with the Trump administration admitted that Abrego Garcia's removal to El Salvador was an error, and Xinis ordered the Department of Homeland Security to facilitate his return to the U.S. But immigration officials resisted doing so for months. Abrego Garcia was brought back to the U.S. in June, but only after a federal grand jury in Tennessee indicted him on two charges of human smuggling stemming from a November 2022 traffic stop.

Reported similarly:
Axios [10/24/2025 4:06 PM, Julianna Bragg, 12972K]
NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:22 PM, Jim Thomas, 4109K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 1:50 PM, Staff, 2218K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:19 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Reuters: Liberia agrees to accept wrongly deported migrant Abrego, US says
Reuters [10/24/2025 4:11 PM, Andrew Goudsward, Alphonso Toweh and Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports Donald Trump's administration said on Friday it has reached an agreement with Liberia to accept Kilmar Abrego, the migrant whose wrongful deportation to El Salvador in March became a flashpoint in the Republican president's immigration crackdown. The Justice Department said in a court filing that Abrego could be deported to the African country as soon as October 31. Maryland-based U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has temporarily blocked the U.S. government from deporting Abrego while she considers his bid to be released from immigration detention. It is unclear how the administration's agreement with Liberia will influence the judge's decision. Abrego also could seek to challenge his removal by claiming fear of torture or persecution. Liberia said it agreed to take Abrego "on a strictly humanitarian and temporary basis" following a request from the United States. Liberia's information ministry said in a statement that it would ensure that Abrego is not removed to "any country where he may face substantial risk of persecution, torture or other serious harm."

AP: Truck driver in fatal Florida crash repeatedly failed driving tests, official says. What to know
AP [10/24/2025 5:43 PM, Kate Payne and Freida Frisaro, 31753K] reports a commercial truck driver who is charged with killing three people in a deadly crash in Florida in August had failed a commercial driver's license test 10 times in the span of two months in 2023 in Washington state, before he was ultimately issued a license, according to a senior official in the Florida Attorney General's Office. Florida is using the case of Harjinder Singh, who is accused of being in the country illegally, to urge the nation's highest court to permanently bar some states from issuing commercial driver's licenses or CDLs to people who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Florida's investigation of Harjinder Singh has revealed that the trucker failed a written test to receive a CDL in Washington state 10 times between March 10, 2023, and April 5, 2023, a senior official for Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier who was briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press. Florida is now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to take up its case against the states of California and Washington, and urging the high court to bar states from issuing CDLs to people who are in the country illegally. If the court accepts the case, Florida officials hope it could lead

to a new legal precedent for states' abilities to issue CDLs to people who are not citizens or legal permanent residents. A ruling could also have a downstream effect on how or if conventional driver's licenses are issued to immigrants, the senior Florida official said.

ABC News/NBC 4 Los Angeles: Semi-truck driver in country illegally pleads not guilty in deadly DUI crash as license under scrutiny

ABC News [10/24/2025 4:56 PM, Meredith Deliso, 30493K] reports a semi-truck driver arrested in connection with an alleged DUI crash on a California highway that killed three people pleaded not guilty on Friday, amid scrutiny over the licensing of the 21-year-old suspect, who federal authorities say is in the United States illegally. Prosecutors charge that the driver, identified by authorities as Jashanpreet Singh, was driving at a high rate of speed and under the influence of drugs when he rammed into stopped traffic, causing a chain-reaction crash on Interstate 10 in Ontario on Tuesday. Three people were killed and at least three others injured in the multi-vehicle crash, according to the criminal complaint. Singh pleaded not guilty to three counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count of driving under the influence of a drug causing injury during his initial court appearance in a Rancho Cucamonga court on Friday. His next court appearance has been scheduled for Nov. 4. A Punjabi interpreter will be required at his next hearing, according to court filings. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has lodged an arrest detainer for Singh, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which said he is in the U.S. illegally from India, entering through the southern border in 2022. He was issued a commercial driver's license, or CDL, by California, according to the Department of Transportation, which said Singh is an asylum-seeker. On Friday, the agency said Singh should have been ineligible to keep his CDL days before the deadly crash under new emergency actions targeting noncitizens, including asylum-seekers. In September, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy announced stricter eligibility requirements for noncitizens seeking CDLs. The new federal actions, which went into effect on Sept. 26, prevent all asylum-seekers from obtaining non-domiciled CDLs, according to the DOT. NBC 4 Los Angeles [10/25/2025 4:02 AM, Helen Jeong, 43603K] reports "This criminal illegal alien from India entered the country illegally at the southern border in 2022 and was RELEASED by the Biden Administration," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement. "There is no national CDL. The state of California issued this illegal alien Commercial Drivers License, which is beyond dumb — dangerous and deadly." But Governor Newsom's office accused the Trump administration of twisting facts and exploiting the "tragic situation."

Reported similarly:
The Hill [10/24/2025 7:25 AM, Nancy Loo, 12595K]
Telemundo [10/24/2025 6:41 PM, Staff, 76K]

FOX News: Dashcam video shows deadly freeway crash involving suspected illegal immigrant trucker

FOX News [10/24/2025 1:51 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40019K] reports dashcam video from a deadly California freeway crash involving a suspected illegal immigrant truck driver in a tractor-trailer shows the vehicle plowing through bumper-to-bumper traffic in a wreck that killed three. Jashanpreet Singh, 21, received a California commercial driver's license in June, according to the federal Department of Transportation. The video shows the truck he is accused of driving rear-ending a row of cars caught in traffic before flames burst out from under the hood, and it veers to the right, crashing into more vehicles and what appear to be

utility trucks before coming to a stop near the shoulder. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in a statement Thursday night. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules," he continued. "California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." A spokesperson for Newsom's office pointed the finger back at the feds. "This is a tragic situation. And as with every tragedy over the last ten months, Secretary Noem has ordered Secretary Duffy to look for every opportunity to manipulate the facts to score cheap political points, but the FEDERAL government needs to look within before they cast blame outside," the governor's office told Fox News Digital in an email. "The FEDERAL government approved and renewed this individual's FEDERAL employment authorization multiple times – which allowed him to obtain a commercial driver's license in accordance with FEDERAL law." U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed a detainer request for Singh on Oct. 22. He remains jailed in San Bernardino County. ICE described him as "a criminal illegal alien." He is originally from India. "It is a terrible tragedy three innocent people lost their lives due to the reckless open border policies that allowed an illegal alien to be released into the U.S. and drive an 18-wheeler on America's highways," Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. "This accident follows a disturbing trend of illegal aliens driving 18 wheelers and semi-trucks on America's roads. Earlier this week, DHS highlighted another fatal accident in Indiana caused by an illegal alien driving a semi-truck. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, ICE is working day-in and day-out to make America's roads safe again." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

New York Post: Damning DOT report blames Newsom for illegal immigrant trucker's deadly Calif. crash: 'There will be consequences'

New York Post [10/24/2025 9:31 PM, Anna Young, 42219K] reports California Gov. Gavin Newsom violated federal law by upgrading the driver's license of the illegal migrant trucker accused of causing a horrific, drug-fueled pile-up that killed three people and wounded several others, a bombshell new report claims. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed Newsom for Tuesday's deadly crash, alleging state officials unlawfully upgraded Jashanpreet Singh's commercial license weeks after a new federal rule went into effect barring illegal immigrants from holding such privileges, according to a DOT report released Friday. The restrictions, which require states to verify an applicant's legal status, took effect on Sept. 26 — while the 21-year-old Indian national's driving rights were expanded on Oct. 15, the report states. "My prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragedy," Duffy said in a statement. "It would have never happened if Gavin Newsom had followed our new rules. California broke the law and now three people are dead and two are hospitalized. These people deserve justice. There will be consequences." Singh was initially issued a restricted CDL in the Golden State on June 27, confining him to intrastate travel, according to the DOT's report. When the new regulations took effect, the federal agency informed California officials of "significant compliance failures" related to the issuance of truckers' licenses and gave them 30 days to audit its practices and void or rescind all unexpired CDLs, the report states. The state's Department of Motor Vehicles lifted Singh's driving restrictions on Oct. 15 — his birthday — without enforcing the stricter standards mandated by the DOT's new emergency rule, officials said. "Gavin Newsom was explicitly warned California's CDL program was dangerously broken," the report charged. "The USDOT's emergency rule was issued to explicitly prevent drivers like Singh from getting behind the wheel of commercial motor vehicles." Newsom's office did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment. Singh was allegedly under the influence of drugs when he plowed his semi-truck into slow-moving traffic on the 10 Freeway in San Bernardino County

Tuesday afternoon, cops said. he wreck, which was caught on dashcam, killed three people and left at least four others injured. Harrowing footage showed the moment Singh allegedly slammed his red big rig into the back of an SUV — before crashing into several other vehicles and erupting into flames. Singh is believed to have entered the US in 2022 via the southern border before he was released into the country by the Biden administration, Department of Homeland officials said. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has since lodged an arrest detainer — a former request for local cops to notify the feds before he is freed. He was charged with vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence.

FOX News: Duffy tells Newsom '3 more people would be alive' if he followed federal truck licensing rules

FOX News [10/24/2025 5:45 PM, Madison Colombo, 40621K] reports Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy accused California Gov. Gavin Newsom of violating new federal commercial licensing rules by purportedly allowing an immigrant in the country illegally to maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL). That truck driver is accused of causing a freeway crash that resulted in three fatalities on Tuesday in California. Newsom is blaming the federal government for the crash, arguing its policies ultimately allowed the suspect to receive a license. Duffy rejected that claim. The dispute comes as the transportation secretary threatens to withhold millions in federal highway funds from California and expands a federal review into how non-citizens acquire state-issued licenses. The deadly crash occurred Tuesday on a Southern California freeway. Jashanpreet Singh, a 21-year-old Indian national, allegedly drove a semitruck while under the influence, causing a multi-car pileup with three fatalities. According to the Department of Transportation, California violated new federal rules by upgrading Singh's non-domiciled CDL despite an emergency rule and compliance notice issued Sept. 26.

Reported similarly:
Breitbart [10/24/2025 3:18 PM, Olivia Rondeau, 2416K]

San Francisco Chronicle: Justice Department says it will send election monitors to California on Election Day

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 10:16 AM, Sophia Bollag, 4722K] reports the Trump administration will monitor polling sites in California during the Nov. 4 election, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Friday. The unusual announcement comes amid sky-high tensions between state leaders and federal officials and as voting is underway in California on Proposition 50, a measure to enact new congressional maps designed to help Democrats flip five U.S. House seats in the 2026 midterms. Spokespeople for the campaigns against Prop 50 did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment Friday morning. A spokesperson for the Yes on 50 campaign, which is led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, deferred to the governor's office, which did not immediately respond. The U.S. Department of Justice also did not immediately respond to questions about what prompted the decision. The DOJ news release announcing the decision listed five California counties where the Trump administration will monitor polling places: Kern, Riverside, Fresno, Orange and Los Angeles. It did not give any reasons about what prompted the move. The department also said it will monitor polling places in Passaic County, New Jersey. In a statement, Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon characterized the decision as one to promote security. Dhillon, a San Francisco attorney and former California Republican Party leader, now leads the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. "The Department of Justice will do

everything necessary to protect the votes of eligible American citizens, ensuring our elections are safe and secure," she wrote in a statement. "Transparent election processes and election monitoring are critical tools for safeguarding our elections and ensuring public trust in the integrity of our elections." Gov. Gavin Newsom, Prop 50's lead backer, has repeatedly warned that he believes President Donald Trump will try to interfere in California's November special election. In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle editorial board earlier this month, Newsom pointed to Trump's federalization of National Guard troops, the government shutdown and past criticisms of mail voting. Newsom also said he's worried about federal immigration officers being used to intimidate voters. He noted that Border Patrol officers showed up at a rally he held in Los Angeles to launch his campaign to redraw California's congressional districts, a move he has characterized as an intimidation tactic unrelated to immigration enforcement. "That was chilling to send masked men to intimidate the kickoff of this campaign," Newsom said. "As those ranks grow, they'll continue to be deployed for political reasons."

San Francisco Chronicle: Meet the Bay Area pastor shot in the face with pepper ball at Coast Guard Island protest

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 6:58 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports even when the Border Patrol agent raised his weapon, Rev. Jorge Bautista didn't think anything would happen. There was no way the agent would shoot. Then something crashed into his face, just above his chin. Fumes from a pepper ball round filled the air, making him cough as his eyes burned and his vision blurred. Bautista, pastor at the College Heights United Church of Christ in San Mateo, rose Thursday before sunrise, donned his typical black slacks, shirt and blazer and drove to Coast Guard Island to join a prayer vigil in opposition to the immigration crackdown in San Francisco that President Donald Trump had announced the day before. "Our role was to bear witness and to give a message about why we're unhappy that ICE is here," he said. "We were hoping to just have a press conference and show solidarity." "Our immigration system has been broken for way too long," he said. "And in my role as a pastor has always felt that I've been summoned" to advocate for migrant justice.

Washington Post: U.S. kills six in latest strike on alleged drug boat, Hegseth says

Washington Post [10/24/2025 10:38 AM, Tara Copp, 24149K] reports the U.S. military killed six people overnight in the 10th reported strike on a boat alleged to be involved in drug smuggling, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced on social media Friday. Hegseth said the operation targeted a vessel in the Caribbean carrying members of Tren de Aragua, a criminal group based in Venezuela that the Trump administration claims to be a "Designated Terrorist Organization." As he has alleged after other recent attacks, Hegseth said the boat was "known by our intelligence" to be involved drug running along a "known narco-trafficking route." He disclosed no evidence verifying that assertion. A black-and-white overhead video accompanying his social media post shows a boat appearing to idle in the water in the moments before it is hit with a projectile and engulfed in flames. Law of war experts maintain that the strikes — responsible for the reported deaths of at least 43 people since the campaign began in September — are illegal because those slain by U.S. forces aren't combatants engaged in a armed conflict with the United States but suspected criminals. The strike follows two others this week that took place in the Pacific Ocean, off South America, and marked an expansion of the Trump administration's lethal campaign against Latin American groups who Hegseth and other officials equate to militant extremists. "If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you

like we treat Al-Qaeda," Hegseth said in the post Friday. The overnight strike appeared to indicate the U.S. had adjusted its tactics after a strike last week left two survivors who had to be pulled from the water by a Navy rescue helicopter and held temporarily in custody aboard a warship before being repatriated to their home countries. The return of those two survivors, instead of detaining them as the military would have done against al-Qaeda or other known terrorist organizations in previous armed conflicts, has raised further questions about the already murky legal justification the Trump administration is using to conduct the strikes In virtually all other drug interdictions before last month, the suspects were stopped by U.S. authorities — primarily the Coast Guard — and detained by U.S. law enforcement and charged. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump suggested that the military's counter-drug operations may expand to include striking targets on land as well. He has asserted he has the authority to direct the deadly attacks because the U.S. is in an "armed conflict" with the cartels. Trump has yet to seek approval from Congress for the military operations. On Wednesday he said he "probably" would consult with Congress to explain "exactly what we're doing when we come to the land." He added, though, "We don't have to do that." A day later, Trump appeared to rule out seeking lawmakers' approval for whatever could happen next. "I don't think we're going to necessarily ask for a declaration of war," he told reporters. "I think we're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country."

Reported similarly:
New York Post [10/24/2025 12:25 PM, Staff, 42219K]
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 11:10 AM, Courtney McBride, 18207K]
ABC News [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Anne Flaherty and Alexandra Hutzler, 30493K]
CBS News [10/24/2025 2:26 PM, Staff, 39474K]
USA Today [10/24/2025 3:04 PM, Zac Anderson, 67103K] r

NBC News: U.S. strikes another alleged drug-carrying boat in the Caribbean, Pete Hegseth says
NBC News [10/24/2025 2:03 PM, Alexandra Marquez, Dan De Luce and Courtney Kube, 34509K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed an aircraft carrier strike group to move to the Caribbean to support President Donald Trump's effort to dismantle "Transnational Criminal Organizations" and to "counter narco-terrorism," according to Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell. The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group and embarked carrier air wing are moving to the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility, Parnell said in a post on X. Parnell said the enhanced military presence will "bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere." The Gerald R. Ford is the U.S. Navy's largest aircraft carrier and is currently stationed in the Mediterranean with three destroyers, according to two U.S. officials. They have not left that region, but once they do, the transit will take about one week to get on station in the Caribbean, the officials said. The military's deployment of the carrier strike group is a notable escalation of U.S. policy in the region as Trump has promised to target more cartel members and has firmly said these actions don't require congressional approval. It will nearly double the number of U.S. forces afloat in the area as part of the counter-drug mission. The U.S. has eight surface ships there now, plus a nuclear-powered submarine, which adds up to about 6,000 sailors and marines in the region. The Ford Carrier Strike Group will add between 4,500 and 5,000 more sailors and marines to the mission. The carrier is more than just people, aircraft and firepower — carriers are often sent as a show of presence or force. The officials said this deployment is also about sending a message to cartels that the U.S. military can move a huge presence to

the area quickly. The announcement came after Hegseth said earlier in the day that the U.S. struck a boat allegedly carrying drugs in the Caribbean Sea, marking at least the third time this week that the U.S. has attacked a vessel it says was involved in drug trafficking.

Washington Examiner: Congress targets Hezbollah drug smuggling in Latin America
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 9:22 AM, Pedro Rodriguez, 1394K] reports the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control held a hearing this week on the Iran-financed Islamic terrorist network Hezbollah, and its oil smuggling, money laundering, counterfeiting, and illegal weapons procurement operations. All of these efforts are tied to drug cartels and communist regimes in Latin America. It comes as no surprise that after the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah's ally, the terrorist network has had to seek funding and shelter elsewhere. "In this critical time, Hezbollah may seek to further expand its Latin America drug trafficking and money laundering networks, and that's why we are holding this hearing today," Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), chairman of the caucus, stated in Global Gangsters: Hezbollah's Latin American Drug Trafficking Operations. "As noted by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Hezbollah established a presence in the lawless tri-border region of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, infiltrating the largest shiite muslim diaspora," Cornyn added. FINCEN also reported that Hezbollah's expanding partnerships with South American drug cartels and the Chavez-Maduro regime in Venezuela are helping to advance the Islamic terrorist network's money-laundering operations. "I'm concerned about reports that indicate that the former Venezuelan Vice President was responsible for issuing the Venezuelan passports to Hezbollah members, facilitated their coming into Latin America, and helped Hezbollah to channel funds to the Middle East," Cornyn said. Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH) called Venezuela a "safe haven" for one of the world's most lethal terrorist networks, adding that Maduro's are "counted. In 2020, the Justice Department charged a former member of the Venezuelan General Assembly with narcotrafficking, terrorism, weapons offenses, and acting as a liaison between Cartel of the Suns and Hezbollah and Hamas. As stated by Cornyn, Hezbollah's ties to the communist regime have facilitated the terrorist network's illicit activities in the region. The group's operations in Latin America first drew U.S. government attention during President Barack Obama's administration, as Hezbollah began shifting its focus away from the Middle East. With the collapse of its chief financial patron, the Iranian regime, and the weakening of Syria's Assad, the organization sought new funding sources abroad. Now, under President Donald Trump's second administration, Hezbollah is accelerating its activities across Latin America, filling the financial void left by its declining power base in the Middle East. "President Trump's brave decision to strike Iranian nuclear sites in Operation Midnight Hammer could dry up a key source of funding for Hezbollah," Cornyn said. Hezbollah's other ally, Hamas, has been almost completely eradicated in Gaza thanks to Trump's military alliance with Israel, which aimed to eliminate the terrorist organization after its brutal attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, giving Hezbollah an even stronger reason to expand its operations in the Western Hemisphere.

New York Times: U.S. Deploys Aircraft Carrier to Latin America, a Major Escalation
New York Times [10/25/2025 12:37 AM, Charlie Savage and Eric Schmitt, 330K] reports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the deployment of the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford as well as its accompanying warships and attack planes to waters off Latin America, the Pentagon said on Friday, in a dramatic escalation of military might in the region. The enhanced American presence "will bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United

States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere," Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said on social media. Mr. Parnell did not say when the Ford, the Navy's most modern and technologically advanced carrier, would be moving to the region or where it would be positioned. Navy officials said on Friday that the Ford is currently steaming off the coast of Croatia on a monthslong European deployment and would take seven to 10 days, depending on speed and weather conditions, to reach its new assigned mission with U.S. Southern Command. Since late August, the U.S. military has deployed about 10,000 troops to the Caribbean, about half of them on eight warships and half in Puerto Rico, for what the administration says is a counterterrorism and counternarcotics mission. The Ford carries about 5,000 sailors and has more than 75 attack, surveillance and support aircraft, including F/A-18 fighters. Aircraft carriers have toured the waters in the Caribbean and off Latin America before on what the Navy calls "good will" tours. But cutting short the Ford's scheduled deployment by several months and redirecting it to Latin America for a possible combat mission amid the intensifying U.S. strikes on boats the administration says are carrying drugs is highly unusual, current and former Navy officials said. "By adding the Ford to the already existing forces, this is a uniquely powerful naval combat group in the Caribbean in my memory," said Adm. James Stavridis, a former head of U.S. Southern Command, now retired. For decades, Republican and Democratic presidents have dispatched one or more aircraft carriers to the Middle East as a sign of U.S. military power and of American geopolitical resolve. President Trump's second administration has focused more intently on securing the U.S. homeland and the Western Hemisphere. The deployment of the Ford to the region, which officials said had been under consideration for weeks, underscores that shift in national security priorities. The new Pentagon orders came hours after Mr. Hegseth announced that the U.S. military had killed six people on a boat suspected of smuggling drugs from South America, as the Trump administration's lethal and legally disputed campaign continued to escalate. The latest attack raised the death toll from the Trump administration's campaign on suspected drug boats to 43 in 10 known strikes — eight in the Caribbean and two more this week in the eastern Pacific.

Reported similarly:
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:09 AM, Staff, 1394K]

Breitbart: Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Sends English Message to Trump: 'No Crazy War'

Breitbart [10/24/2025 12:51 PM, Christian K. Caruzo, 2416K] reports that socialist dictator of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro on Thursday attempted to send a message to President Donald Trump in English saying "no crazy war, please.". "Not war, not war, not war, yes peace, yes peace, yes peace forever, forever, forever, peace forever. No crazy war, no crazy war no crazy war," Maduro repeated in front of an audience. "Please please please, yes please peace forever, peace forever. Victory forever the pits, victory forever the pits [sic]." Maduro issued his latest attempt at speaking the English language in remarks during an official "patriotic working class" regime event in Caracas in the company of some regime officials. Upon delivering his words in "English," Maduro joked to his audience that he had spoken in "Tarzanian language," referencing the Tarzan book series by late American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs, which have been adapted in several forms of media through the ages. Maduro clarified that, if his English words were translated to Spanish in a "Tarzan style" they would mean "No war, no war, no want war. No to the war of the crazy, no to the insanity of war [sic throughout].". "That'd be the correct translation, right?" Maduro asked. "Yes to peace, yes to peace, yes to peace forever. Victory forever for peace."

NewsMax: Trump Mulls Hitting Venezuela Drug-Making Sites as US Forces Surge in Caribbean

NewsMax [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump is considering plans to target cocaine production facilities and trafficking routes in Venezuela, according to reporting by CNN and cited by Reuters. Three senior U.S. officials who are familiar with the discussions said this option is still under review but has not been approved yet. The potential strikes would represent another escalation in Trump's campaign against Latin American drug networks. The president has stated that he sees drug cartels not as criminal groups but as "enemy combatants" waging war against the United States. This week, Trump told reporters that his administration is "no longer tolerating the poison flooding our communities" and promised that traffickers "will be wiped from the face of the Earth." His language shows a growing use of military terms to deal with the drug trade. Strategy meetings now often include Pentagon and intelligence officials rather than just law enforcement leaders. Trump said he will brief Congress next week but insisted that he does not need a declaration of war. Trump said Thursday he plans to keep Congress briefed, and that land targets in Venezuela are next. At the same time, he said he didn't think he'd be asking for a war declaration to target drug traffickers who are killing Americans.

Reuters: US sanctions Colombia's president, accuses him of allowing expansion of drug trade

Reuters [10/24/2025 7:46 PM, Daphne Psaledakis, Julia Symmes Cobb, Brendan O'Boyle, 36480K] reports that the U.S. on Friday imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, as President Donald Trump sharply escalated a feud with Washington's longtime Latin American ally over accusations that Petro has refused to stop the flow of cocaine into the United States. Tensions between Washington and many countries in the region have been mounting for weeks. The U.S. military has ratcheted up activity in the southern Caribbean, striking vessels in international waters that it has alleged without evidence are carrying drugs. Trump this week called Petro an "illegal drug leader" after the leftist president accused the U.S. of committing "murder" with the strikes. Petro, whose term will end in 10 months, has always opposed the strikes. He has attempted to end Colombia's six-decade conflict through peace and surrender deals with rebels and crime gangs, but those efforts have borne little fruit. "Since President Gustavo Petro came to power, cocaine production in Colombia has exploded to the highest rate in decades, flooding the United States and poisoning Americans," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "President Petro has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop this activity. Today, President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our nation." Petro disputes the basis for the U.S. allegations, saying his government has seized cocaine at unprecedented rates and that expansion of coca crops - the base ingredient for cocaine - has slowed every year since 2021. "What the U.S. Treasury says is a lie," Petro said on X on Friday afternoon. "My government did not increase cocaine, it did the opposite, my government has seized more cocaine than in the whole history of the world." Petro, who first rose to prominence as a senator by exposing links between some of his fellow lawmakers and paramilitary groups involved in cocaine trafficking, earlier called the sanction "a complete paradox". He said he had hired a U.S. lawyer to defend him and spoke to thousands of supporters in central Bogota on Friday evening, saying he has no money in the United States. While rare, the imposition of sanctions on a head of state is not unprecedented. The move adds Petro to a short list that includes the leaders of Russia, Venezuela and North Korea.

Reported similarly:

Washington Post [10/24/2025 4:18 PM, Tobi Raji, 24149K]
FOX News [10/24/2025 5:28 PM, Alexandra Koch, 40621K] r
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 10:42 PM, Brady Knox, 1394K]
Univision [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Staff, 5004K]

CBS News: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro tells CBS News blowing up drug boats is easy, but illegal and ineffective

CBS News [10/24/2025 11:17 AM, Lilia Luciano and Tucker Reals, 39474K] reports Colombia's left-wing President Gustavo Petro has been outspoken in his condemnation of the U.S. military strikes on what the Trump administration says are drug smuggling boats in international waters. Petro calls the strikes easy, but ineffective in tackling the mammoth problem of drug smuggling — and illegal to boot. The Trump administration has announced at least 10 such strikes on boats during the past two months, including two off Colombia's Pacific coast this week. The most recent came overnight, when Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the U.S. carried out "a lethal kinetic strike" on a vessel he said was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang, "trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean Sea." Hegseth said "six male narco-terrorists were aboard the vessel during the strike, which was conducted in international waters — and was the first strike at night. All six terrorists were killed and no U.S. forces were harmed in this strike." Aside from announcing the strikes, the U.S. military and the Trump administration have provided virtually no information about how they are carried out, based on what intelligence, or who, specifically, has been killed. In an exclusive conversation with CBS News, Petro said some of those killed in the U.S. strikes have been innocent civilians, and he reiterated his accusation that the attacks violate international law. The White House denies those accusations, and President Trump has defended the strikes as a legitimate part of his fight against drug trafficking gangs. Asked if he was ready to lower the rhetorical tone in his war of words with Mr. Trump, to seek a diplomatic way of stopping the U.S. attacks on boats, Petro insisted that he was merely replying to the American leader in kind. The Drug Enforcement Administration says about 90% of the cocaine that reaches the U.S. comes from Colombia, and President Trump has blamed Petro, saying he's failed to rein in drug cartels that operate in his country. "They have insulted me," he told CBS News. "And a lot, but all I can do is be frank."

The Hill: Intel Democrats press Gabbard on Trump administration boat strikes

The Hill [10/24/2025 6:10 PM, Rebecca Beitsch and Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports leading Intelligence Committee Democrats are accusing the Trump administration of leaving them in the dark on strikes in the Caribbean that have killed more than 40 people, demanding information about the intelligence community's role. The letter requests the legal justifications for the strikes, which has targeted a series of boats the Trump administration has claimed without evidence are ferrying drugs off the coasts of Venezuela and Colombia. "Despite our repeated requests, the intelligence committees have received virtually no information about the Intelligence Community's support for these operations," Rep. Jim Himes (D-Md.) and Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), the top Democrat on each chamber's Intelligence Committee, wrote to Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. "We have not been told which agencies are providing intelligence support, the nature of that assistance, or the amount of IC resources and personnel dedicated to this effort," they continued. "Nor have we been advised about the IC's role in collecting and analyzing intelligence after the strikes to assess the identities of those targeted, the type and quantity of drugs that may have been onboard, and the impact of the strikes."

Washington Examiner: Trump administration shows no signs of seeking declaration of war for cartel operations

Washington Examiner [10/25/2025 7:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1563K] reports the U.S. military has conducted at least 10 strikes, killing more than 30 people, in an effort to target drug smuggling, while President Donald Trump has said he doesn't believe he needs a formal declaration of war from Congress. During an event on Thursday focused on his Homeland Security Taskforce, Trump said his administration would brief Congress, but stopped short of saying they would seek a declaration of war from lawmakers. "I don't think we're necessarily going to ask for a declaration of war, I think we're just gonna kill people that are bringing drugs into our country. We're going to kill them. They're going to be, like dead," the president said on Thursday. The U.S. military has announced ten strikes targeting alleged drug smuggling vessels in the western hemisphere since this campaign began last month. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced on Friday that six people were killed in the most recent strike, and the secretary said it was the first of these operations to occur at night.

CBS News: What is known — and not known — about U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats

CBS News [10/24/2025 5:22 PM, Kathryn Watson, Eleanor Watson, 39474K] reports the U.S. has been carrying out intermittent strikes on vessels alleged to be carrying drug smugglers and illegal narcotics in international waters off South American coastlines since early September. President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth say the boats were known to be involved in drug smuggling, and insist they have the authority to carry out the strikes without authorization from Congress. Mr. Trump has long decried the influence of drug cartels in the United States, although the lethal strikes represent the biggest escalation in his war on drugs. As of Friday, Oct. 24, the Trump administration has publicly disclosed strikes on 10 vessels since the president revealed the first operation on Sept. 2. Mr. Trump told reporters Thursday it's possible that the U.S. may begin carrying out strikes on land. So far, the administration says it has only targeted vessels in international waters. At least 43 people have been killed in the strikes as of Friday, Oct. 24, according to the numbers released by the Trump administration. Congress has not authorized the use of military force to target drug cartels.

Washington Examiner: Trump administration cartel crackdown includes prosecuting illegal fishing in Gulf of America

Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Mike Brest, 1394K] reports the U.S. military and relevant law enforcement agencies have reported an initial dip in illegal fishing activities in the Gulf of America in recent months after the Justice Department began arresting and prosecuting people instead of releasing them back to Mexico. The Coast Guard is among several agencies that work to ensure non-American fishermen don't operate within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Mexican fishermen will illegally fish in U.S. waters and try to make it back to Mexican waters before getting caught. If they pull that off, they will sell the fish — sometimes into U.S. markets — and the Gulf Cartel gets a cut of the proceeds, according to the Treasury Department. The Gulf Cartel relies "on a variety of illicit schemes like [illegal, unreported, and unregulated] (IUU) fishing to fund their operations, along with narcotics trafficking and human smuggling," former acting Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith said last year, when the Treasury Department announced it was sanctioning five individuals with ties to the cartel.

CBS News: Accused fentanyl kingpin dubbed "Brother Wang" extradited from Cuba to U.S., Mexico says
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Staff, 39474K] reports a Chinese citizen accused of trafficking fentanyl has been extradited from Cuba to the United States, according to the Mexican government, which helped facilitate the transfer. Zhi Dong Zhang, known as "Brother Wang," escaped house arrest in Mexico in July, and has now been transferred into U.S. custody, according to Mexican Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch. Zhi is accused of being "responsible for international drug trafficking, money laundering, and alliances with criminal groups with a presence in the Americas, Europe, and Asia," Harfuch said, according to BBC Mundo. He is alleged to have worked closely with Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation drug cartels, designated "foreign terrorist organizations" by Washington. The Cuban government said that "after a formal request for extradition," the alleged trafficker was handed over to Mexican authorities. Neither Mexico nor Havana has specified whether Zhang was transferred to the United States via Mexican soil, or if he was transported directly from Cuba. A wanted poster released by Mexican prosecutors in July said that in addition to "Brother Wang," Zhi has multiple other aliases, including "BW," "Pancho," "HeHe" and "Mr. T." Zhi is considered "a major international money laundering operator," Garcia said last year. He is accused of laundering at least $20 million in the U.S. between 2020 and 2021 by using more than 100 shell companies and bank accounts, El Pais reported.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [10/24/2025 8:44 AM, Lizabeth Diaz, 36480K]

CNN: How DHS's public statements differ from what it says in court
CNN [10/24/2025 11:36 AM, Margaret Dawson, 18595K] reports CNN's Omar Jimenez breaks down what the Department of Homeland Security puts out publicly via social media or press releases, versus what the agency is arguing through court documents over recent cases in Chicago and Newark. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

CBS News: Federal workers hunker down as they go without pay in shutdown: "Protect every penny"
CBS News [10/24/2025 11:19 AM, Megan Cerullo, 39474K] reports Jill Hornick, a 59-year-old service representative at a Social Security Administration field office in Illinois, would normally have received her latest paycheck on Friday. Instead, she was last paid on Oct. 10 — for three days less than she had worked. Hornick is defined as an essential worker and continues to report to the office on a daily basis during the government shutdown. She said she doesn't have time to search for a second job and isn't eligible for unemployment benefits. Because of the stalemate in Congress, now in its 24th day, Hornick also has no clue on when the next paycheck will arrive. "It's very annoying that employees who are furloughed can collect unemployment, but employees who are essential and have to work without pay cannot collect unemployment," Hornick told CBS News. "And yet I am showing up on my own dime because we still have to pay money to put gas in the car, pay the daycare center, because they are not going to take kids for free." While roughly 670,000 federal employees are furloughed, approximately 730,000 other government employees deemed essential — such as air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration officers — continue to work without pay during the shutdown, according to estimates from the Bipartisan Policy Center. Hornick, whose annual income is about

$75,000 a year, is now scrambling to stay afloat. That means paring her spending and contacting her mortgage lender and other creditors to ask for lenience.

Opinion – Op-Eds

San Diego Union Tribune: Mike Levin: Kristi Noem's $170 million jets are a symbol of her arrogance

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 11:00 AM, Mike Levin, 1538K] reports public service is supposed to be about duty, not luxury. Yet Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem just signed off on the purchase of two Gulfstream G700s, luxury aircraft worth a combined $170 million. The Coast Guard had requested one replacement plane for an aging jet used for official travel. Somewhere along the way, that single, practical request turned into a pair of top-of-the-line aircraft awarded through a no-bid contract, without a clear explanation or a shred of humility. Secretary Noem says the planes are necessary for the mission of the Coast Guard, but that is not what the record shows. The Department of Homeland Security originally requested one $50 million aircraft. Now, it is buying two "used" Gulfstreams that the manufacturer markets for billionaires, not public servants. And it is happening during a government shutdown, when some of the very workers Secretary Noem leads are missing their paychecks. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I find this entirely unacceptable. Taxpayer dollars must be spent in a way that is justified, transparent, and defensible. A $170 million luxury purchase at a time when federal employees are going unpaid fails every one of those tests. Secretary Noem has implemented a policy that requires her personal sign-off on any department expense over $100,000. That means this decision, one of the larger discretionary purchases in the Department of Homeland Security's history, went directly across her desk. Accountability begins and ends with her. Every federal employee knows that taxpayer money is a public trust. In my district, I see that respect every day. Coast Guard members work long hours under tough conditions with aging equipment. They are motivated by service, not status. The same goes for the TSA officers at John Wayne Airport or the CBP personnel at our ports of entry. These men and women keep our country safe. They deserve leaders who share their sense of duty, not one who seems to view public office as an opportunity for personal luxury. The Coast Guard's mission is vital, from rescuing families at sea to interdicting drug traffickers to protecting our coastlines from environmental threats. But no one needs a Gulfstream G700 to do that job. It is impossible to explain how two luxury jets take priority over the paychecks, boats, or aircraft that actually keep Americans safe. Even in normal times, this purchase would raise eyebrows. During a shutdown, it is a symbol of Washington's worst instincts — entitlement, self-importance, and a growing distance from the people government is supposed to serve. When a leader's first instinct is to take care of herself instead of her workforce, something fundamental has gone wrong. Secretary Noem has tried to deflect criticism by saying Congress already appropriated the money. But that excuse only makes things worse. Leadership means making responsible choices with the funds entrusted to you, not grabbing what you can because you think you are above the rules. The fact that the money was available does not make the decision wise. Every appropriator knows that funds are allocated broadly, but discretion matters. How leaders choose to use those dollars defines their priorities.

NewsMax: Trump Ended Immigration Caravan, Democrats Can't Handle It

NewsMax [10/24/2025 11:03 AM, Ken Buck, 4109K] reports on the campaign trail last year, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged to stop the flow of illegal immigrants

flooding across America's borders and "carry out the largest domestic deportation operation" in U.S. history. Since winning reelection, the Trump administration has delivered on its promises. Within the first 250 days of the president's second term, the Department of Homeland Security has deported more than 400,000 illegal aliens. Another 1.6 million voluntarily self-deported. In August, arrests on the southern border were down nearly 90% from a year earlier, and September marked the U.S. Border Patrol's fifth consecutive month with zero releases. President Trump's decisive action stands in stark contrast to former President Joe Biden, who refused to act and sought to deflect blame for his administration's porous borders. "I've done all I can do," Biden whined — even as Republicans and Democrats alike urged him to take executive action to address the crisis. Congress should "show some spine," Sleepy Joe puffed in February 2024 — the same month that border crossings exceeded 9 million, not including over 1.8 million "got-aways." "It has become clear that the current situation remains untenable," 15 House Democrats pleaded in May 2024. "All of our constituents, no matter our congressional district, have felt the impacts of the current border situation." Trump has given those leaders (and most Americans) what they asked for: secure borders, safer streets, and a plan to rid our country of violent criminals here illegally. But you wouldn't know it listening to Democrats and the liberal media.

The Hill: Don't make federal workers pay the price for the government shutdown
The Hill [10/24/2025 12:00 PM, Rep. Donald Norcross, 12595K] reports that, when the federal government shuts down, the civil servants who keep it running should not pay the price. Yet today, hundreds of thousands of federal workers, including air traffic controllers, firefighters and nurses, are being forced to work without pay. Instead of working to end this shutdown or pass legislation to pay all these hardworking individuals, the Trump administration has chosen to pay only select groups, leaving the rest behind. On Oct. 15, President Trump signed a memo to pay members of the military during the shutdown by repurposing unspent federal funds. The following day, the Trump administration announced it would extend pay to thousands of law enforcement officers, including those working for the Transportation Security Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Secret Service. Although paying these individuals is the right thing to do, the problem lies in deciding who deserves a paycheck and who doesn't. The federal government doesn't function without its full workforce. Right now, federal employees across the nation are working without pay to keep America running. Air traffic controllers are working mandatory overtime and six-day shifts to manage the safe travel of millions of passengers and tons of cargo every day. Nurses at the Department of Veterans Affairs are providing care to our nation's veterans. First responders are keeping our families safe. Every one of these public servants has a family to support, bills to pay, and obligations that don't disappear simply because Congress and the White House have reached an impasse. The president's decision to selectively pay certain employees based on political optics is a slap in the face to every federal worker who wakes up in the morning ready to serve their country. This also comes during a time when our federal workforce has faced relentless attacks from Trump and his administration. Over the past year, the Trump administration has eliminated the roles of more than 200,000 federal workers at more than a dozen agencies, including firing an estimated 6,000 veterans. This has resulted in complete and utter chaos, with many of the services Americans rely on under threat and ultimately resulting in the rehiring of many of these purged employees. It's time for Trump and congressional Republicans to come back to the negotiating table, reopen the federal government and lower health care costs. The American people deserve a functioning government, and every federal employee

deserves the pay they've earned. Until then, the message from the Trump administration is painfully clear: some public servants matter more than others.

Washington Post: [CA] When ICE came for a U.S. citizen and Army veteran
Washington Post [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, George F. Will, 24149K] reports one Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent's knee was on his neck, another's was grinding his back. Drenched with tear gas and pepper spray, George Retes might have wished that his 137 pounds were back in Kirkuk, Iraq, one of his Army deployments. Herewith a glimpse of your tax dollars at work.. Born 26 years ago in Ventura, California, where his mother was born, he enlisted after high school and calls the Army "the best job ever," adding, "I love the infantry." He married a woman he deployed with, thereby acquiring a stepson, soon a daughter, and a reason to leave the Army: to avoid long absences from his children. He loves Ventura ("The beach is my life"), where he landed a job with a security firm protecting an agriculture plant, which he approached by car mid-afternoon on July 10. ICE agents wearing gas masks — indicators of their dispositions — were blocking entry, he recounts, saying the plant was not operating. This was not the last ICE lie. The ICEmen were presumably looking for undocumented immigrants. Retes's driver's license, which he says the ICEmen never asked to see, identifies him as "Veteran Army." His license plate includes "DV": disabled veteran. While ICE's warriors were trying and ultimately succeeding in smashing his driver's-side window (the better to pepper spray him), they apparently did not notice his rear window's "Iraq Combat Veteran" sticker. Amid a torrent of shouted and contradictory ICEmen commands, and after he asked for an agent's badge number, he says, Retes was dragged from his car, his wrists were zip-tied behind his back, and he was seated on the roadside ground for four hours. He was taken to a Navy base, where he was strip searched, then on to incarceration in Los Angeles, he says, handcuffs having replaced the zip ties. No charges had been made against him, but a mouth swab collected his DNA without his consent. He says his requests for a lawyer, and for a shower to ease the discomforts of tear gas and pepper spray residues, were ignored. After three days, during which he missed his daughter's third birthday, an agent told him the charges against him had been dropped. "What charges?" he recalls asking. Silence. When, two months later, Retes published a newspaper op-ed about his experience, ICE suddenly claimed Retes had been resisting its agents. Video from a Los Angeles television station's helicopter monitoring ICE's operation seems to refute the agency's fabrication. An anonymous spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, dismissed Retes's account as "garbage." Not much of an argument, but evidence of the milieu and mentality that produces ICEmen like those Retes met.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Can San Francisco police arrest ICE agents who defy California's mask law?
San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 7:00 AM, Erwin Chemerinsky, 4722K] reports tensions between the federal government and state and local governments are nothing new, but we are in a moment unlike anything we have seen for decades, if ever. President Donald Trump is sending troops to cities over the objections of governors and mayors, and his encouraging aggressive actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are understandably provoking the desire for resistance. Even with the announcement that Trump is backing away, at least for now, from sending troops to San Francisco, the underlying issue remains: What can state and local governments do? The simple answer is that state and local governments cannot obstruct the federal government. But they can apply their general laws against federal agents so long as they do not unreasonably

interfere with the federal government carrying out its policies. So, for example, Portland, Ore., and Chicago cannot prohibit Trump from sending troops there, but they can — and have — sued in court to have the deployments declared illegal as violating federal law. Federal law is restrictive about when the president can federalize a state's National Guard, and it flatly prohibits troops from being used for domestic law enforcement. These challenges are pending in courts now, and I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will conclude that the federalization of the state national guards and the use of troops to assist ICE agents violates federal law.

San Diego Union Tribune: [Mexico] Drone attack in Tijuana a glimpse of a new kind of narco war

San Diego Union Tribune [10/24/2025 9:00 AM, Tania Navarro, 1538K] reports on Oct. 15 in Tijuana, three drones carrying explosives dropped their payload onto a state government legal facility. No officials were killed or injured, but the attack sent shockwaves through one of Mexico's busiest border cities. It wasn't a random act of violence. It was a message — and a warning. The use of drones by criminal organizations marks a new phase in the evolution of Mexico's cartels. What once were tools for surveillance and smuggling are now weapons of intimidation and terror. The kind of technology used in the Ukraine-Russia war to strike armored vehicles has made its way into the hands of traffickers who operate just a few miles from the U.S. border. This should concern both Mexico and the United States. Organized crime is entering a technological era, and our governments aren't ready. In recent years, drone attacks have been documented in Michoacán, Jalisco and Guanajuato, often linked to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. However, those incidents were mostly confined to rural areas, targeting rival groups or small towns. What happened in Tijuana is different — it's a major urban hub, home to more than 2 million people and the busiest land border crossing in America. A drone strike here isn't just another cartel tactic; it's a signal that this technology has reached the doorstep of the United States. Drones give organized crime a new kind of power. They are cheap, easy to buy and hard to trace. A single operator can fly one from miles away, avoiding the street battles that once drew police attention. A few hundred dollars' worth of equipment can now carry explosives capable of damaging buildings or killing targets. In a city like Tijuana, where law enforcement is already under-resourced and outgunned, this new aerial threat tilts the balance even further toward the cartels. The United States understands that this isn't just Mexico's problem. On the night of the attack, the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana issued a security warning, acknowledging the broader threat. The same networks using drones to target government offices can also deploy them to smuggle drugs, track Border Patrol movements or deliver fentanyl across the border. And while the U.S. has invested billions in walls and sensors to stop people and vehicles, far less has been spent on aerial or cyber surveillance systems capable of detecting small, low-flying drones.

The Hill: [Venezuela] War with Maduro would carry immense risks

The Hill [10/24/2025 9:30 AM, Dov Zakheim, 12595K] reports that, nearly 36 years ago, the U.S. invaded Panama to dislodge its strongman, General Manuel Noriega. A force of 27,000 overcame Panamanian resistance in a matter of just two weeks. Noriega, transported to the U.S., was tried and convicted for drug trafficking and money laundering. He spent 18 years in a Miami prison until he was extradited to France in 2010 to face additional money laundering charges. Like President George H.W. Bush, who called Noriega a "drug kingpin," President Trump has accused Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of drug trafficking and linked him to criminal gangs. Trump has made no secret of

wanting to remove Maduro from power. He has ramped up the pressure on Maduro by authorizing the sinking of seven Venezuelan ships in Caribbean international waters and an eighth in the Pacific, accusing the crews of drug smuggling. With the exception of two Colombians citizens who were repatriated, all aboard the ships perished in the attacks. Trump has authorized the largest deployment of U.S. forces in the Caribbean since the 1989 operation — 10,000 troops, four surface warships, drones, surveillance aircraft, and a Marine Amphibious Ready Group, plus 2,200 Marines accompanied by tactical aviation. On Oct. 15, Trump announced that he had authorized the CIA to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela. He even said he was considering air strikes on Venezuelan territory — a threat backed up by U.S. fighters and bombers flown off Venezuela's coast. Maduro, who has no desire to share Noriega's fate, had already announced in August that he was mobilizing 4.5 million militia members to defend the country against a "gringo" invasion. Many observers have discounted his announcement as mere rhetoric. Others have pointed out that the Venezuelan military is both ill-equipped and poorly trained. Nevertheless, just as Maduro is not planning to give up the presidency, an attack on Venezuela is not going to be a reprise of America's fortnight war against Panama. For starters, Venezuela has twelve times the land area of Panama, and its population is about eight times greater. Indeed, Maduro's militia alone is larger than Panama's entire population. Nor is it clear that the Venezuelan opposition will work alongside the U.S. to dethrone the Venezuelan dictator. Venezuelans may instead put their politics aside and defend their homeland, much like Russians, despite their recent suffering under Stalin's Great Purge, united in 1941 to fight the German invasion. America's twenty-year experience in Afghanistan, like that of the Soviets in the late twentieth century, demonstrates how a determined force can still hold out against a far more technically capable foreign invader and ultimately prevail. And Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invaders at the very outset of what is now approaching four years of war also demonstrates that the strategy of decapitation that succeeded in 1989 did not yield similar results in February 2022. Finally, the possibility that other countries will come to Venezuela's aid cannot be ruled out. Colombian President Gustavo Petro suggested last month that any U.S. attack on Venezuela would be considered an attack on all Latin America. The leftist Petro, whose term of office does not end for another seven months, has had several verbal clashes with Trump and may be prepared to send his far more capable and mostly U.S.-trained troops to assist Maduro.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

New York Times: Trump Administration Plans a Shake-Up at ICE to Speed Deportations

New York Times [10/24/2025 9:59 PM, Hamed Aleaziz and Tyler Pager, 135475K] reports the Trump administration is drawing up plans for a shake-up at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with officials looking to replace several senior leaders in field offices across the country, according to three people familiar with the plans. The proposal stems from frustration in the White House and the Department of Homeland Security over the pace of deportations, which are lagging behind President Trump's goal of more than a million by the end of the first year of his second term. The people cautioned that the plans, which involve reassigning about a half dozen field office leaders, had not been finalized. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ideas still under consideration. The proposed shake-up illustrates how the administration is still scrambling to satisfy Mr. Trump's demand to crack down on immigration, an issue at the heart of his political agenda, even as the president and his top aides have promoted their efforts to secure the border and deport

hundreds of thousands of people. Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, would not comment on the plans for a shake-up. But she said in a statement that “the president’s entire team is working in lock step to implement the president’s policy agenda, and the tremendous results from securing the border to deporting criminal illegal aliens speak for themselves.” There are more than two dozen field office directors overseeing deportation efforts across the country. Each officer’s region can be expansive, encompassing multiple states or large territories such as Northern California. The regional directors have been under pressure to help ICE boost arrests. The agency has already removed its acting director and top deportation officials — twice. “They are under constant threat; people are ground down; it’s a culture of fear,” said Claire Trickler-McNulty, a former senior ICE official in the Biden administration. “There has been so much shuffling of deck chairs — I can’t imagine anyone even having the ability to take on real challenges.” The Department of Homeland Security says that it has deported more than 400,000 people since Mr. Trump took office, and that it expects to deport 600,000 in total by the end of Mr. Trump’s first year in office. Still, those numbers are slightly misleading. The Trump administration counts people who are turned back at the border and other ports of entry as “deportations,” even though they have never lived inside the United States. Earlier this year, Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump’s deputy chief of staff, met with senior ICE leaders in Washington and discussed ways to pick up the pace of enforcement. Soon after, he appeared on Fox News and said the agency would try to hit a goal of 3,000 arrests a day. The number of arrests shot up after the comments, to more than 2,000 a day. But the arrest numbers have since declined, and ICE has not been able to hit the 3,000 daily arrest figure floated by Mr. Miller. Since the summer, the agency has typically arrested more than 1,000 people a day. “The Trump administration continues to be focused on delivering results and removing violent criminal illegal aliens from this country,” said Tricia McLaughlin, a Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman. “As for personnel, there have been no changes, and we have nothing to announce.”

Breitbart: ICE Agents Arrest Convicted Killers, Sex Offenders, Robbers Across U.S.
Breitbart [10/24/2025 5:16 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the United States, even in sanctuary jurisdictions that have attempted to thwart such enforcement of federal immigration law. "Every day, and despite the Democrats’ government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers, and violent criminals," the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

New York Times: Can ICE Stop People Solely Based on Their Race?
New York Times [10/24/2025 5:00 AM, Jazmine Ulloa, 153395K] reports again and again in Chicago and elsewhere in recent weeks, masked federal agents have accosted people who appear to be Latino, and have confronted them with questions about their immigration status. Targeting people for immigration enforcement based on race or ethnicity alone was forbidden by the U.S. Supreme Court in a unanimous decision 50 years ago. After all, it’s impossible to determine the immigration statuses of people simply by looking at them. So for decades, agents seeking to question people about their citizenship were supposed to rely on more than just appearance. But as President Trump has intensified his mass deportation campaign, roving patrols that have targeted predominantly Latino communities have become a key part of the administration’s playbook. And whether the tactics are legal appears to be an open question, one likely to be decided by the Supreme Court. Lawsuits challenging the administration’s sweeps in Los Angeles and elsewhere are making their

way through the courts. The outcomes could redefine the limits on the discretion officers have to stop, question and detain people over their immigration statuses and how much race and ethnicity can play into those decisions. “We are in nebulous land,” said Mark Fleming, a lawyer at the National Immigrant Justice Center, which is representing plaintiffs in Chicago. “We have never seen this type of enforcement on the streets ever.”

Univision: ICE told her she was pregnant and detained her for months: organizations report similar cases in "unprecedented" numbers.
Univision [10/24/2025 6:11 AM, Patricia Clarembaux, 5004K] reports when Alicia was admitted to the ICE Processing Center in South Louisiana in April, she learned she was pregnant. She was detained when she showed up for a routine appointment in New Orleans, and shortly afterward, the federal facility’s medical staff broke the news. The separation from her two minor children (ages 5 and 15) caused her significant stress. She wasn’t eating well, only receiving minimal portions of food "of poor quality, which left her hungry and malnourished." Her pregnancy wasn’t easy. In May, she began experiencing severe abdominal pain, vaginal discharge, contractions, and bleeding. Her story is part of a letter sent by various organizations to the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Todd Lyons, with more testimonies from pregnant women who were detained—or who are still detained—and reported that they did not receive adequate prenatal care, were denied essential supplies, and suffered medical neglect by staff at two detention centers: the one in South Louisiana, known as Basile, and the one in Stewart, Georgia.

NPR: Congress is investigating cases of U.S. citizens detained in immigration raids
NPR [10/24/2025 5:35 PM, Staff, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports U.S. citizens have been arrested in the Trump Administration’s aggressive immigration crackdown. According to ProPublica, at least 170 have been arrested or detained by immigration agents since President Trump took office for his second term. In response, Texas Rep. Robert Garcia and Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut — both Democrats — have announced an investigation into these detentions. It is incredibly concerning that now anyone can be targeted,” Rep. Garcia tells NPR. “It’s important that we begin documenting all of this.” [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Daily Mail: [MA] Brazilian ‘gangster’, 13, issues groveling apology and begs for freedom after he was taken into custody ‘for threatening child with knife’
Daily Mail [10/24/2025 7:53 PM, Natasha Anderson] reports a 13-year-old suspected Brazilian gang member has apologized ‘for everything’ and is begging for his freedom after being taken into ICE custody, his attorney has claimed. Arthur Yuri De Almeida Silva Berto, 13, was arrested at his Massachusetts school on October 9 for allegedly threatening to ‘shoot and kill’ a fellow classmate. Berto, a seventh-grader from Brazil, was transferred to ICE custody after being held at the local police station. Officers did not detain the boy for immigration authorities, but claim federal agents showed up at the station after his fingerprints were put into a national database. Homeland Security officials alleged that Berto had a gun on him, but he was carrying a 5-inch Milwaukee knife when he was detained by Everett police, city officials said. DHS also alleged that Berto is a suspected ‘33’ gang member and had 11 prior police complaints, including breaking and entering, vandalism, theft, fighting and ‘flash mob’ style shoplifting. Berto appeared before a judge via Zoom for a bond hearing Thursday where he pled for forgiveness and shared how he misses his mother, The Boston Globe reported. The judge denied bond, citing how he ‘dangerous’ and

a ‘flight risk,’ his lawyer Andrew Lattarulo said. Berto reportedly apologized after the ruling was issued. He remains in federal custody at a juvenile detention facility in Virginia pending his asylum hearing. His next court appearance is scheduled for November 5.

Bloomberg: [NY] Manhattan DA Bragg Says at Debate He’s Examining Prosecuting ICE

Bloomberg [10/24/2025 10:20 PM, Mike Vilensky, 803K] reports Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said he’s looking at whether his office can prosecute ICE agents if they break local laws, saying the immigration agency’s tactics in New York are "anathema to public safety." Bragg was asked at a NY1 debate on Friday, alongside two opponents challenging him for the Manhattan DA role, if his office would take action against Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers if they were found in violation of local statutes. "It is something we are looking at," he said, noting Manhattan Rep. Dan Goldman wrote a recent letter to New York Police Department Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

NBC News: [NY] New York City’s Canal Street slowly rebounds after ICE raid

NBC News [10/24/2025 3:28 PM, David K. Li and Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports the nine men arrested were all in the United States illegally, DHS said. Five were from Senegal and one each was from Mali, Mauritania and Guinea. DHS didn’t identify the country of origin of one of the men. The agency said it also took five protesters into custody, accusing four of assaulting law enforcement and one of obstruction. DHS told NBC News on Thursday that the protesters had been released pending further investigation with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Makonnen, of the group African Communities Together, said they’ve been working closely with street vendors and other local organizations to ensure they know their rights and the resources available to them.

Daily Caller: [NY] Trump Torches ‘Loser’ Dan Goldman Over Calling On NYPD To Arrest ICE Agents For Doing Their Jobs

Daily Caller [10/24/2025 11:18 AM, Jason Cohen, 835K] reports President Donald Trump criticized Democratic Rep. Dan Goldman of New York on Thursday over his push for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to arrest federal agents. Goldman sent a letter making the request to NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch on Oct. 16, alleging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have engaged in "outrageous and unlawful conduct … including violently and improperly arresting United States citizens." When a reporter asked Trump for his response to Goldman’s request on Thursday, the president insulted him and his party. "Dan is a loser, you understand. He’s a guy that doesn’t have what it takes. He’s been trying so hard. And they are exhausted," Trump said. "It’s so ridiculous, right? A suggestion like that. They are trying so hard and it’s not working.” "Even now, they started imitating me — of all people. They want to imitate me, and they start using foul language, but they use too much of it," he continued. "You can’t use the F-word seven times in one sentence. It doesn’t work. It might work every seven news conferences, but you can’t do it … seven times in one sentence. … They’re in big trouble, that party.” Democratic members of Congress increased their use of profanity to become more relatable to Americans, Politico reported in March. Moreover, Goldman also dismissed violence against federal immigration enforcement officers on "CNN NewsNight" Oct. 8.

New York Times: [NY] A Woman Self-Deported, Hoping to Shield Her Son. He Was Detained Anyway.

New York Times [10/25/2025 3:21 AM, Ana Ley, 330K] reports a 16-year-old undocumented immigrant living without a parent in New York City was detained Thursday morning during a routine check-in with federal officials, as President Trump's immigration crackdown has begun to target more minors who entered the United States illegally. The immigrant, Joel Camas, had been without his mother for about four weeks after she voluntarily returned to Ecuador in hopes that her son could avoid being deported. On Thursday morning Joel arrived for a routine appearance at 26 Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan, the New York City headquarters for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. With him was an entourage of eight adults that included Beth Baltimore, his lawyer, and Brad Lander, the city comptroller. Because Joel has no legal guardian in the United States, he was turned away from that building, which has become the epicenter of adult migrant detentions in New York, and directed to a different federal building. There, employees said they were confused by his arrival, and asked the group to wait; hours later, Joel was abruptly escorted behind closed doors with Ms. Baltimore, then taken from her. From a room that is inaccessible to the public, Ms. Baltimore texted Mr. Lander: "Detaining him" Mr. Lander gasped and doubled over, distraught by the news. "Oh, no, no," he said as his voice weakened. Ms. Baltimore then emerged, tears welling in her eyes. "I had no idea this was going to happen," she said. "I was too hopeful." The government had issued a deportation order against Joel, but he had applied for and received a designation known as special immigrant juvenile status, which opens a pathway to lawful permanent residency. Ms. Baltimore said that, historically, the classification has protected minors from deportation, but the rules seemed to be shifting rapidly during Mr. Trump's administration. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said that Joel and his mother had been issued final orders of removal by a federal judge on Feb. 28, 2024, under the Biden administration. "His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the U.S.A. alone as a minor," Ms. McLaughlin wrote in an email. "Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family." From Mr. Trump's inauguration in January through the end of July, ICE has detained about 50 children younger than 18 in the New York City area, according to federal data obtained by the Deportation Data Project at the University of California, Berkeley. Like Joel, many have been from Ecuador. At least 38 children and teenagers from the metropolitan region have been deported, the data shows. Joel had been staying in the Bronx with relatives and attending Gotham Collaborative High School. He met Ms. Baltimore, his lawyer, through a youth social services center called the Door, which offers essential services such as health care, mental counseling and legal assistance to 12- to 24-year-olds. As he arrived for his check-in on Thursday morning, he was carrying a black Nike backpack and hoped to get back to school before the first bell at 8 a.m. He was looking forward to his favorite subject, English, and to having a warm meal after standing in the cold for much of the morning. On Halloween, he said, he had planned to hang out with his friends. The immigration officials who detained Joel did not tell Ms. Baltimore where he would be taken, and on Thursday afternoon she rushed to find him, and to file legal paperwork to prevent his transfer to another jurisdiction, where he would be removed from his lawyer and his relatives. She also notified the city's Department of Education as well as the office of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose district includes Joel's home in the Bronx. Lawyers with the New York Civil Liberties Union were also working with Ms. Baltimore to free him, and on Friday morning, they filed an emergency petition to challenge his detention, deeming it illegal because of Joel's special immigrant juvenile status.

CBS New York: [NY] 16-year-old boy detained by ICE after scheduled immigration appointment in NYC

CBS New York [10/25/2025 12:06 AM, Alecia Reid, 39474K] reports a teenage boy was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents after showing up for a scheduled immigration appointment this week. His mother self-deported but believed her son's status would have kept him safe. Joel Camas, 16, showed up to a scheduled immigration check-in at 26 Federal Plaza bright and early Thursday morning. "We were gonna do this ICE check-in. It was gonna be quick, maybe he wouldn't even be late for school that starts at 8," said Beth Baltimore, director of legal services for The Door. Instead, he was detained and sent to a facility where minors are being held. He and his mother, Elvia Chafla, are undocumented. In September, Chafla flew back to their Ecuadorian hometown instead of facing arrest. She thought Joel would be fine because of his special immigrant juvenile status. "It is a status available to young people who are under 21, unmarried, have been found to have been abused, abandoned or neglected by ... a parent or parents," Baltimore said. The family's lawyer says a family court judge found that it was in Joel's best interests to remain in the U.S. He is a junior at Gotham Collaborative High School and lives with family in the Bronx. Joel's mother says he had a very difficult life in Ecuador and she brought him to New York seeking asylum. "What is going to happen to him? What is going to happen to my son? Right now, there's a lot of violence here and I don't want him to come back to that ... Right now, I have no work," she said in Spanish. The Department of Homeland Security says in February 2024, during the Biden administration, the teen and his mother were given final orders to leave. "His mother self-deported to Ecuador and Camas remained in the USA alone as a minor. Fortunately, now Mr. Camas will be reunited with family," DHS said in a statement, in part. The family's lawyer says the rules for migrants are in constant flux with the current Trump administration, and if the teen is deported, his pathway to lawful permanent residence will be terminated. "Every day is just, there's another terrifying thing that's happening," Baltimore said. "Also just the changes in law every few minutes, every few seconds. Different cases coming out." The Civil Liberties Union and the organization representing Joel filed a Habeas petition on his behalf. They are seeking his release and a stop on the removal order so he can stay in school and continue on his path. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NBC News: [VA] Man was fatally hit by vehicle while fleeing ICE on Virginia highway, officials say

NBC News [10/24/2025 4:04 PM, Daniella Silva, 34509K] reports a man fleeing Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents ran out onto a busy highway and was struck and killed Thursday in Virginia, authorities said. The incident appeared to be the second time since August that a person was killed by oncoming traffic while attempting to flee ICE agents, according to local officials. Jose Castro-Rivera died Thursday after ICE officers made a car stop in what a senior Department of Homeland Security official said was a "targeted, intelligence-based immigration enforcement operation." The DHS official told NBC News that after determining that the occupants were allegedly in the United States illegally, the immigration agents began detaining the people in the car; that's when Castro-Rivera resisted and ran onto a busy highway. The official did not provide additional details about the other people in the car.

Washington Post: [FL] ICE agent threatens to check deputy's status during DUI stop, asks if he's Haitian

Washington Post [10/24/2025 6:36 PM, Kim Bellware and Ben Brasch, 24149K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent arrested in August on suspicion of driving drunk questioned the nationality of a sheriff's deputy and threatened to check the

deputy's immigration status, according to newly released body-camera footage. Scott Deiseroth, a 42-year-old ICE agent, faces misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence with children in the car and resisting officers without violence following the Aug. 13 traffic stop in the Florida Keys. A spokesperson for ICE confirmed Friday that Deiseroth, a former U.S. Army staff sergeant, is an agent in Miami and has been on administrative leave since his arrest. During the stop, Deiseroth repeatedly asked Monroe County sheriff's deputies for leniency because of his law enforcement status and several times demanded to know the nationality of one of the deputies, who is Black and speaks with a Caribbean accent, the body-camera footage shows. "Are you Haitian?" Deiseroth asked Deputy Markens Dorestant during a field sobriety test that he eventually failed. "[It has] nothing to do with my race, buddy," Dorestant replied, prompting Deiseroth to ask again. After Deputy Jonathan Lane said his colleague's nationality doesn't matter, Deiseroth retorted, "it does." Deiseroth grew belligerent at times during the stop and emotional at others, the video shows. At one point, he told the deputies he was going through a divorce and feared losing custody of his sons if he was arrested. On the drive to jail following his arrest, Deiseroth continued to question Lane about Dorestant's nationality.

Chicago Tribune: [IN] Dozens protest ICE deportations at Gary airport
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 3:33 PM, Maya Wilkins, 4829K] reports Bolaños was one of the speakers at Friday's "ICE out of NWI" protest at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, where about 50 people gathered to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorities, who conduct removal flights from the Gary airport. ICE has been reported in Gary, East Chicago and Hammond multiple times this month, with the Southeast Side Rapid Response Team confirming multiple locations in East Chicago and Hammond on Monday, according to a social media post. ICE officials were not present at Friday's protest.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Feds say man clipped ICE vehicle during attempted arrest in Gary: records
Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 5:07 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete, 4829K] reports federal prosecutors allege that a man hit a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement vehicle in Gary while trying to evade an immigration arrest Oct. 13 after dropping his child at school. Charges were unsealed Thursday for Rosario Carrillo Lopez. He was charged in the U.S. District Court in Northern Indiana with forcibly assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding or interfering with an officer or employee of the United States while engaged in or on account of performance of official duties. The lengthy charge accuses him of assaulting officers with a "deadly weapon" – his SUV. His lawyer Roxanne Mendez Johnson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Documents state he could face up to 20 years in prison. Gary Police notified ICE on a previous date when he showed officers his Mexican Consulate identification card, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Steven Moran wrote. When U.S. Homeland Security agents ran his information, they discovered he was in the U.S. illegally and had been arrested in the past for a "narcotics offense." Formal charges could not be immediately found in Lake County. ICE agents staked out the listed Gary address on the ID and followed the SUV when Carrillo Lopez appeared to take the child to school. All had body armor labeled "Police." At least one also wore an "ICE badge patch.". They pulled him over on Clark Road, between 5th and 6th avenues, records show. One agent said he was from "Homeland Security." Carrillo Lopez asked in English the reason for the traffic stop. He declined to turn the vehicle off. At least two agents were on each side of the SUV. When one tried to reach into a half-open window to unlock the driver's door, Carrillo Lopez took off over a curb, leading them on a high-speed chase for

two blocks before they cut him off near the Willows apartments entrance. There, Carrillo Lopez forcibly side-swiped one government vehicle to escape, filings show. He cracked and scraped the side passenger bumper while damaging the wheel well, documents state. Immigration agents called Gary Police to report the accident. The Post-Tribune previously reported ICE agents said a man hit their vehicle on the 300 block of Clark Road on Oct. 13. Gary Police Cmdr. Tom Pawlak said ICE agents had targeted the individual and attempted to stop his car about 9 a.m. When agents approached the vehicle, they asked the driver to step out of the car. Pawlak said the man put the car in gear and rammed one of the ICE vehicles, drove over the curb and fled. Pawlak said the incident took place about three blocks south of the Gary Lighthouse Charter High School, 725 Clark Road on the city's west side. Pawlak said Gary police were not involved in the attempted arrest but did take an accident report filed by ICE agents at the police station.

ABC News/Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago school board members call for virtual learning amid ICE raids

ABC News [10/24/2025 3:19 PM, Staff, 30493K] reports that some members of the Chicago Board of Education are calling for virtual learning options for students in the face of ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in the city. The members spoke at a board meeting just hours after a 17-year-old Benito Juarez High School student was detained on his way to school during an anti-ICE protest in Little Village, according to a letter sent to parents, obtained by Chicago ABC station WLS. "We have received reports of federal law enforcement activity in a nearby neighborhood, and I am very sorry to share that a member of our school community was impacted," the letter from Chicago Public Schools reads. The student was later released without charges, according to WLS. The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to ABC News' request for comment on the student's arrest. The Chicago Tribune [10/24/2025 4:09 PM, Jake Sheridan, 4829K] reports Mayor Brandon Johnson urged Gov. JB Pritzker Friday to weigh allowing Chicago public school students to learn from home because ICE agents are arresting parents and students on their way to and from schools. Pritzker later took a dim view of the idea, saying kids belong in classrooms and pointing to ways schools and residents have already taken steps to protect students and their parents from federal immigration raids. Asked during a news conference if he is considering implementing remote learning at Chicago Public Schools, Johnson said "there are people who are afraid to go to school, are afraid to go to work" before shifting shot-calling responsibilities Pritzker.

FOX News: [MN] Convicted illegal immigrant child killer who murdered infant son arrested in Twin Cities ICE sweep

FOX News [10/24/2025 8:49 PM, Alexandra Koch Fox, 40621K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced a number of arrests made Friday by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, including repeat child sex abusers, murderers, drunk drivers and violent assailants. One of the criminal illegal immigrants, Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz, has been incarcerated on the taxpayer's dime since 2004 with a 32-year prison sentence for the intentional murder of his 3-month-old son. While incarcerated, Guerrero-Munoz was convicted of assaulting a fellow inmate at Stillwater Prison, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE lodged a detainer and received custody of him Monday. "Sanctuary politicians like [Minneapolis] Mayor Jacob Fray, who are refusing to work with ICE, are allowing criminals like Aldrin Guerrero-Munoz to live in our communities, unchecked," Noem wrote in a statement. "Under the leadership of President [Donald] Trump, ICE is no longer allowing the guise of

moral superiority and political correctness to supersede the safety and security of Americans." Noem said 70% of ICE arrests are of illegal immigrants convicted or charged with a crime in the U.S. "This statistic doesn't even include foreign fugitives, illegal aliens convicted of crimes in other countries, gang members and suspected terrorists," she added. Other criminal illegal immigrants arrested in the area include: Francisco Javier Garcia-Olivar of Mexico has multiple convictions, including sexual assault and sodomy of a child, attempted sexual assault of a child and sexual assault, according to DHS. Jose Ruben Gomez Munoz of Mexico was convicted of sexual assault, according to DHS. He was also charged with incest with a minor. Humberto Us-Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of molestation of a minor and aggravated felony sex assault, according to DHS. Jose Israel Hernandez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of human slavery or trafficking and commercial sex, according to DHS. Manuel Betancourt-Renteria of Mexico has 10 convictions, including two counts of assault, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, larceny and five traffic offenses, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence of drugs and possession of methamphetamine. Nicolas Lopez Juarez of Guatemala was convicted of aggravated assault with a weapon, three counts of driving under the influence and obstructing police, according to DHS. Juan Alejo-Alejo of Mexico was convicted of homicide by reckless driving and driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was also charged with driving under the influence in a separate incident. Officials confirmed Alejo-Alejo was previously deported before reentering the U.S. David Antonio Gonzalez Rivas of El Salvador was convicted of drug possession and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle to avoid prosecution on two separate occasions, according to DHS. Rivas was arrested 14 additional times for crimes including felony assault, receiving stolen property and obstructing police, officials said. Pedro Cortez Soriano of Mexico was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide, driving under the influence, probation violation, illegal reentry and arrested for driving under the influence, according to DHS. He was previously deported twice with a final order of removal from 2004, officials said.

Daily Wire: [CA] ICE Continues To Round Up 'Depraved' Illegals In California Despite Dem Shutdown

Daily Wire [10/24/2025 1:16 PM, Leif Le Mahieu, 3184K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested more illegal alien criminals on Thursday as the Democrat-led shutdown continued into its fourth week. In a "worst-of-the-worst" update provided to The Daily Wire, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) highlighted five illegals convicted of crimes ranging from sexual assault to robbery picked up by ICE. "Every day, and despite the Democrats' government shutdown, our ICE officers are arresting pedophiles, sexual assailants, murderers and violent criminals," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. "It is unimaginable to think sanctuary politicians put these monsters and sickos over their own constituents." "American citizens deserve better. Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, we are making America safe again one depraved criminal illegal alien removal at a time," McLaughlin said.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] S.F. supervisor wants to create 'ICE-free' zones but details are unclear

San Francisco Chronicle [10/24/2025 4:32 PM, Laura Waxmann, 4722K] reports a San Francisco supervisor wants to create "ICE-free" zones on city-owned property as part of a larger legislative package that aims to provide a blueprint for how cities across the country can protect themselves from federal immigration enforcement. The proposal comes after

San Francisco nearly became the target of a federal immigration surge. Border agents arrived at a Coast Guard facility near Alameda Wednesday but President Donald Trump on Thursday morning said he was calling off a "federal deployment" in the city, convinced by several tech moguls to give Mayor Daniel Lurie more time to deal with crime and drug dealing. But that doesn't mean the city is in the clear, Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, who is pushing the legislation, told the Chronicle. As part of Mahmood's "Safe Cities Blueprint" package — which he plans to introduce to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday — the supervisor is exploring the feasibility of limiting the use or leasing of schools, parks, libraries, vacant lots and other city-owned properties to federal agencies, including ICE, as staging areas and operations bases, unless required by a court order. Mahmood's representatives said they are not aware of any city properties being leased to ICE currently. Other cities, including Chicago, Santa Clara and San Jose, have created or voted to create such zones already, according to Mahmood. The Department of Homeland Security has pushed back at plans by Santa Clara and San Jose to create "No ICE" zones, telling Newsweek that the agency "will not be deterred from enforcing immigration law."

Univision19: [CA] Immigrant mother arrested after reporting sexual harassment by ICE contractor

Univision19 [10/24/2025 4:50 PM, Staff, 5004K] reports an immigrant woman was arrested by immigration authorities after reporting alleged sexual harassment by an ICE contractor, KCRA3 reported. Silvia Reyna Mendoza fled Mexico as a teenager to escape domestic violence and has lived in the United States for 40 years. She also has eight children who are U.S. citizens. However, she is not. Reyna Mendoza has spent years navigating the immigration system in Sacramento, and based on her status, she had to be fitted with an ankle monitor, which is monitored by an ICE contractor called BI Incorporated, KCRA3 reported. Court documents say BI required Silvia to check in periodically with a specialist on her case, but in 2023, her fight for citizenship was derailed after she reported that the specialist handling her case, named Luis Ruiz, was sexually harassing her. Silvia reported Ruiz to another company specialist and to the supervisor, Montserrat Esquivel, in November 2024, however, court documents say that Esquivel deleted the messages and videos that Ruiz had sent to Silvia. The lawsuit alleges that BI Incorporated failed to follow up on Silvia's sexual harassment complaint, instead toughening its procedures and requiring Silvia to wear an ankle monitor in March 2025. She was finally detained by ICE in September 2025. Her children claim that her arrest was in revenge for the sexual harassment claim.

NPR: [CA] A U.S. citizen detained by ICE is pushing to hold agents accountable

NPR [10/24/2025 4:07 PM, Adrian Florido, Tyler Bartlam, and Patrick Jarenwattananon, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports NPR's Adrian Florido speaks with George Retes, a U.S. citizen who was detained by federal immigration officers in July while attempting to enter his workplace. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

CBS News: [Venezuela] Nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals returned on ICE deportation flights since March

CBS News [10/24/2025 8:30 PM, Staff, 39474K] reports the Trump administration has conducted 40 removal flights to the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, deporting nearly 8,000 Venezuelan nationals since March, according to senior Department of Homeland Security officials who spoke to CBS News on the condition of anonymity. The flights began after Venezuela agreed in March to resume repatriation flights, and have continued amid

heightened U.S.-Venezuelan tensions in recent weeks. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported approximately 140 individuals back to Venezuela in its latest removal flight on October 15. Last Wednesday's flight included at least seven individuals with criminal histories, including alleged members of the Tren de Aragua gang and sexual predators, according to DHS. Among those deported include Jefferson Bracho Haddad, an alleged Tren de Aragua gang member that a DHS spokesperson tells CBS News had six criminal arrests, including for larceny and drug possession. The agency spokesperson added that the flight also returned Angelo Dennis-Jesus Ainaga-Jaspe, convicted of multiple weapons offenses, plus Diego Alejandro Mavarez Arocha, convicted of sexual assault. DHS has repeatedly spotlighted removals of individuals with criminal histories as part of an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to deport undocumented migrants the government determines pose threats to public safety. "These individuals, including confirmed Tren de Aragua gang members, sexual predators, and violent offenders, should have never been in our country in the first place," said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin in a statement provided to CBS News, adding that an estimated 2 million undocumented immigrants have left the U.S. since January. McLaughlin did not specify how many of those individuals were believed to have departed the U.S. voluntarily, versus those who have been deported. The vast majority would have needed to leave without making contact with DHS to reach that total. According to internal government figures previously obtained by CBS News, over the first six months of President Trump's second term, the administration deported nearly 150,000 people and recorded 13,000 who self-deported. According to senior DHS officials, the deportations to Venezuela have occurred alongside the intensified U.S. campaign against drug trafficking and transnational crime in South America. The Trump administration has carried out at least 10 known strikes on suspected narcotics vessels over the past two months, including two this week off Colombia's Pacific coast. The most recent strike, conducted overnight, targeted a vessel allegedly operated by Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang in the Caribbean Sea.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bloomberg: Will Foreign MBAs Win or Lose With Trump's H-1B Reforms? Maybe Both

Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:34 PM, Robb Mandelbaum, 18207K] reports the first academic quarter at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management had only just begun, but Luca, a first-year MBA student, was already deep into his studies on business strategy, corporate finance and more. Then, at the end of the term's first week, he had to dive into a very different subject. "I've become an expert in immigration law," he says. Luca is a Mexican citizen, and, like most international students in US MBA programs, he'd like to stay on after graduation and work here, most likely for a real estate investment company in Chicago. All that may now be in jeopardy. ("Luca" is a pseudonym; he requested that Bloomberg Businessweek use it to avoid drawing the government's attention—especially given the immigrant enforcement campaign now underway in Chicago.) On Sept. 19, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to rein in the H-1B program, which allows nonimmigrant foreigners to work in the US. H-1B status ostensibly lasts for three years, although it can be, and often is, extended. Anti-immigration organizations and liberal economic groups alike have long attacked H-1B visas as a tool for replacing US employees with lower-paid foreign ones. New private-sector H-1B jobs are capped at 85,000 annually, but the program is so popular the government holds a lottery to dole out approvals. And the Department of Homeland Security estimates that, on average in each of the last five years,

83% of the petitions for new employment filed by companies were for jobs that the employer initially identified as paying below the median wage; 28% were deemed entry-level.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Asylum seekers face deportation over failure to pay new fees — before being notified
Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Andrea Castillo, 14862K] reports late last month, an immigrant seeking asylum in the U.S. came across social media posts urging her to pay a new fee imposed by the Trump administration before Oct. 1, or else risk her case being dismissed. Paula, a 40-year-old Los Angeles-area immigrant from Mexico, whose full name The Times is withholding because she fears retribution, applied for asylum in 2021 and her case is now on appeal. But when Paula tried to pay the $100 annual fee, she couldn't find an option on the immigration court's website that accepted fees for pending asylum cases. Afraid of deportation — and with just five hours before the payment deadline — she selected the closest approximation she could find, $110 for an appeal filed before July 7. She knew it was likely incorrect. Still, she felt it was better to pay for something, rather than nothing at all, as a show of good faith. Unable to come up with the money on such short notice, Paula, who works in a warehouse repairing purses, paid the fee with a credit card. "I hope that money isn't wasted," she said. That remains unclear because of confusion and misinformation surrounding the rollout of a host of new fees or fee increases for a variety of immigration services. The fees are part of the sweeping budget bill President Trump signed into law in July. Paula was one of thousands of asylum seekers across the country who panicked after seeing messages on social media urging them to pay the new fee before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Customs and Border Protection

Reuters: US expands facial recognition at borders to track non-citizens
Reuters [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Ted Hesson, 36480K] reports the U.S. will expand the use of facial recognition technology to track non-citizens entering and leaving the country in order to combat visa overstays and passport fraud, according to a government document published on Friday. A new regulation will allow U.S. border authorities to require non-citizens to be photographed at airports, seaports, land crossings and any other point of departure, expanding on an earlier pilot program. Under the regulation, set to take effect on December 26, U.S. authorities could require the submission of other biometrics, such as fingerprints or DNA, it said. It also allows border authorities to use facial recognition for children under age 14 and elderly people over age 79, groups that are currently exempted. The tighter border rules reflect a broader effort by U.S. President Donald Trump to crack down on illegal immigration. While the Republican president has surged resources to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, he has also taken steps to reduce the number of people overstaying their visas. The growing use of facial recognition in U.S. airports has raised privacy concerns from watchdog groups worried about overreach and mistakes. A 2024 reportby the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said tests had shown facial recognition was more likely to misidentify Black people and other minority groups. The Congressional Research Service estimated in 2023 that some 42% of the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally at the time had overstayed a visa. The U.S. Congress in 1996 passed a law mandating the creation of an automated entry-exit system, but it has never been fully implemented. U.S. Customs and Border Protection already uses facial recognition for all commercial air entries but only employs it to record exits at certain locations, the regulation said. CBP estimates that a biometric entry-exit system can be fully implemented at all

commercial airports and seaports for both entry and exit within the next three to five years.

Reported similarly:
NewsNation [10/24/2025 12:03 PM, Ted Hesson, 8017K]

Bloomberg: US to Photograph All Non-Citizens Entering, Exiting Country
Bloomberg [10/24/2025 1:15 PM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 18207K] reports the Department of Homeland Security will require all immigrants and non-citizens to be photographed when entering and leaving the US under new regulations released Friday. Photographs and fingerprints were already required for certain immigrants and foreign visitors at designated locations. The regulation from US Customs and Border Protection allows for a comprehensive data collection system for non-citizens regardless of where they enter or leave the country. The rule comes amid broader efforts by the Trump administration to expand collection of data on immigrants and foreign nationals in the US. That's included a new immigrant registry rule as well as use of taxpayer data for enforcement purposes. Comprehensive data gathering for entry and exit of non-citizens will help address national security concerns, fraudulent use of travel documentation, and visa overstays, DHS said. CBP has collected biometric data from certain non-citizens upon arrival in the US since 2004, but the rule marks a significant expansion of that data collection. New advances in facial comparison technology allow the agency to roll out broader inspections for entry and departure, CBP said. Those tools will use passenger information along with photographs provided in passports or visa applications to verify a traveler's identity. The agency has already fully adopted that facial recognition system for commercial air travel upon entry through a program known as "Simplified Arrival." It estimates that it can fully adopt entry and exit screening at airports and sea ports in three to five years. The regulation follows through on efforts to expand photo and data collection from the Trump administration. Most public comments submitted in response to a 2021 proposed rule opposed the plan, with many groups citing privacy concerns, including the American Civil Liberties Union. The final rule released by DHS doesn't make substantive changes to that proposal.

Washington Examiner: Tariffs, smuggling, and the US-Mexico border wall puts a lot on Customs and Border Protection's plate
Washington Examiner [10/24/2025 5:30 AM, Jeremy Lott, 1394K] reports Customs and Border Protection is the government agency charged with overseeing all ports of entry in the United States. On a typical day, the last full fiscal year available (2024), CBP processed: 3.8 million de minimis (e.g., low dollar) shipments, 1,150,387 passengers and pedestrians, 88,582 truck, rail, and sea containers, 270,800 incoming privately owned vehicles, $9.2 billion worth of imported products, 105,103 entries of merchandise, $241 million in duties, taxes, and other fees, Underlying those numbers are countless stories. When the CBP held a media availability at Blaine, Washington's commercial truck crossing in June, it was hard to know exactly what to expect. A taxidermied bald eagle certainly was not on the list. The eagle had been hunted and killed in one province of Canada, legally, agents said, and duly declared at the border as the owner tried to import it into America. There was no violation of law involved, and thus no fines or other penalties were assessed. However, it is next to impossible for a private individual to import a bald eagle into the country, due to the Endangered Species Act and other legislation. The owner had been given the option of sending it back, but had elected to abandon it at the border instead. Thus, the dead, preserved adult eagle, mounted on a wild wooden base, was brought out to pose for the cameras and flashbulbs. The official moral of the story was that people who want to bring

something over the border that is legally questionable should call first, to save themselves a great deal of hassle if it is not allowed in the country. Agents for both CBP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — though not the Border Patrol — also had many other stories about animals coming through the border, legally and illegally.

ABC News: [IL] Judge orders CBP official leading immigration crackdown to appear in Chicago court next week

ABC News [10/24/2025 7:33 PM, James Hill, 30493K] reports a judge has ordered Greg Bovino, a top U.S. Customs and Border Protection official, to appear in court next week for proceedings in a lawsuit against the federal government over immigration enforcement tactics in Chicago. Bovino, who is commanding CBP field operations in the city for "Operation Midway Blitz," has been ordered to appear in person for a status hearing on Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, according to a court filing on Friday. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit -- journalists and demonstrators -- have alleged violations of a temporary restraining order issued by Ellis earlier this month that restricts ICE and CBP agents from using non-lethal munitions without warning and justification. On Thursday, the plaintiffs submitted a notice of alleged violation that included a video that they contend shows Bovino tossing a canister of tear gas "without justification" toward a crowd of protesters this week in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said Bovino deployed "riot control measures" after "rioters" threw rocks and other objects at agents while Border Patrol agents were conducting immigration enforcement operations. Bovino was struck in the head but was not seriously injured, DHS said. "Border Patrol agents repeated multiple warnings to back up and that chemical agents would be deployed if warnings were ignored," McLaughlin said in a statement on Friday. "Riot control measures were deployed, including by Chief Bovino, and arrests were made. Agents properly used their training. The use of chemical munitions was conducted in full accordance with CBP policy and was necessary to ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public." U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis had previously issued an order allowing the plaintiffs to depose Bovino for two hours; on Thursday, she expanded the time allotted for the deposition to five hours.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] Ex-LAPD officer indicted for murder in on-duty killing of homeless man

Los Angeles Times [10/24/2025 12:40 PM, James Queally, 14862K] reports Los Angeles County prosecutors unsealed an indictment Friday against a former LAPD officer responsible for the 2015 on-duty shooting of an unarmed man in Venice. The ex-cop, Clifford Proctor, pleaded not guilty to the charges during a brief hearing in a downtown courtroom. Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Proctor, 60, leaned over several times to whisper to his attorney but otherwise said little during the hearing, a portion of which was held behind closed doors. He waived a reading of the indictment. He will remain in custody with no bail, and is expected to return to court for a hearing early next month. Proctor's lawyer, Anthony "Tony" Garcia, said he would reserve comment until he'd had a chance to review the case. But he questioned the timing of the charges, which came more than a decade after the incident in question. The L.A. County District Attorney's office reviewed the case when it was fresh and "determined there was nothing to proceed," Garcia said. Proctor was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport last week when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents noticed he had an active warrant. Proctor has been living abroad for several years, according to sources who were not authorized to speak publicly about the pending case.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

AP: Tropical Storm Melissa poised to become a hurricane and drop torrential rain on Caribbean

AP [10/25/2025 12:07 AM, Staff, 13945K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa was expected to strengthen into a hurricane on Saturday as forecasters warned of massive rainfall and life-threatening flooding and landslides in the northern Caribbean, with an astounding 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain anticipated in southwest Haiti. The erratic and slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing. Up to 25 inches (64 centimeters) of rain was forecast for Jamaica and the southern regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic through Monday, with up to 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain possible across Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. "If those rains were to occur, you're talking about catastrophic flooding potential," said Jamie Rhome, the center's deputy director. Melissa was located about 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 245 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) and was moving northwest at 3 mph (6 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica and the southwestern peninsula of Haiti. The center of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica early next week, forecasters said. Melissa was expected to become a major hurricane by Sunday and possibly reach Category 4 status by early Monday, U.S. forecasters said. The storm is then forecast to hit eastern Cuba early Wednesday, where up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) could fall in some areas. The Bahamas Department of Meteorology said Melissa could bring tropical storm or hurricane conditions to islands in the Southeast and Central Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands by early next week. Authorities in Jamaica warned that all airports would close within 24 hours if a hurricane warning is issued. More than 650 shelters were activated. Officials said warehouses across the island were well-stocked and thousands of food packages prepositioned for quick distribution if needed. "I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "Take all measures to protect yourself." The storm has damaged nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic and knocked out water supply systems, affecting more than half a million customers. It also downed trees and traffic lights, unleashed a couple of small landslides and left more than two dozen communities isolated by floodwaters. Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had predicted an above-normal season with 13 to 18 named storms.

CNN: Tropical Storm Melissa expected to explode into a Category 4 hurricane and could bring catastrophic impact to Jamaica

CNN [10/25/2025 6:50 AM, Chris Dolce, 18595K] reports Tropical Storm Melissa is forecast to rapidly intensify into a major hurricane this weekend as it lashes Jamaica and parts of the northern Caribbean, bringing days of life-threatening, potentially catastrophic impact. Jamaica looks to be the epicenter for the worst of Melissa's triple threat of extreme rainfall flooding, wind damage and storm surge. Melissa could make landfall on Jamaica late Monday or early Tuesday. Haiti also continues to be in thick of Melissa's destructive flood and landslide threats. A hurricane warning is effect for Jamaica, where strong winds are expected to begin tonight. Southern Haiti is under a hurricane watch. Melissa has been moving at a snail's pace for days and it won't pick up speed anytime soon as it tracks

generally westward through Sunday night. The storm is centered 165 miles southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and is packing winds up to 70 mph as of Saturday morning. That slow movement has already caused problems. Torrential rain bands have swamped Haiti and the Dominican Republic for much of the week, causing flooding and triggering landslides. At least three deaths have been reported in Haiti due to the storm, two of which were the result of a landslide, the Haitian Civil Protection Agency said in a statement. In the Dominican Republic, at least one person has died and more than 1,000 people have evacuated or been displaced, officials said Friday.

NPR: [AK] Alaskan village destroyed by flooding tries to rebuild as winter looms
NPR [10/24/2025 4:25 PM, Eric Stone, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports over a week after ex-typhoon Halong swept through western Alaska, people in the affected villages are taking stock. In Kipnuk, state officials estimate that over 90% of structures have been destroyed. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Coast Guard

AP: [MA] Woman who escaped from boat fire off Cape Cod with her husband and son dies at a hospital
AP [10/24/2025 5:54 PM, Michael Casey, 31753K] reports asleep on their boat anchored off Cape Cod, the Sullivan family was awaken to their dogs barking, the sound of fireworks and smoke. Their boat was on fire. Tyler Sullivan and his parents jumped from the boat Monday night and, in the darkness, began swimming to a privately-owned island. Tyler and his father, Patrick Sullivan, survived, but Cynthia "Cici" Sullivan was badly injured during the ordeal and died Thursday at a hospital, a spokesperson for the Cape & Islands district attorney's office said. She was 73. Patrick Sullivan, who was also injured in the fire, is awake and breathing without help, his family posted on Facebook. By Tuesday night, relatives began to worry when the family hadn't returned and the Coast Guard joined local authorities in a search. Other boaters were alerted to the search efforts Tuesday night, according to audio provided by Broadcastify. A Coast Guard helicopter rescued the family and flew them to a hospital. Authorities say the matter remains under investigation.

CISA/Cybersecurity

FOX News: Hackers steal medical records and financial data from 1.2M patients in massive healthcare breach
FOX News [10/24/2025 1:00 PM, Kurt Knutsson, 40621K] reports that more than 1 million patients have been affected by a data breach involving SimonMed Imaging, one of the country's largest outpatient radiology and medical imaging providers. The breach came to light after a cyberattack compromised sensitive patient data, with reports indicating that ransomware operators may have been behind the incident. What makes this case particularly concerning is the scale of the attack and the type of information stolen, which could easily be misused for financial or identity fraud. In January 2025, SimonMed Imaging was alerted by one of its vendors about a potential security incident. The following day, the company noticed suspicious activity on its own network. The company says in response, it reset passwords, enforced two-factor authentication and tightened endpoint security while cutting off third-party vendor access. Unfortunately, the attackers had already gained access. Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 5, 2025, cybercriminals exfiltrated sensitive data

belonging to around 1.2 million individuals. The Medusa ransomware group later claimed responsibility, alleging they had stolen more than 200 GB of data, including patient IDs, financial records and medical scans. The attackers reportedly demanded 1 million dollars to delete the stolen files, or 10,000 dollars per day to delay publishing. SimonMed was later removed from the Medusa leak site, which could suggest a ransom payment, although the company has not confirmed this. In the aftermath, SimonMed brought in cybersecurity experts to investigate and has offered complimentary credit monitoring services to affected individuals.

CyberScoop: National cyber director says U.S. needs to counter Chinese surveillance, push American tech
CyberScoop [10/24/2025 12:30 PM, Tim Starks] reports the United States needs to counter China's "attempt to export a surveillance state across planet Earth," and instead push a "clean American tech stack" globally, National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross said Friday. "It's important that we send that message and engage with not only partners that we have now, but potential partners who are looking for assistance and open to help in that regard," Cairncross said in remarks at the 2025 Meridian Summit in Washington, D.C. The Chinese threat promises to be a big focus for Cairncross, a message he's been sending in his short tenure thus far. "To date, I don't think the United States has done a terrific job of sending the signal, in particular to China, that their behavior in this space is unacceptable," he said. "It's meant to do us harm. It sits on our critical infrastructure systems and threatens chaos. "It tries to put us in strategic dilemmas that impact our decisionmaking," Cairncross continued about Beijing. "And that is something that is scaling. It is something that is seen as cost-free, I think, across the ocean, and that is something that needs to be reset so that there is strategic stability in this domain."

CyberScoop: Shifting from reactive to proactive: Cyber resilience amid nation-state espionage
CyberScoop [10/24/2025 7:30 AM, Nick Carroll] reports in recent years, the cybersecurity industry has made significant strides in securing endpoints with advanced Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions, and we have been successful in making life more difficult for our adversaries. While this progress is a victory, it has also produced a predictable and dangerous consequence where threat actors are shifting their focus to the network perimeter, a domain often plagued by technical debt and forgotten hardware. The recent cyber espionage campaign by the China-linked group Salt Typhoon demonstrates this shift. It is the latest in a series of attacks that highlight a dangerous and common thread connecting them to other major adversaries, including Russia's Static Tundra and various ransomware groups. These groups are all exploiting the ghosts in our networks. Old, unpatched, and forgotten routers, VPNs, and firewalls that make up our network perimeter are making very attractive targets.

Terrorism Investigations

New York Times: [Mexico] After the Cartel Comes, They Pick Up the Piecesf
New York Times [10/24/2025 11:26 AM, Paulina Villegas and Adriana Zehbrauskas, 135475K] reports by the time Ramón Soto reached the crime scene, the wounded man was twitching, bloody and barely alive. A woman nearby collapsed to her knees, wailing, and a poster lay on the ground with a drug cartel's warning: "You know who is next." Mr. Soto,

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though, showed no trace of emotion as the man went still. “He is dead,” he said. “He is dead.” Then he asked the sobbing woman if she was family and needed funeral services. For a quiet fraternity of funeral workers in Mexico’s Sinaloa State, each day begins and ends with death. But what was once a dignified profession, they say, guiding the bereaved through the disorienting maze that follows a death, now puts them at the center of the carnage engulfing their state. Warring factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the world’s most powerful criminal groups, are vying for control of its multibillion-dollar empire. The Mexican government, under intense pressure from the Trump administration, has begun an aggressive crackdown on the cartel, too. The battle has sown chaos in the state, leaving more than 1,900 dead and 2,000 missing over the last year, according to official data. For the barely 30 funeral home workers of the state capital, Culiacán, the business of ferrying the dead, whether cartel gunmen or innocent people caught in between, has never been busier or harder to bear. “I live alongside death, day in and day out,” said Josué Nahum García, an employee at the San Martin Funeral Home. “Not only do I see it every day, but I feel it too — in the pain and tears of the families who have lost their loved ones.”

National Security News

Federalist: Trump Should Stop Sharing Intel With The U.K. Until It Punishes Chinese Espionage

Federalist [10/24/2025 7:21 AM, Helen Raleigh, 785K] reports the recent collapse of the prosecution in a major China spy case has unfolded as one of the most significant scandals for the U.K.’s Labour government since it assumed power last year. At the center of this case are Christopher Berry and Christopher Cash, British citizens who both have connections to China. Witness statements from Matthew Collins, the U.K.’s deputy national security adviser, reveal that Berry was recruited by China’s spy agency, the Ministry of State Security (MSS), to gather intelligence on the U.K. parliament while he was teaching in China. At the time, Cash, Berry’s friend, was a researcher at the China Research Group (CRG), a think tank co-founded by conservative members of parliament (MPs) Tom Tugendhat and Neil O’Brien. With CRG members primarily holding hawkish views on China and its Communist Party (CCP), it is no surprise that Beijing has sanctioned the CRG and several conservative MPs since 2021. Collins reveals that Berry’s Chinese handler, code-named "Alex," is associated with the MSS. Their operation went like this: Alex directed Berry to enlist his friend Cash at the CRG as a subsource to extract vital intelligence about the British parliament’s inner workings and spy on MPs’ activities. The goal was to sway the U.K. government’s policies on China. Cash reportedly provided sensitive details, including the names and photos of Taiwanese defense ministry officials who visited the U.K. in 2022 to discuss defense strategies against potential Chinese aggression. During the Conservative Party’s leadership election in 2022, a senior CCP official instructed Alex, via Cash and Berry, to gather intelligence on Conservative MPs one by one. The goal of the CCP’s overseas influence operation was to allocate resources to prevent known China hawks from securing key government positions that could shape Britain’s China policy. Collins stated that this incident highlights how China’s espionage operations threaten the integrity of the U.K.’s democratic institutions. The most notable aspect of this espionage case is the swift transfer of intelligence from Westminster to Beijing, along with its significant reach inside the CCP. As Collins pointed out, "on one occasion, only thirteen hours passed between Mr. Berry receiving a task, consulting with Mr. Cash, and then reporting back to ‘Alex.’" This level of efficiency is concerning, particularly because some of the intelligence

reached a senior CCP leader who is a confidante of General Secretary Xi Jinping, enabling the CCP's "real-time" decision-making.

The Hill: [Canada] Trump: Canada 'trying to illegally influence' Supreme Court on tariffs

The Hill [10/24/2025 8:35 AM, Ryan Mancini, 12595K] reports President Trump defended his decision to call off trade negotiations with Canada on Friday, accusing the U.S.'s northern neighbor of attempting to "illegally influence" a pending Supreme Court case over tariffs. "CANADA CHEATED AND GOT CAUGHT!!!" Trump posted to Truth Social. "They fraudulently took a big buy ad saying that Ronald Reagan did not like Tariffs, when actually he LOVED TARIFFS FOR OUR COUNTRY, AND ITS NATIONAL SECURITY." "Canada is trying to illegally influence the United States Supreme Court in one of the most important rulings in the history of our Country," Trump wrote. In a second post, the president suggested the U.S. is "WEALTHY, POWERFUL, AND NATIONALLY SECURE AGAIN" because of his tariffs, and called the looming case, "THE MOST IMPORTANT CASE EVER." In a third post, Trump argued that the stock market was now "STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE BECAUSE OF TARIFFS!". The latest clash between Trump and Canada began with an ad campaign launched earlier this month by Ontario Premier Doug Ford. The advertisement shows former President Reagan delivering an address in 1987 about the tariffs on Japanese imports and warning against the risks of long-term trade disputes. "High tariffs inevitably lead to retaliation by foreign countries and the triggering of fierce trade wars. Then the worst happens," Reagan said in the ad. "Markets shrink and collapse, businesses and industries shut down, and millions of people lose their jobs." In response, Trump said Thursday: "ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

FOX News: [Lithuania] NATO fighter jets scrambled after Russian planes allegedly violate airspace

FOX News [10/24/2025 7:32 AM, Rachel Wolf, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Spanish fighter jets were scrambled while on NATO air policing missions after Russian aircraft violated Lithuanian airspace. The Lithuanian armed forces said that at approximately 6:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, two Russian aircraft — an SU-30 and an IL-78 — flew about 765 yards into Lithuanian airspace, The Associated Press reported. The aircraft allegedly flew away after approximately 18 seconds. "This evening, Russian military planes violated Lithuanian airspace. This is a blatant breach of international law and territorial integrity of Lithuania. Once again, it confirms the importance of strengthening European air defense readiness," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda posted on X. Nausėda announced that the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs would summon representatives from the Russian embassy in Vilnius "to protest against reckless and dangerous behavior." The ministry later confirmed on X that the Russian charge d'affaires was summoned in protest of the airspace violation. "Russia must cease its aggressive behavior, respect international law and the borders of neighboring states," the ministry said in a post on X. Russia's defense ministry denied Lithuania's claim, saying that SU-30 fighter jets were conducting training flights over the Kaliningrad region in strict compliance with the rules, the AP reported. "The aircraft did not deviate from their flight route or violate the borders of other states, as confirmed by objective monitoring means," the ministry said, according to the AP.
[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reuters: [China] Trump seeks trade deal with Xi during Asia trip

Reuters [10/24/2025 6:00 AM, Trevor Hunnicutt, 36480K] reports U.S. President Donald Trump will test his deal-making prowess in a region battered by his hardball trade policies on a trip to Asia next week, as doubts hang over his highly anticipated meeting with China's Xi Jinping. Trump, who leaves Washington on Friday night, is set for a five-day trip spanning Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, his first to the region and his longest journey abroad since taking office in January. The Republican leader hopes to pile up trade, business and ceasefire deals before turning to the toughest challenge, a face-to-face with Xi on Thursday in South Korea. The trip comes as Trump works to maintain the signature foreign policy achievement of his second term, a fragile ceasefire he helped strike in the Israel-Gaza conflict, while the Russian war in Ukraine rages and a trade war with China shows little sign of abating. Washington and Beijing have hiked tariffs on each other's exports and threatened to cut off critical minerals and technologies altogether, putting markets on edge. The trip was formally announced by the White House on Thursday and details remain in flux, including the meeting between leaders of the world's two largest economies. Neither side expects a breakthrough that would restore terms of trade that existed before Trump's second-term inauguration in January, according to a person familiar with the conversations. Instead, talks between the two sides to prepare for the meeting focused on managing disagreements and modest improvements.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)@techmis.com]
Sent: 11/4/2025 10:49:39 AM
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)@techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (11-4-25)
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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff
DATE: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:00 AM ET

Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'

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Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.'s 'sandwich guy'

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match

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Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities

Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire

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CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'

FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force
Blaze [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Cooper Williamson, 1442K] reports deportations and border security have been a crucial part of the second Trump administration, and nine months in, the government has started to release some results. Despite seemingly constant obstruction from Democrats, the administration has begun to deliver on its promises of mass deportations. "The president is all about results, ... and what President Trump, Secretary Noem, and our law enforcement have been able to do in the past 270 days, despite the injunctions, despite the obstruction from sanctuary city politicians and these activist judges, is

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really nothing short of extraordinary," Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a Fox News interview on Monday. She went on to report that over 2 million illegal aliens have left the country since the beginning of Trump's term, citing an October 27 press release. McLaughlin claimed in the press release that the majority of the deportations have been voluntary: "More than 2 million illegal aliens have left the U.S. including 1.6 million who have voluntarily self-deported and over 527,000 deportations."

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean
NewsMax [11/3/2025 5:04 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump has ordered his national security and defense teams to expand classified briefings for Congress on his administration's anti-narcotics operations in the Caribbean and Pacific, Axios reported Monday. The move comes as lawmakers in both parties demand more transparency after a wave of deadly maritime interdictions and increased U.S. military activity near Venezuela. Axios reports U.S. forces have sunk at least 15 vessels and killed more than 60 suspected smugglers since the spring. Pentagon officials say the operations are meant to "disrupt and dismantle" criminal networks, though they warn cartels are increasingly armed and confrontational.

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels
NewsMax [11/3/2025 10:30 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4109K] reports the Trump administration reportedly has begun training U.S. troops for a potential mission to target drug cartels inside Mexico. Two current and two former U.S. officials told NBC News that the early stage training involves Joint Special Operations Command units and intelligence officers under Title 50 authority, which allows covert operations led by the CIA. The effort could represent a major escalation in President Donald Trump's campaign against cartels, expanding from recent strikes in Venezuela and maritime operations in the Caribbean to potential ground missions in Mexico. Newsmax has reached out to the White House for comment. The CIA declined comment, while the Pentagon referred inquiries to the White House. According to NBC News, U.S. forces would focus primarily on drone strikes against cartel drug labs and leadership targets, with some drones requiring on-the-ground operators for precision and safety. Although no final decision has been made, officials described ongoing debates over the mission's scale and whether it should proceed with or without coordination from the Mexican government. "The Trump administration is committed to utilizing an all-of-government approach to address the threats cartels pose to American citizens," a senior administration official told NBC. The reported planning comes as the administration intensifies efforts to dismantle human smuggling and narcotics networks linked to cartels operating across Mexico, Venezuela, and beyond. NBC News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Courtney Kube, Dan De Luce, and Gordon Lubold, 34509K] reports that the early stages of training for the potential mission, which would include ground operations inside Mexico, has already begun, the two current U.S. officials said. But a deployment to Mexico is not imminent, the two U.S. officials and one of the former U.S. officials said. Discussions about the scope of the mission are ongoing, and a final decision has not been made, the two current U.S. officials said. The U.S. troops, many of whom would be from Joint Special Operations Command, would operate under the authority of the U.S. intelligence community, known as Title 50 status, the two current officials said. They said officers from the Central Intelligence Agency also would participate. A U.S. mission using American forces to hit drug cartel targets inside Mexico would open a new front in President Donald Trump's military campaign against drug cartels in the Western Hemisphere. So far, the administration has focused on Venezuela and conducting strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats.

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'
FOX News [11/3/2025 8:29 AM, Ashley Carnahan, 40621K] Video: HERE reports President Donald Trump said he believes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids "haven't gone far enough" when asked about the federal agency's tactics that have sparked protests and lawsuits. Trump sat down for a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday with CBS News' Norah O'Donnell, who asked the president about videos of an ICE agent shoving a woman to the floor at an immigration courthouse, federal agents deploying tear gas in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood and smashing car windows. "Have some of these raids gone too far?" O'Donnell asked. "No. I think they haven't gone far enough

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because we've been held back by the – by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump replied. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
USA Today [11/3/2025 11:40 AM, Kathryn Palmer, 67103K]

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'
FOX News [11/3/2025 11:25 AM, Staff, 40621K] reports DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin joins 'America's Newsroom' after the president's interview, revealing that ICE will be 'surging resources' in the coming days for immigration raids. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Tricia McLaughlin, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for public affairs, sharply criticized Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker during a Monday morning appearance on Newsmax, accusing the Democrat governor of "dehumanizing and vilifying" Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and other federal law enforcement officers. McLaughlin said Pritzker's rhetoric misrepresents the actions of federal officers and distorts the reality of violent confrontations that law enforcement faces. "The way he's been framing this is completely to whitewash and manipulate the American people," she said on "Wake Up America." "He's acting as if there's tear gassing of the public going on. That's absolutely not true," McLauglin added. McLauglin also described increasingly hostile encounters between federal officers and organized agitators. "What the facts on the ground are, we are routinely seeing highly organized agitators and rioters not only stalk our law enforcement but then surround them, begin throwing rocks at them, and otherwise assaulting them," McLaughlin said. "They will deploy tear gas to control that crowd as a method to make sure that the public is safe." McLaughlin charged that Pritzker's characterization of law enforcement actions emboldens criminal elements and undermines public safety in cities like Chicago.

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows
CBS News [11/3/2025 7:50 PM, Nicole Sganga, Laura Geller, 39474K] reports Matt McCaffery was a relatively unknown GOP chair in suburban Pennsylvania when police showed up at his door last year after an anonymous tip accused the Marine veteran of holding his family hostage — a swatting incident meant to terrorize him and his family just hours after he endorsed Kamala Harris for president. "If it could happen to me, small-town Matt McCaffery, it can happen to you," said the former chairman of the Upper Merion Republican Committee. The hoax call was just one of nearly 2,000 records of threats to local officials identified over the past decade in new data from the Impact Project and the Public Service Alliance. CBS News received exclusive access to the dataset, dubbed the "Security Map," ahead of its public release. It compiles more than a decade of cases from court filings, news reports and academic databases. The findings show that violent threats targeting public officials have surged across all levels of government and political parties. At the same time, the threat landscape has "fundamentally changed," according to researchers. "We're seeing not only an increase in volume, but also an expansion in who's being targeted," Abby André, executive director and cofounder of the Impact Project, said in a statement. "A decade ago, threats were concentrated at the federal level. Today, school board members, county clerks, and even mail carriers face similar dangers." While federal officials remain the most frequent targets, threats against local officials are growing and now make up roughly one-third of all documented threats, researchers found. "That's what we see in the map. The threats facing public servants — they span the entire country," said Isa Ulloa, founder of the Public Service Alliance. Threats were recorded in every state, with roughly a quarter of incidents concentrated in the seven battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan. And for every physical threat, researchers found nine verbal or online threats — fueling what they call a dangerous chilling effect. Both Democrats and Republicans were targeted at almost equal rates, with 58% of reviewed threats affecting Democrats. Ulloa isn't just measuring the problem — her organization also offers security and privacy tools for the nation's roughly 40 million current and former public officials, including McCaffery, who is considering another run for

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office. "Who wants to run for public office if your family's being put in threat, even at the local level where most of the decisions in your life are being made? If they're too scared to do it, we're not gonna have anybody run," McCaffery said.

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller

New York Times [11/3/2025 6:44 PM, Devlin Barrett, 135475K] reports federal and state criminal investigations into a Virginia woman who distributed leaflets disclosing the home address of a White House official, Stephen Miller, have prompted a secret court fight over the balance between personal safety and free speech at a time of rising political violence, recently unsealed court documents show. The records, which were reviewed by The New York Times, reveal that a local court approved the search of a cellphone belonging to the woman as part of an investigation that included multiple local law enforcement agencies as well as the F.B.I. and Secret Service. The activist, Barbara Wien, has not been charged with any crime, though the Virginia State Police still have her phone. The investigation remains active, leaving it unclear whether law enforcement has since gathered additional evidence. The dispute captures the fierce tensions over political activism that have become a defining feature of the second Trump presidency, pitting the Miller family's concerns for their security against the First Amendment claims of a critic of the administration. In an atmosphere in which political violence against Republicans and Democrats has become more common, administration officials have increasingly voiced worries about their security, citing in particular the assassination of the right-wing activist Charlie Kirk and two attempts in 2024 to kill Donald J. Trump. But liberal groups and activists say the White House is seeking to demonize its political opponents and use the levers of government to stamp out opposing views in the name of public safety. At the heart of the clash is whether the involvement of federal authorities in investigating a local act of protest, and the tactics used by state and federal investigators, amount to overkill, or whether Ms. Wien posed a true threat to Mr. Miller and his family. A lawyer for Ms. Wien and a county prosecutor have raised concerns over the conduct of the investigation, including the involvement of multiple federal and state agencies. They have also raised questions about the issuance of the search warrant for Ms. Wien's phone by state authorities based on evidence that she might have committed a misdemeanor. Ms. Wien's lawyer, Bradley R. Haywood, said law enforcement agencies were misusing their authority to pursue a political critic. The county prosecutor, a Democrat, has accused the state attorney general's office, led by a Republican, of overstepping its authority in trying to intervene in the case. A White House spokeswoman, Abigail Jackson, said that the law enforcement response was warranted, noting that Mr. Trump and others in his administration had been targets of members of the public. "Doxxing and any other actions that directly threaten the safety of officials and their families should be resoundingly denounced and thoroughly investigated to ensure attacks against members of the administration are not realized," she said.

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller

Breitbart [11/3/2025 5:58 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports pro-migrant lawyers proved to be far more interested in uncovering intel on Donald Trump adviser Stephen Miller than they were in Chicago ICE actions during a legal deposition by Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino. Bovino was dragged into court by activists who claim that his immigration agents are indiscriminately using violence against anti-Trump and pro-illegal migrant protesters in Chicago. Obama-appointed District Judge Sara Ellis ordered Bovino to give a deposition last week, but it seemed to quickly grind to a halt, as the Chicago Tribune reported. The activist lawyers and Judge Ellis seemed far more interested in uncovering communications between ICE and Border Patrol and Stephen Miller than they were in local Chicago ICE actions. Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh protested all the questions about Miller and said she was "sandbagged" after concentrating her preparation on what was going on in Chicago. Khojasteh said she worked to prep Bovino on the local issues, only to have plaintiffs' attorneys throw a "grab bag of anything" at him that had nothing to do with what was going on in Chicago.

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'

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Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:39 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D), a fierce defender of sanctuary policies, is getting called out as an illegal alien is accused of killing a local elected Republican official and his wife last week. As Breitbart News reported, 34-year-old illegal alien Edwin Pacheco-Meza of Honduras was driving a van on Oct. 24 when he crossed the center lane and struck 71-year-old Michael Clayton and his wife, 66-year-old Gail Clayton — killing them instantly. Pacheco-Meza, who crossed the southern border as an unknown got-away, was in his vehicle with 18-year-old illegal alien Juan Morales-Martinez of Guatemala, who crossed the border in December 2023 and was released into the United States interior by the Biden administration.

Chicago Tribune: Deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino nearly ground to halt last week, records show

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 1:03 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports the deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Greg Bovino nearly ground to a halt last week as government lawyers repeatedly objected to questions by plaintiffs' attorneys, including some about communications between Bovino and White House advisor Stephen Miller, court records obtained by the Tribune show. The impasse prompted attorneys for both sides to go before U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis in the middle of Bovino's sworn testimony on Thursday, where lawyers for the Justice Department complained that Bovino was being asked questions that were overbroad, poorly constructed and were not directly tied to the claims in the underlying lawsuit about the use of force by immigration agents during "Operation Midway Blitz." During the hearing, Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh piqued the frustration of the judge by repeatedly interrupting her and fumbling over the facts of the case. Kosjasteh, who filed his first appearance in the case the day before Bovino's deposition, repeatedly referred to the Chicago immigration push as "Operation Midway Drift" and had to apologize for being new to the table. "This is the problem when people come in, right, and we've got a revolving door of attorneys and they haven't been here for the entire thing," Ellis told Khojasteh, according to a transcript of the proceedings. "…They haven't sat through people's testimony, they haven't sat through these hearings, and so now I'm having to explain myself multiple times. And I find it at this point extremely frustrating and a waste of time."

Chicago Tribune: Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:30 AM, Sam Charles, Laura Rodríguez Presa, and Rebecca Johnson 4829K] reports the rate of 911 calls made in Chicago has dropped precipitously in the two months since the start of Operation Midway Blitz, a Tribune review of city data found. And nowhere is the decrease more pronounced than in Little Village, home to Chicago's largest Mexican American population, where calls to 911 have fallen by more than 21% since the surge of federal immigration officers began, city data show. Neighborhood leaders acknowledge a sharp year-over-year decline in crime, but note that the wave of immigration enforcement has left many residents in fear of calling 911 for help during that stretch. The decline reflects more than just safer streets in Little Village, said Matt DeMateo, executive director of New Life Centers, a nonprofit serving youths and families in Little Village. It's residents' fear, fueled by federal immigration enforcement, that may be driving the decline. "It's less about trust in police, it's more about fear," DeMateo said. "ICE is creating chaos, and people are making decisions for their own safety."

Chicago Tribune: Location of man hospitalized after federal immigration arrest in Melrose Park unknown, family says

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:33 PM, Adriana Pérez and Laura Turbay, 4829K] reports family members of a man hospitalized after being arrested by federal immigration agents in Melrose Park on Sunday morning said they were not allowed to see Ricardo Aguayo Rodriguez during his stay in the hospital and no longer know where he is. According to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security: "He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Stephanie Suane, 33, Aguayo Rodriguez's niece, said her uncle was released Monday afternoon from Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, but the doctor did not tell them where he was sent. The family believes he may have been moved to the Broadview detention facility. Dora Suane, Aguayo Rodriguez's older sister, said earlier Monday that she was denied a visit by the Melrose Park hospital for a second day in a row. Videos shared on social media show Aguayo Rodriguez struggling on the ground, lying next to a white

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truck, while a federal agent kept him in a headlock. "Por favor, amigo," he can be heard pleading as he groans and yells in pain. "Please, friend." According to the DHS statement, Aguayo Rodriguez fled from U.S. Border Patrol agents and resisted arrest. "He actively resisted and assaulted law enforcement," the statement said. "The agent deployed pepper spray to deescalate the situation and stop the assaults. After Rodriguez continued to violently resist and put law enforcement in danger, the agent delivered strikes as a last resort. As a precaution, Border Patrol took the suspect to a hospital for medical treatment. He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Aguayo Rodriguez has a criminal record that includes convictions for assault and battery as well as possession of a controlled substance, according to the statement. A hospital spokesperson said in an emailed statement: "Loyola Medicine treats federal agencies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the same way we treat all law enforcement personnel. If they need to enter our facilities, they coordinate with our Security team. This morning, ICE personnel came to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital to accompany a patient in their custody who required medical care. Visitation is restricted for any patient in custody and is at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. Hospital staff have been in contact with the family to update them on the patient's condition."

Wall Street Journal: How Elite Agents Use High-Risk Military Tactics on Civilians in Chicago
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:10 PM, Staff, 646K] reports federal officers from various agencies have been reassigned to assist with immigration enforcement operations. WSJ analyzes the use of force, high-risk maneuvers and military-style tactics agents from elite units have deployed in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

USA Today: 'Terrified': Video of masked agents hauling woman from car renews outrage in Chicago
USA Today [11/4/2025 12:07 AM, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports a woman on her way to work got into a traffic accident that turned into an ordeal where masked federal agents holding weapons dragged her out of her car and detained her without telling her why, the woman's family says. The video of masked men detaining Dayanne Figueroa, a U.S. citizen and paralegal, after a traffic accident in Chicago is the latest to make the rounds in the city where federal agents have faced scrutiny over aggressive tactics. Figueroa's account of the incident comes as the Supreme Court weighs whether to allow President Donald Trump to deploy the National Guard to the city. The White House says a rebellion is potentially underway in the Prairie State and troops are needed to help carry out Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown known as Operation Midway Blitz. Local Democratic leaders view the Republican president's efforts to deploy the military as a power grab. Many Chicagoans and residents of the surrounding areas view federal agents already deployed to the city as an occupying force. Reached on the phone by USA TODAY, the Figueroa family declined to immediately speak, citing potential upcoming litigation. Dayanne Figueroa released a statement online. "I was in shock and terrified," she said of the moment when she was dragged from her car and pinned to the asphalt. "Agents crashed into me. I was not involved in any protest or related activity and I intend to seek justice for how I was treated." Figueroa's encounter with agents came on Oct. 10 and was covered by the Chicago Tribune on Nov. 3. The woman's account of her detainment comes just days after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters at a news conference in Gary, Indiana, that no U.S. citizens had been detained in connection with the blitz crackdown. Homeland Security officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the incident or on Noem's comment. The Figueroa family is raising funds for legal and medical fees associated with the incident. The woman says the encounter came after a recent kidney surgery and that afterwards she went to the hospital "because of the excessive force used during her detention." Video published on YouTube by the Figueroa family shows immigration agents detaining a man on a city street while a handful of passersby protest the arrest.

Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement
Axios [11/3/2025 12:54 PM, Carrie Shepherd, 12972K] reports that the Chicago Sun-Times has told the Department of Homeland Security to stop using the newspaper's photos and videos in the federal agency's videos of immigration enforcement. Why it matters: In a letter to the department, the Sun-Times

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accuses DHS of using three of the paper's photos in its social media posts, which the paper's attorney says is intellectual property rights infringement, but also implies that the paper "endorses" DHS' enforcement tactics. What they're saying: "It is imperative that, as a news organization, CSTM [Chicago Sun-Times Media] maintains its independence in order to fairly report on government agencies," attorney Steven Mandell wrote in the letter. DHS' "false implication that CSTM gave permission for its intellectual property to be used in connection with the Department's publicity campaign damages CSTM's credibility and interferes with its ability to report on these issues." Zoom in: One of the examples Mandell cites is a photo of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents walking in front of Trump Tower, taken by Sun-Times photo editor Ashlee Rezin in September. Two other examples cited include photos in a montage posted last week by DHS of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino in a video superimposed with the text: "We Will Not be Stopped." Zoom out: This is not the first time DHS has been called out by artists and photographers for using their work in the department's media, including a Thomas Kincaide painting that the late artist's foundation asked DHS to remove, according to ABC News. When asked if DHS has responded to the letter, Mandell told Axios: "Crickets."

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

AP [11/3/2025 11:35 PM, Claire Rush and Gene Johnson, 31753K] reports a federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall. The city and state sued in September to block the deployment. It is the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other U.S. cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests. The ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law. In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a final order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits. The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway. Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:58 AM, Zach Schonfeld, 12595K]
USA Today [11/3/2025 8:53 AM, Bart Jansen, 67103K] r
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 11:29 AM, Hailey Gomez, 835K]

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

NPR [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Kat Lonsdorf, 28013K] reports President Trump's deployments of National Guard troops to U.S. cities have outraged his political rivals, tested legal precedents and led to nationwide protests. The courts are weighing in on their legality. But — if successful — they could also fulfill a long-running administration goal of employing America's military to aid in the mass deportation of immigrants without legal status, according to an NPR review of past comments from Trump and his allies. It's a move that would stray significantly from past federal use of the Guard, challenging laws that dictate how the U.S. military can be used domestically. And with the 2026 midterms looming, some experts worry Guard troops could even be used as a tool of systemic voter suppression and intimidation. Trump has sent troops into four Democratic-led cities and threatened to send them to several more, claiming they are needed to crack down on crime and protect federal immigration facilities and officers. Those deployments, and the White House's rhetoric around them, have regularly conflated violent crime and illegal immigration into a single crisis, blurring the lines around the role of the Guard and federal agents. Taken one at a time, the deployments can seem random or fickle — Trump will often muse about sending troops into a city, only to back track his comments and focus on a different city days later. But the president and several

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others in his inner circle — most notably Stephen Miller, a senior aide to Trump in his first term, and now Trump's right hand man on immigration — have long talked about using the National Guard to help with mass deportations and immigration raids, despite U.S. laws broadly preventing the military from being used for domestic policing. To get around those laws, both Trump and Miller have talked about invoking the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military within the U.S. in certain situations. Legal experts, activists and watchdog groups worry the Trump administration could fundamentally change the way the military is used on U.S. soil, specifically raising concerns about the upcoming 2026 midterm elections and what armed troops on the streets could mean as voters cast ballots.

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

New York Times [11/4/2025 2:47 AM, Bora Erden, 330K] reports that, with the Border Patrol marching through Chicago and the National Guard patrolling Memphis, the variety of federal forces deployed to support President Trump's mass deportation campaign and anticrime efforts continues to expand. Often, it can be difficult for the public to tell them apart, or to understand what powers each agency has. Here is a guide to how these forces are operating, including alongside local law enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the primary immigration law enforcement agency in the country, and its officers wear a variety of uniforms and identifiers. ICE is made up of two main branches. The officers of Enforcement and Removal Operations typically handle arrests and deportations. In the past, Homeland Security Investigations focused on transnational crimes, but Mr. Trump has called on its officers to make other arrests in the field. Confusion over immigration officers' relationship to other law enforcement is not new. In 2020, community organizations in California sued ICE, claiming officers misrepresented themselves as the police during immigration operations. The lawsuit was settled in August and mandated that officers clearly identify themselves as ICE on their clothing. Elsewhere, ICE officers may operate in plain clothes with no or minimal identification but are supposed to identify themselves during arrests. One case involving a Turkish doctoral student sparked outrage when footage surfaced of plainclothes agents confronting her on the street outside Boston in March. Still other ICE officers may appear in full military-style fatigues, like the agency's Special Response Teams, who are trained for high-risk operations. Since the anti-ICE summer protests in Los Angeles, they have also been guarding ICE facilities and making some street arrests. Customs and Border Protection is charged with law enforcement at the border, but Mr. Trump has deployed its agents nationwide to arrest immigrants. Within 100 miles of the border, they have greater authority than local law enforcement to conduct certain searches. Like ICE officers, their uniforms vary. After protests mounted over his immigration crackdown, Mr. Trump sent National Guard troops to Chicago, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., citing a need to protect immigration agents and federal property. He also has called upon the National Guard to work alongside the local police in Memphis and Washington, D.C. Local officials in most of these cities, which are led by Democrats, have strongly objected to the deployments, saying Mr. Trump is misusing the Guard, a part-time military force that most often is called upon during natural disasters, wars or civil unrest. Where the president's deportation and crime-prevention campaigns intersect, the lines have blurred, and all types of law enforcement share overlapping roles. While immigration enforcement is the purview of ICE and Border Patrol, other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security and in the Justice Department have increasingly taken on this work. ICE often conducts raids on residences, and the agency has revived workplace raids, a practice largely suspended under the previous administration. Officers more often now stop people on the street, sometimes detaining U.S. citizens. ICE and Border Patrol agents also make arrests at courthouse immigration hearings, a practice legal groups say violates due process protections. In many places, the local police work directly with Homeland Security to arrest immigrants, or to detain them until immigration officers arrive. In Washington, at least eight federal agencies were part of Mr. Trump's efforts to take control of law enforcement. The local police helped immigration officers identify targets during stops for minor infractions, and immigration officers helped with arrests for nonimmigration crimes.

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

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Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 3:09 PM, Angus Loten, 646K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is directing border-patrol agents to screen all foreign travelers with facial recognition tools as they enter and leave the U.S., seeking to identify immigrants who entered the country illegally or overstayed visas, the agency said. Expanding the use of facial recognition at border checkpoints will “make the process for verifying the identity of aliens more efficient, accurate and secure,” DHS said. The move, set to take effect in late December, would also create a massive biometric database—what DHS is calling a “gallery”—on countless non-U. S. citizens that risks becoming a rich source for deepfakes and other cybercrimes, security experts said. Biometric data can include fingerprints or voice patterns to identify individuals. Initially, the new directive will apply only to photos and at commercial airports. The agency plans to eventually extend the screening to all air, sea and land ports of entry. “Anytime you collect and build a large, centralized database of biometrics, especially one which can span decades and include data from millions of individuals, it creates the opportunity for long-term risk,” said Patrick Joyce, global resident chief information security officer at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. “As we’ve seen in other attacks, such systems are incredibly valuable targets,” Joyce said. Beyond secure storage, passing biometric data along to other government agencies or third-party contractors can create additional vulnerabilities, said Mark McCreary, co-chair of the privacy and data security practice at law firm Fox Rothschild. McCreary said there is an “ongoing concern about the potential for data breaches, mission creep and the lack of transparency around how data is shared across agencies and with commercial partners.” Extending biometric data-gathering to include foreign travelers leaving the U.S. also comes with added risks, McCreary said. Because exit-screening is relatively new and untested, the initial program will likely rely on a mix of government and airline-provided cameras, along with mobile devices used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, he said: “This hybrid approach increases the number of entities handling sensitive biometric data, amplifying the risk of unauthorized access or misuse.”

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.’s ‘sandwich guy’

NBC News [11/3/2025 12:38 PM, Megan Lebowitz and Ryan J. Reilly, 34509K] reports jury selection started Monday in the trial of former Justice Department employee Sean Dunn, also known as the "sandwich guy," months after he went viral for throwing a salami sub at a Customs and Border Protection agent in Washington, D.C., at close range. In return, prosecutors hit Dunn with a misdemeanor assault charge in August. That came a day after U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro’s office failed to persuade a grand jury to indict Dunn on felony charges — a sub-optimal result for prosecutors. Dunn pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge in September. The case is proceeding after a judge rejected the government’s motion to delay the trial because of a disagreement over jury instructions. Jury selection is being done in open court, but U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols is using technology, including a white noise machine, to block members of the public and the media from hearing what the potential jurors are being asked and what they’re answering. In the past, such broad restrictions on jury selection have been found to be unconstitutional. Dunn’s lawyers have claimed the case is "selective and vindictive prosecution," arguing he was singled out for prosecution "not because of the nature of his alleged conduct — throwing a soft object that caused no injury — but because his outspoken, viral critique of the current administration’s policing and immigration policies made him a political target.” Federal prosecutors opposed Dunn’s lawyers’ motion to dismiss the charge, writing that Dunn was "recorded throwing a sandwich at a federal officer at point-blank range."

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:57 AM, Solange Reyner, 4109K]

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case

CNN [11/3/2025 5:47 PM, Holmes Lybrand] reports potential jurors who were not selected to serve in the trial of a DC man accused of throwing a sub sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection officer expressed deep skepticism of the federal case. A group of eight dismissed jurors spoke to CNN Monday, questioning whether any jury in DC would convict the accused sandwich-thrower, Sean Dunn. Dunn has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. A jury was selected in the trial Monday afternoon. A

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grand jury declined to hand up a more severe assault charge against Dunn over the summer, which carried a maximum sentence of nearly a decade in prison. Prosecutors then filed a complaint against Dunn that carries a far lower maximum sentence of 1 year. Dunn, who worked at the Justice Department at the time of the alleged sandwich throwing, was quickly fired after the incident, which Attorney General Pam Bondi publicly announced. Prosecutors say Dunn, in early August, yelled offensive things at a group of officers before throwing the sandwich and running away.

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

(B) CBS Mornings [11/3/2025 10:56 AM, Staff] reports that a semi-truck driver who allegedly hit and killed three people in a crash in southern California will no longer be charged with a felony DUI. Prosecutors now say he was not under the influence during the wreck. The San Bernadino County district attorney said toxicology reports confirm Jashanpreet Singh was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any tested substances. He remains in jail and still facing vehicular manslaughter charges. The Department of Homeland Security said Singh is in the country illegally.

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

The Hill [11/3/2025 9:12 PM, Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports the White House argued lethal military strikes against alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific do not rise to the level of "hostilities" that would warrant authorization from Congress under the War Powers Resolution (WPR). The administration said the WPR, which Congress passed in 1973, would only apply when putting the U.S. in harm's way and that the strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, which so far have killed at least 64 people, are not endangering military personnel since they are "largely" conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles that take off from Navy vessels. "Here, the operation comprises precise strikes conducted largely by unmanned aerial vehicles launched from naval vessels in international waters at distances too far away for the crews of the targeted vessels to endanger American personnel," a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Hill on Monday. Monday marked the 60-day deadline since the White House first notified Congress of its initial strike against an alleged drug-trafficking vessel. The WPR says the president needs to discontinue military operations after 60 days if an authorization from Congress is not obtained or the commander-in-chief can request a 30-day extension. The administration official said the escalating strikes do not meet the threshold of "hostilities" and that the Trump administration's Office of Legal Counsel's (OLC) position on the matter is "consistent with its traditional approach," pointing to legal opinions authored by assistant attorneys general during the Clinton and Reagan presidencies. In a 1996 opinion, Walter Dellinger, the assistant attorney general in the OLC, did not discuss the 60-day limit when addressing former President Clinton's deployment of peacekeeping forces to Haiti, but added the decision would "not involve the risk of major or prolonged hostilities or serious casualties to either the United States or Haiti." "The Executive Branch has taken the position from the very beginning" that the WPR "does not constitute a legally binding definition of Presidential authority to deploy our armed forces," former Assistant Attorney General Theodore Olson wrote in the 1984 legal opinion, referenced by the White House. Other administrations have made similar arguments. In 2011, the Obama administration said the WPR was not applicable since there were no U.S. troops on the ground and continued fighting with opposing forces during the air campaign against Libya. The strikes targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats have continued, with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announcing late Saturday that the U.S. military took out a "narco-trafficking" vessel operated by a designated terrorist organization in the Caribbean, killing three. "On the campaign trail, President Trump promised to take on the cartels — and he has taken unprecedented action to stop the scourge of narcoterrorism that has resulted in the needless deaths of innocent Americans," the administration official said Monday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have asked the administration for more information about the legal rationale the White House is relying on for the strikes. Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee were not satisfied with last week's briefing on the boat strikes, expressing frustration with the answers they have gotten on the legality of the operations and the White House's "end game." The administration official pushed back, saying by "regularly notifying and briefing the House and the Senate on this important matter, the Administration continues to demonstrate great transparency in its communications" with Congress.

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Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered
Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 7:11 AM, Jamie McIntyre, 1394K] reports if President Donald Trump's strategy is to keep everybody guessing whether he is considering airstrikes on Venezuela, he doesn't seem to be fooling anyone, but he's doing his best not to say what is looking more and more likely — that military action is coming. Asked on Friday by a reporter on Air Force One, whether reports were true that he was "considering strikes within Venezuela," Trump said flatly, "No, it's not true." The same day, he sat for a lengthy interview with 60 Minutes, which aired last night, and gave contradictory answers to CBS correspondent Norah O'Donnell. "Are we going to war against Venezuela?" O'Donnell asked. "I doubt it. I don't think so." Trump said, only to indicate just a few minutes later that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro may soon be deposed. "Are Maduro's days as president numbered?" asked O'Donnell. "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," Trump replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" she pressed. "I don't tell you that. I mean, I'm not saying it's true or untrue, but you know, I wouldn't be inclined to say that I would do that." Later on Air Force One, Trump berated a reporter for even asking the question. "How can I answer a question like that? Are there plans for a strike on Venezuela? Who would say that? Supposing there were, would I say that to you? Listen, we have very secret plans."

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.
Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 2983K] reports she is poised and impossibly polite. Through a blur of calls with a case worker, a social worker, another case worker, the 42-year-old mother doesn't snap. Even as she's told her video calls with her son will be limited to weekly 15-minute phone calls. Even as her questions are met with scripted non-answers. Still, every indignant word the mother speaks is carefully calibrated. But the moment Maria García hears her son's voice over the phone, her own voice breaks. When he asks how she's doing, she doesn't tell him about the sleepless nights, about the tears, about the hours clutching her rosary – praying for an end to this nightmare. She steadies her voice and asks what any mom would: "Are they taking good care of you?" she says into a speaker phone, as a member of the editorial board listens nearby. The 15-year-old gives one-word answers. Trapped inside a federal children's detention center in Houston, Emmanuel Gonzalez García says he's bored. He's desperate. On Oct. 4, Emmanuel wandered from his mother's side on the corner of Clay and Hempstead Road, disappearing on a Metro bus in the time it took her to finish preparing a spicy-sweet mango snack for a customer from her makeshift roadside stall. For nearly a week, Maria had no idea where her son was. She had no way to know whether her baby was dead or alive – even as the Houston Police Department, the very people she turned to for help, knew exactly where he was. Even as they knew they'd handed her child over to immigration authorities and put him at risk of deportation. The disappearance of Emmanuel is a story that has ricocheted in our city and beyond in recent weeks – breathlessly covered by TV news outlets, dissected on Facebook and debated at City Hall.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship
NewsMax [11/3/2025 12:06 PM, Michael Dorstewitz, 4109K] reports one of the first things President Trump did at the start of his second term was to sign an executive order ending birthright citizenship — the notion that a woman could cross the border into the United States and deliver a child for one purpose: To grant the child U.S. citizenship. Birthright citizenship is based on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." On the surface that would appear to end all debate. Birthright citizenship is the law of the land and therefor so called "anchor babies" are legitimate American citizens — until you consider the purpose of the amendment. It was among the three post-Civil War amendments known as the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th granted citizenship and guaranteed equal

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protection under the law, and the 15th prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on race. Getting to specifics, the Citizenship Clause was included to reverse a portion of the Dred Scott decision. It held that African Americans were not and could not become United States citizens or enjoy any of the privileges and immunities of citizenship. So the Citizenship Clause was included in the Reconstruction Amendments to clearly make former slaves, and children of those former slavers, American citizens. It was meant to correct a past wrong, and never intended to create "anchor babies."

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Nate Morris, 40621K] reports President Joe Biden's decision to allow the free flow of illegal immigration into our country has resulted in 20 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. We knew nothing about these people. We didn't know where they came from or why they were here. Now Americans are forced to compete even more with illegal immigrants for jobs and housing, to have their children share our classrooms, to wait longer at the hospital, and to even have their lawfully earned, government-funded benefits depleted because of them. Why? All because career politicians either turned a blind eye to it, or, as I suspect, more insidiously cheered it on. But illegal immigration is frankly a symptom of the broader disease that, if we choose to ignore, will cost us our country. This very minute, New York City is on the precipice of electing a Ugandan immigrant who is hell-bent on the destruction of a once great city. There's a member of Congress from Mogadishu whose entire existence is predicated on turning America into Somalia. These are not isolated incidents, either — they're a sign of things to come. This is what happens when career politicians have contempt for a secure border.

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:59 PM, Walter Russell Mead, 646K] reports "On Venezuela in particular," CBS News's Norah O'Donnell asked President Trump on "60 Minutes" Sunday, "are Maduro's days as president numbered?" "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," he replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" "I don't tell you that. . . . You know, you're a wonderful reporter, you're very talented, but I'm not gonna tell you what I'm gonna do with Venezuela, if I was gonna do it or if I wasn't going to do it." And that's where matters stand. With a carrier strike group joining eight warships already in the region, a squadron of F-35s in Puerto Rico, and assorted elite military units in the area, the Trump administration has ramped up its standoff with Venezuela. Regime change is clearly the goal; the timetable and means are unspecified. In normal times, a crisis of this magnitude would dominate world news, but in our era it struggles to stay on the front page. The Venezuela crisis escalated to the brink of war the same week Mr. Trump's lightning Asia tour concluded with a summit with Xi Jinping. While senators such as Kentucky's Rand Paul denounced what they called illegal American strikes against alleged drug-running boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, lawyers on both sides were prepping oral arguments for the historic Supreme Court showdown over the legality of Mr. Trump's tariffs, which have upended world trade. Russian troops ground out more gains in Ukraine even as the air war between Kyiv and its nuclear-armed neighbor raged. Scenes of horror unfolded in Darfur as Sudan descended deeper into civil war. The fragile cease-fire in Gaza hung by a thread. Meanwhile, on Truth Social, Mr. Trump threatened to attack Nigeria if that country doesn't do a better job of protecting Christians. Not since Franklin D. Roosevelt has an American president been this powerful or this busy.

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela
The Hill [11/3/2025 1:00 PM, Harlan Ullman, 12595K] reports that the U.S. Navy nuclear carrier USS Gerald Ford and its battle group, which includes some 80 strike and other aircraft and Tomahawk equipped surface combatants, is about to join a dozen other warships including a force of about 2,000 Marines, in the Caribbean. Part of this force includes the U.S. Military Sealift Command's Ocean Trader, a 22,000-ton mystery ship over two football fields in length with a crew of about 40 and up to 200 special forces and their equipment embarked. All are off the Venezuelan coast as B-52's and B-2's pass overhead like wolves circling prey. A word of advice: Do not invade Venezuela. This is not Operation Just Cause of December 1989, in which George H.W. Bush ordered 27,000 U.S. troops to capture Panamanian President Manuel Noriega. The U.S. had a base in Panama facilitating that operation. No such base exists in or near Venezuela. And Venezuela is 12 times larger than Panama with about six

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times the population. As far as regime change, the White House needs to be reminded of a bit of history. We tried that in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as a number of attempts in Central America. Further, Venezuela is viewed as the center of gravity for these operations. But U.S. intelligence and law enforcement reports show that Colombia and especially Mexico are the villains in the drug and fentanyl trade. Venezuela is a sideshow. The White House has already disclosed that CIA units have been authorized to operate in Venezuela in what are now non-covert ways.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'

FOX News [11/3/2025 5:25 PM, Maria Lencki, 40621K] reports acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons is pledging to keep President Donald Trump's promise to have one of the largest deportation efforts the country has seen. The president was pressed on his immigration policy on Sunday's "60 Minutes" interview on CBS, where he was asked if some of the raids have gone "too far." "No, I think they haven't gone far enough, because we've been held back by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump said. "You have to get the people out, you know? You have, look at the people. Many of them are murderers. Many of them are people that were thrown out of their countries because they were, you know, criminals." Lyons told "America Reports" ICE will work with state and local partners as they identify as many illegal immigrants as they can and "take action on them." "No one's off the table," he warned. "We're going to use all the tools in the toolbox. We have great federal partners. Department of Justice has been outstanding with us, and we are going to team up with everyone that wants to work with us, and we're to go out there and keep the president's promise to sure that we have one of the largest deportation efforts ever." The acting ICE director, who says many agents have been targeted due to the rhetoric against them, explained that officials are being swarmed by protesters before even making arrests.

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

FOX News [11/3/2025 8:02 PM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continued its crackdown on the "worst of the worst" dangerous illegal immigrants over Halloween weekend, arresting criminals convicted of intercourse with minor, sexual abuse, kidnapping, homicide and other serious crimes. The Department of Homeland Security highlighted that 70 percent of ICE arrests are of criminal illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S., according to a statement to Fox News Digital. One criminal illegal, Sisawang Khambounheuang, from Laos, was arrested by ICE after being convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in San Diego. Just to the north, another criminal illegal alien, Milton Rene Mendez-Arevalo, from Guatemala, was arrested after a conviction for kidnapping in Los Angeles. In Houston, where ICE arrested over 120 illegal immigrants over the weekend, the agency nabbed Honduran criminal illegal Hector Eugenio Ramirez-Martinez, who was convicted for indecency with child sexual contact in Harris County. Another, Francisco Nava-Garcia, from Mexico, was arrested in Houston after being convicted of assault on a family/household member. Elsewhere in Texas, ICE arrested Kunal Chhetri, an illegal alien from India, who was convicted for alien smuggling in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas. ICE also continued its crackdown in Florida, arresting Lazaro Mateo Ruiz, from Cuba, who was convicted for homicide, weapon offense and robbery in Miami-Dade County. Over in Florida's gulf coast, ICE arrested Juan Gomez-Gutierrez, from Colombia, who was convicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine while aboard a vessel in Tampa. Another drug distributor, Juan Brito-Rios, from Mexico, was arrested by ICE following his conviction for possession with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin, five kilograms or more of cocaine and money laundering in the U.S. Middle District Court of Tennessee. In Illinois, a sanctuary state that has been resisting the Trump administration's crackdown, ICE arrested Brigidio Ovido Gomez Garcia, from Guatemala, who was convicted of aggravated domestic battery/strangle, domestic battery, and driving under the influence in Wheaton, a Chicago suburb. Commenting on the arrests, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin pointed out that amidst pushback

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from pro-sanctuary politicians, 70 percent of all ICE arrests are of illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S. "President Trump and Secretary Noem unleashed ICE to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American communities," McLaughlin told Fox News Digital. "Despite the Democrats' government shutdown, ICE is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the country," she continued. "While Americans enjoyed their weekends, ICE was hard at work getting the worst of the worst off our streets—including pedophiles, murderers, and kidnappers."

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns

NPR [11/3/2025 4:59 AM, Mose Buchele, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports in some parts of the U.S., ICE agents are seizing people directly from county jails to take into immigration custody. The tactic has raised concerns over due process. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned

AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale, 19051K] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, a legal permanent resident known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction. "Having a single conviction vacated will not stop ICE's enforcement of the federal immigration law," Tricia McLaughlin," Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, said in an email.

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/3/2025 6:11 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 12:55 PM, Laura Rodríguez Presa and Jonathan Bullington, 4829K] reports Dayanne Figueroa was on her way to get coffee before heading to work when she encountered a chaotic scene in West Town: heavily armed, masked federal agents making arrests on a residential street. People yelled as vehicles honked their horn - a sign now used to alert neighbors that immigration federal agents are in the area - and witnesses said federal agents had arrested several landscaper workers presumed to be in the country without authorization. As Figuero tried to drive through the 1600 block of West Hubbard Street on Friday, Oct. 10, an unmarked vehicle driven by federal agents collided with Figueroa's as it tried to speed away from a hostile crowd, multiple videos reviewed by the Tribune show. Seconds after the crash, agents abruptly stopped their vehicle and exited with weapons in hand pointing at Figueroa, a U.S citizen. Agents then forcibly opened her door and pulled her out of the vehicle by her legs without identifying themselves, presenting a warrant or informing her that she was under arrest. As bystanders yelled, "You hit her! We have it on video!" agents ignored the crowd and forced Figueroa into a red minivan and drove away. The Department of Homeland Security later released a statement claiming that Figueroa was at fault, saying "she crashed into an unmarked government vehicle and violently resisted arrest, injuring two officers." Figueroa was released the same day a few

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hours later without charges. Figueroa's arrest highlights growing concerns about the use of force against U.S. citizens and due process. Federal enforcement actions in Chicago have increasingly drawn scrutiny amid reports of aggressive tactics and blurred lines between immigration enforcement and public safety, including incidents involving deploying tear gas in residential areas and arrests of bystanders filming agents or for following the unmarked vehicles. While DHS says its operations are being impeded and that there will be consequences for interfering with federal agents, many individuals who are detained are released without charges. DHS, however, maintains that Figueroa was taken into custody because she "violently resisted" arrest. In a statement to the Tribune, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin alleged that Figueroa "used her vehicle to block in agents, honking her horn," and that she "stuck an unmarked government vehicle" as agents were departing. "In fear of public safety and of law enforcement, officers attempted to remove her from the vehicle. She violently resisted, kicking two agents and causing injuries. This agitator was arrested for assault on a federal agent," McLaughlin said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Zareen Syed, 4829K] reports most days as of late, a heaviness envelops 26th Street in Chicago's Little Village. Some restaurants are closing earlier than usual, street vendors are fewer and farther away, and more and more customers are using food delivery services instead of dining in. On a recent Wednesday, only a handful of people were nervously standing at the bus stop on Hamlin Avenue across from Carnitas Uruapan. Inside the popular Mexican restaurant, tables sat empty during what would typically be a busy weekday lunch hour. Staff were screening customers at the door before letting them in. It had been a chaotic morning marked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on the city's Southwest Side. Federal immigration agents, accompanied by Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino, had swarmed one of Chicago's oldest and largest immigrant communities - known as "Mexico of the Midwest" - and neighboring Cicero, arresting at least seven people, including U.S. citizens, and clashing with residents who filmed them. The security camera at Carnitas Uruapan had caught what appeared to be an ICE agent trying to enter - but the door was locked. "We're being selective about who we let in today, I guarantee most places out here right now have their doors locked," Marcos Carbajal, owner of Carnitas Uruapan, told the Tribune on Oct. 22. "Lately, we have to keep an eye on the door just to make sure we're only letting people in who look like they're a regular diner."

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:12 PM, Daniel I. Dorfman, 4829K] reports amid growing concern about recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Lake Bluff officials are weighing possible steps to formally object to the agency's practices. The Trump administration in September launched "Operation Midway Blitz," an initiative it said was aimed at detaining "criminal illegal aliens." The effort has prompted anxiety in several Chicago-area communities, including Lake Bluff. During his report at the Oct. 27 Village Board meeting, Village President Regis Charlot said the village had received multiple letters and phone calls from residents about the impact of ICE raids in the greater Chicago region. "This is a very sad conversation," Charlot said. Charlot's comments came before reports surfaced of Border Patrol agents appearing in Evanston and other nearby communities, encounters that in some cases led to confrontations with residents. Trustee Shana Fried said she has heard from residents with family members who were detained in the area. "It is an issue that is already affecting our community and is having real practical and financial consequences," Fried said.

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

ABC News [11/3/2025 8:14 PM, Gaby Vinick, 30493K] reports faith leaders denounced Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for rejecting access to give Communion to immigrants being held at an Illinois facility over the weekend. The Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL), a Catholic and Christian-rooted nonprofit, organized a Mass by the immigration processing center on All Saints Day and Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Organizers estimate some 2,000 people attended on Saturday, as many prayed, sang and held signs

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protesting ICE. "Operation Midway Blitz has caused chaos and mayhem in our city," Michael Okińczyc-Cruz, the executive director of CSPL, told ABC News, referring to the immigration crackdown in Chicago. "It's creating such fear and trauma for so many of the families that we work with and that are members of our coalition," he said. Okińczyc-Cruz said that CSPL formally submitted a letter requesting access more than a week in advance and took numerous steps for ministers to give Communion to migrants in the Broadview facility. This is the second time they were denied entry since their first attempt on Oct. 11, he told ABC News. "These days are so symbolically important for us in the Catholic Church to honor the saints who've come before us," Okińczyc-Cruz said. Katrina Thompson, the mayor of Broadview, also submitted a letter on their behalf to DHS and ICE requesting permission on Oct. 22. It went unanswered, according to Okińczyc-Cruz. ABC News reached out but did not immediately hear back from DHS. Sister JoAnn Persch is the president of Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that supports asylum seekers with housing, legal and medical needs. She and Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José María Garcia-Maldonado led the delegation on Saturday. For nearly two decades, Persch and the late Sister Pat Murphy prayed for immigrants outside of the center, she said. A starkly different scene on Saturday emerged: leaders were not permitted to walk all the way down to the building, she told ABC News. "We never saw an ICE officer -- except when they kept riding up and down the street during the Mass," Persch said. Some members interpreted this to be an intimidation tactic, according to Okińczyc-Cruz.

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match
New York Times [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Adam Crafton, 153395K] reports on Thursday evening, at the official welcome reception for New Zealand's rugby union test match against Ireland, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson took to the stage. "Holding this game at Soldier Field is a testament to Chicago's vibrant spirit," Johnson, a Democrat, began. "It is also about our ability to bring people from all around the world together. That is so critical at this time, because as a global city, we have a deep sense of local pride. We understand the combination of the ideal world, where we can bring all people together to understand the importance of not just the game, but also of our collective strength to uphold our humanity." For Chicago, it has been a fraught period in which the city, and the broader state of Illinois, has found itself at odds with President Donald Trump's administration. The federal government says there is a crime crisis in Chicago. In September, the administration launched Operation Midway Blitz, led by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, with the stated objective to target "criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois." Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin accused Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, also a Democrat, of "making Chicago a magnet for criminals" — a claim he denies — and said the operation would target "the worst of the worst."

Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids
Breitbart [11/3/2025 9:15 PM, Jasmyn Jordan, 2416K] reports Minneapolis mayoral candidate Omar Fateh discussed a plan during a podcast interview involving coordination between city leadership and community-based organizations to ensure elected officials and neighborhood groups are informed before potential immigration enforcement activity. Fateh, a Minnesota state senator and self-described democratic socialist now running for mayor of Minneapolis, said during a podcast interview: "We need to strengthen our separation ordinance. We need to have better communication between the mayor and the chief, and also the city council members, so that whenever we know something is coming down the pike, the city council is alerted immediately because they're the connection point to the community, and they can articulate that and disseminate that information to folks. We really have to work really hard to better work with some of those boots-on-the-ground organizations that I just spoke about right now that are already providing the 'Know Your Rights' training, legal counseling, multilingual services. They're the ones that are finding out a lot of times what's happening on the ground. Because the city cannot do it alone, and we need to lock arms not just cross-jurisdictionally but with these organizations as well, because things are scary, and it's going to get scarier as well." According to a mayor's update from Jacob Frey, the separation ordinance is described as: "City employees — including police officers and firefighters — are prohibited from participating in civil immigration enforcement." Fateh is running on a platform that includes limiting police power, increasing non-police emergency response services, opposing cooperation between the Minneapolis Police Department and ICE, expanding funding for immigrant rights initiatives, and

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implementing carbon fees approved by the City Council. He previously supported legislation to provide taxpayer-funded college tuition to households earning under $80,000 per year, regardless of immigration status. He accused Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) of "white supremacy" for opposing taxpayer-funded tuition for illegal aliens, and labeled the U.S. policing system "systemically white supremacist." Breitbart News has also reported that Fateh opened his campaign office as a support hub during the 2020 George Floyd riots, returned thousands in campaign donations tied to the Feeding Our Future fraud scheme after donors were identified in FBI warrants, pushed Amazon on mandatory prayer breaks for Muslim workers, supported banning tear gas and rubber bullets, cast an "uncommitted" vote in Minnesota's 2024 Super Tuesday primary over the Biden administration's Israel policy, and advocated raising the Minneapolis minimum wage to $20 per hour by 2028. Fateh received the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's endorsement for mayor in July 2025, but the endorsement was later revoked by the DFL's Constitution, Bylaws & Rules Committee following verification of voting errors at the convention. Fateh criticized that decision and urged supporters to continue engaging in his campaign. He has drawn support from Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and former Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) in recent months.

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

AP [11/3/2025 2:45 PM, Uriel J. Garcia, Colleen Duguzman, Alex Nguyen, and Carla Astudillo, 31753K] reports that on the evening of July 1, Luis Medrano called Houston police for help after his wife had gotten violent and punched him twice in the face during a schizophrenic episode in which she was hearing tormenting voices, according to a police report. Medrano, 50, a Mexican immigrant who met his wife when they crossed the Rio Grande with a group of about a dozen other migrants more than three decades ago, had tried to take his 47-year-old wife to the hospital, but she refused to go. So he did what he'd done three times before: called the police so they would take her to a hospital. But this time, the officer arrested her on suspicion of assault and booked her into jail. And after a prosecutor dismissed the case, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, picked her up from jail and eventually deported her to Mexico. In Texas, which has the second-largest population of immigrants living illegally in the country — with more than 1.6 million of the estimated 13.7 million nationally — the local criminal justice system has become the main funnel sending immigrants into ICE custody, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of federal government data. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, responded to questions from the Tribune by citing an Oct. 30 social media post by DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin that said "70% of illegal aliens ICE has arrested have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. "And that doesn't even account for those wanted for violent crimes in their country of origin or another country, INTERPOL notices, human rights abusers, gang members, terrorists," the post says. "The list goes on. The media continues to act as a PR firm for criminals."

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Randy Clark, 2416K] reports more than 120 illegal aliens were arrested on Texas roadways in the greater Houston area in a single day. The operation that stretched into the late hours of October 29 cleared the roads of often unlicensed and uninsured illegal aliens, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A social media post on Sunday shows a video of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers carrying out the arrests in a parking lot near a Houston-area business and during several vehicle stops. The video described the activities with a statement saying, "We made over 120 arrests in Houston Oct.29-clearing our roads of dangerous, often uninsured, illegal aliens who should NOT be behind the wheel." As reported by Breitbart Texas, ERO officers and other federal agents in the greater Houston area have ramped up day and nighttime operations in targeted operations that have resulted in multiple arrests of illegal aliens around local businesses and on Houston roadways. During one nighttime sweep just days before the latest operation, Breitbart Texas's Bob Price rode with a team of 40 federal officers and agents as the group arrested approximately 25 illegal aliens, many with criminal records. Moving through Houston's high-crime corridors, Breitbart Texas observed the officers and agents, now armed with a new data-driven targeting system that seemed to send a clear message: ICE is now a 24/7 presence in Texas.

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Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:04 PM, Julián Aguilar, Haajrah Gilani, 2983K] reports an Episcopal priest and immigrant who was legally employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Conroe after being detained last month, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas said. The diocese said it's unclear why the Kenyan man, the Rev. James Eliud Ngahu Mwangi, was detained while returning from his job Oct. 25. Doyle told Religion News Service, who first reported the story, that it's unclear why the priest was taken into custody, adding that the immigrant had a valid work permit.

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back

New York Times [11/3/2025 6:59 PM, Jack Healy, 135475K] reports Brice Current, the police chief in Durango, Colo., knew there was a problem the moment he saw the video of an immigration agent putting a protester into what the chief saw as a chokehold and throwing her down an embankment. Immigration agents had arrested a Colombian man and his two children on their way to school last week, provoking a furious response from this liberal college town of 20,000 in the mountains of southwest Colorado. Dozens of residents — many with their arms linked — descended on the small Immigration and Customs Enforcement building where the family was being held, set up camp outside the razor-wire gates and tried to block authorities from removing the family from Durango. What set the protest apart from similar clashes between residents and immigration agents in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities was Chief Current's determination that the masked federal agent involved in the scuffle had crossed a line and his request for an investigation. He said he even considered filing criminal charges himself against the agent. "It appeared to be an out-of-policy and possibly illegal use of force," he said in an interview at police headquarters. The scene from Durango, captured by fellow protesters and put on social media, was violent and jarring, but no more so than many others across the country. Several protesters, including elected officials and a Democratic congressional candidate, have been arrested or charged with federal crimes at immigration detention centers. American citizens have been whisked into unmarked vehicles and charged with resisting arrest or attacking officers, though the people arrested have maintained they did no such thing. Protesters, journalists and clergy have sued over federal agents' use of tear gas and crowd-control munitions against protesters. A U.S. citizen who was violently thrown to ground in Chicago has vowed to "pursue all legal avenues" against the agents involved. But so far, no local prosecutors are known to have filed criminal charges against immigration agents. That might change. At Chief Current's request, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has opened an investigation into the incident in Durango, putting Democratic-led Colorado on a potential collision course with the Trump administration, which has threatened to prosecute any local officials if they charge federal agents carrying out President Trump's immigration crackdown.

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Mia Cathell, 1394K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes in Oregon, a sanctuary state for unlawful immigration, held various advisory positions on state policymaking committees as a so-called "Latinx" community leader. Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia, a criminally convicted Venezuelan national who had overstayed his visa, according to U.S. immigration authorities, served in several committee roles advising the state of Oregon on policy areas such as behavioral health, "health equity," and healthcare for all, regardless of immigration status. Before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nabbed Garcia, a Portland-area activist and "educator," he was on Oregon's Community Engagement and Communications Committee to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which is tasked with creating a comprehensive plan for financing and administering a single-payer healthcare system that covers all Oregonians, no matter their immigration status. Garcia's committee is responsible for developing community outreach recommendations and informational material, as part of the universal health plan that the board will present to Gov. Tina Kotek (D-OR) and the Oregon legislature. The board looks to committee members for "expertise and lived experience." Committee members are recruited by the governor-appointed board and are supposed to embody

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"equitable representation from every region and population around the state." On the Oregon government website, the board's community engagement committee describes Garcia as the executive director of LatinX Recovery Center, who is "currently in recovery from substance abuse with a criminal justice history." Over video conference, Garcia attended the committee's monthly meetings as recently as Sept. 24 and would offer insight in Spanish. Garcia, whose record reportedly includes sexual abuse and bestiality, was also an active member of the Behavioral Health Crisis System Advisory Committee, which advises the Oregon Health Authority, the state's health department, on overseeing the statewide crisis response system. While on the committee, Garcia served as a certified peer support specialist. Committee members were eligible for a $166 stipend each day of work on the advisory council. As of September 23, Garcia regularly appeared at committee meetings via video call and participated in discussions ranging from funding deliberations to legislative proposals. "It is SICKENING this monster was hiding in Oregon thanks to the state's sanctuary policies," the Department of Homeland Security said in an X post announcing that Garcia was in the United States on an overstayed B2 tourist visa. "Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, if you break the law, you will face the consequences," DHS wrote. "Criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the U.S.

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say
New York Times [11/3/2025 7:46 PM, Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports lawyers for a man shot last week by an immigration agent in Southern California are disputing the account given by federal officials who charged him with assault. The lawyers for Carlos Jimenez, 25, said on Monday that he was a bystander asking federal agents to move away from a bus stop where schoolchildren would soon be gathering. At the time, the immigration officers had stopped a vehicle near the bus stop in Ontario, Calif., about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Lawyers for Mr. Jimenez, a U.S. citizen, said he was later shot in the shoulder as he drove away from federal agents, but said that he did not try to use his vehicle to harm anyone. Federal prosecutors, however, said last week in a criminal complaint that an Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officer shot Mr. Jimenez because he pulled forward, turned his wheels and "rapidly accelerated" toward an officer during the vehicle stop on Thursday. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said on Monday that at about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, Mr. Jimenez drove up to a team of immigration officers overseeing a vehicle stop. He then "engaged in a verbal altercation with the officers," according to the criminal complaint filed against him, and officers ordered him to leave. Mr. Jimenez reversed his car toward them and "an ICE officer, fearing for his life, fired defensive shots at the vehicle," she said. He was charged on Friday with assault of a federal officer following the incident. He was released on bond. The altercation was the latest high-profile incident in which federal agents fired shots at drivers whom they accused of endangering them during immigration enforcement operations. Last month, a Mexican man targeted by immigration authorities was injured by gunfire during an operation in Los Angeles. In September, during a traffic stop in Chicago, an ICE agent shot and killed a man who authorities said had hit an officer with his car. A New York Times examination of video from the scene called into question elements of the official D.H.S. account of the encounter. Ms. McLaughlin called the most recent incident an example of increasing threats that ICE officers face "as they risk their lives to enforce the law and arrest criminals." She said that anyone who gets in the way of federal officers' duties or threatens them will be arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Jimenez's lawyers told a very different story. They described him, in an interview on Monday, as a father of three young children who lives in a mobile home park near where the officers were conducting their stop. He was headed to his job at a food bank, where he prepares and delivers donation boxes, when he noticed the officers blocking traffic, said Cynthia Santiago, one of his lawyers.

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned
AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, known as "Subu," was transferred

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there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Rachel Uranga, 14862K] reports Carmen's abusive husband came home drunk one night last summer. He pounded and kicked the door. He threatened to kill her as her young son watched in horror. She called police, eventually obtaining a restraining order. Months later he returned and beat her again. Police came again and he was eventually deported. Thinking she finally escaped his cruelty, Carmen applied for what is known as a U-Visa. The visa provides crime victims a way to stay in the United States legally, but the Trump administration has routinely ignored pending applications. During a regular immigration check-in in June, Carmen was detained. Two months later, she was put on a plane with her 8-year-old son, who just completed second grade. She was headed to her home country, terrified her husband would find her. Lawyers for Carmen along with several immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes last month sued the Trump administration in the Central District of California for detaining and deporting survivors with pending visa applications, some of whom have been granted status to stay and sometimes work. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, defended the practice of deporting those stuck in limbo, saying every unauthorized immigrant ICE removes "has had due process and has a final order of removal — meaning they have no legal right to be in the country." The lawsuit argues the administration violated procedural rules in referencing the executive order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion" as the main justification for the policy. The invasion, it states, is "fictional" but the rhetoric has allowed Department of Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem and the immigration agencies to wage an "arbitrary, xenophobic and militarized mass deportation campaign that has terrorized immigrant communities and further victimized survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes who Congress sought to protect."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

San Francisco Chronicle [11/3/2025 12:00 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports Bay Area immigration advocates called on San Francisco city leaders Monday to strengthen protections for the city's undocumented community. The move comes just weeks after President Donald Trump vowed to dispatch scores of federal immigration agents to San Francisco, only to about-face the following day after a conversation with Mayor Daniel Lurie. San Francisco Rising Executive Director Celi Tamayo-Lee said the threatened surge was "a drill," that Bay Area leaders should take note of in the face of future raids or immigration enforcement. "The crisis we're in presents an opportunity to work with the community. Last week, we realized we have a city of people dedicated to helping our immigrant neighbors in material ways. … This is a good time for an agenda to pose proactive measures to support our immigrant community." The 10-page letter from SF Rising, an alliance of grassroots organizations, provides guidance on reforms or other actions that Tamayo-Lee and others say are critical to protecting San Francisco's undocumented community. It asks to create a community safety plan that clarifies what residents can expect in case of a National Guard deployment, where to access resources, and how the city would protect people's safety and rights. The measures are meant to help the city's immigrant

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community be more prepared to fight potential deportation raids, strengthen the city's legal defense programs for its immigrants, and provide other resources to support San Francisco's immigrant community. In its letter, SF Rising called on city leaders to improve communication with organizations that provide immigration services and rapid response networks that track sightings of ICE raids or agents.

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:34 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete and Kate Perez, 4829K] reports when federal immigration agents raided Martha Porcallo Martinez's East Chicago, Indiana home on June 12, they also arrested her 26-year-old daughter who has schizophrenia. They were separated even before she got to Porter County Jail. For a week or two, she had no idea where her daughter was taken. When her lawyer intervened to ask, they found out she was at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Kentucky. For Porcallo Martinez's family, the one anonymous phone call to a U.S. Homeland Security tip line in November that led to the arrest has had far-reaching consequences. Now, her daughter went missing a week ago in Mexico, her lawyer Adam Tavitas said in court Monday.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting
Breitbart [11/3/2025 6:35 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports President Donald Trump's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is streamlining the government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program in the hopes of eliminating non-citizen voting from elections. On Monday, USCIS Director Joseph Edlow announced upgrades to the SAVE program, which allows states to verify that only American citizens are voting in federal elections. Previously, when verifying voter eligibility, states would have to input all nine digits of a voter registrant's Social Security Number. Now, thanks to the agency's reforms, states will only be required to use the last four digits of a registrant's Social Security Number. "USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," agency spokesman Matthew Tragesser said in a statement: By allowing states to efficiently verify voter eligibility, we are reinforcing the principle that America's elections are reserved exclusively for American citizens. We encourage all federal, state, and local agencies to use the SAVE program. [Emphasis added].

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act
Federalist [11/3/2025 12:58 PM, Brianna Lyman, 785K] reports that a federal judge on Friday ruled President Donald Trump's executive order requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote is unconstitutional, making it even more necessary that Republicans in Congress take advantage of Trump's momentum and pass the SAVE Act. Trump signed the executive order in March, directing that within 30 days, "the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to require, in its national mail voter registration form issued under 52 U.S.C. 20508 … documentary proof of United States citizenship." The order also required state and local officials to record the type of documentation used and the date such documentation was issued. Some examples of documentary proof of citizenship include a United States passport, a REAL ID that indicates citizenship, a military identification card, and a valid federal or state government-issued identification. But District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled the order is unconstitutional, arguing Trump "lacks the authority to direct such changes." "Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the states and to Congress, this Court holds that the President lacks the authority to direct such changes."

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends
Telemundo51 [11/3/2025 4:47 PM, Alejandro Isturiz, 182K] reports Temporary Protected Status (TPS) expires at midnight on November 7 for thousands of Venezuelans in the United States. For many, returning to their country is not an option, and they say the most painful part is the possibility of losing

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what they have built over the years on American soil. It is estimated that some 250,000 Venezuelans will face deportation or will have to leave the country on their own. To prevent the cancellation of TPS, various Venezuelan organizations in the United States had filed injunctions and legal appeals seeking judicial approval. William Díaz, director of Casa Venezuela, says that "a DED, a deferred deportation, means that no one can be expelled or deported." Thus began a long journey through different courts until, on October 3, the Supreme Court confirmed a May decision, and Venezuelans with TPS will be left without work permits and will technically become undocumented. With its decision, the Supreme Court left 600,000 Venezuelans residing in the country without legal protection under that immigration benefit. The Trump administration has appealed the ruling, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now rule on the case.

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents
The Hill [11/3/2025 3:06 PM, Ali Bradley, 12595K] reports criminal cartels are offering payments of $10,000 to shooters who fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents on the southern border, federal authorities said in an internal communication. It says the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector had received information about "a coordinated attack" in which cartels may be offering the $10,000 payments "to individuals who engage in shooting at" agents. The threat is believed to have originated from northern Sonora, Mexico, according to the communication. Sources said Border Patrol stations in Brownsville and Kingsville were the initial targets. NewsMax [11/3/2025 4:31 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4109K] reports that the alert, which was obtained by NewsNation correspondent Ali Bradley, said that "additional reporting suggests that assailants may wear Mexican military uniforms to avoid raising suspicion while carrying long arms or machine guns." The threat is reportedly thought to have originated in northern Sonora, Mexico. Sources told The Hill that the Brownsville and Kingsville Border Patrol stations were the initial targets.

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities
Telemundo [11/3/2025 11:57 PM, Shelby Bremer, 57K] reports that, according to multiple sources, the Trump administration is planning a major restructuring of immigration enforcement, with the goal of putting Border Patrol leaders in charge of ICE operations in cities across the United States. This move comes after senior officials expressed frustration with the pace of deportations, as nationwide arrests average around 1,100 per day, well below the target of 3,000. "The mindset is that CBP does what it's told, and the administration believes ICE is not doing its job well," a Department of Homeland Security official told NBC News. "So CBP will take charge." Both the Border Patrol and ICE in San Diego said they could not comment because the matter is being handled by DHS in Washington, D.C. Previously limited to operations at or near the border, the Border Patrol has seen its powers expanded since Trump took office. It was the Border Patrol that was deployed to step up enforcement in Los Angeles and then in Chicago, where El Centro Sector Chief Greg Bovino was caught on video firing tear gas into a crowd. "This administration has reinstated mobile patrols like we've never seen before," said San Diego activist Benjamin Prado, who leads community patrols in response to police operations with his organization Unión del Barrio. "Everything indicates that this will be a much more aggressive and hostile entity than we have seen so far." DHS Deputy Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the agency does not plan to announce any personnel changes at this time, but stated in a release: "This is one team, one fight. President Trump has a brilliant and tenacious team, led by Secretary Noem, to fulfill the American people's mandate to remove illegal immigrants with criminal records from the country." On the program 60 Minutes, President Donald Trump himself said he believed law enforcement had not gone far enough. "I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the judges, the liberal judges that Biden and Obama appointed," Trump said. When asked if he agreed with those tactics, Trump replied, "Yes, because you have to get people out." "It's very concerning," Prado said. "All of this indicates that we will see many more citizens and migrant workers being assaulted and attacked." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

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Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 8:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K] reports the Border Patrol is in a rare position to get its back-of-house in tip-top shape while illegal immigration at the southern border is at a historic low. Current and former senior Border Patrol agents, as well as a U.S. congressman who represents the largest district on the U.S.-Mexico border, shared their top recommendations for how the federal law enforcement organization should be preparing during this lull for when President Donald Trump leaves office in 2029. Arrests of illegal border crossers have come crashing down from as much as 250,000 per month during former President Joe Biden's tenure to less than 10,000 per month under President Donald Trump. The drop in illegal border crossers means agents are not busy inside processing facilities, interviewing migrants, transporting them, and the gamut of tasks associated with temporary detention. It has freed up Border Patrol to be able to assist ICE by deploying its own agents across the country to assist their partners at the Department of Homeland Security, tracking down illegal immigrants who have criminal histories or who a judge has ordered be deported. Last week, ICE and Border Patrol officials disclosed to the Washington Examiner that tensions are running high between agencies as border agents have moved in to help ICE, and senior border officials are being installed at ICE's top ranks. Both feel the other is to blame for the millions of illegal immigrants who were released into the United States during the Biden administration and have struggled recently to work together and emerge as one united front. Despite its work with ICE, Border Patrol still has plenty of time to focus on drug smuggling and other threats, as well as take a step back and consider what needs to be addressed internally to be more effective in the future.

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

Reuters [11/3/2025 7:19 PM, Anshuman Tripathy, 36480K] reports a travel association has urged the U.S. Congress in a letter on Monday to reopen the federal government ahead of the Thanksgiving travel rush, as the shutdown stretches into its 34th day. The prolonged shutdown has led to a spike in airline delays, affecting airports and 3.2 million passengers due to a high number of absences in air traffic controllers, with many of them taking up second jobs to cope. The shutdown is estimated to cost the U.S. economy between $7 billion and $14 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "Air travel's number one priority is safety and while safety will be maintained, travelers will pay a heavy and completely unnecessary price in terms of delays, cancellations and lost confidence in the air travel experience," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman. In a letter that was signed by 500 organizations, including Hilton (HLT.N) and MGM Resorts (MGM.N), Freeman urged the Congress that the fastest way to restore confidence and restart travel was to reopen the government by passing a clean continuing resolution. "The damage from this shutdown is growing by the hour with 60% of Americans reconsidering their travel plans". The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay and snarled tens of thousands of flights.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

San Diego Union Tribune [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Alex Riggins, 1538K] reports operations were back to normal Monday at San Diego International Airport, a day after tower staffing issues linked to the federal government shutdown caused widespread delays, airport officials said. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground delay Sunday afternoon, and an FAA website indicated the delays were caused by staffing issues in the control tower. By Sunday night, the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that all inbound and departing flights out of the downtown San Diego airport were delayed by about an hour. An airport spokesperson said there was no lingering impact Monday from the delays. In a statement nearly identical to one issued Sunday, the spokesperson advised passengers traveling out of San Diego International to check their flight status before leaving for the airport, and to arrive two hours early for flights. Los Angeles International Airport and other large airports around the country also

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experienced delays due to staffing shortages Sunday. While most appeared to be back to normal operations Monday, the FAA reported that three airports in Texas — Dallas Love Field, Dallas/Fort Worth International and Austin-Bergstrom International — were all experiencing widespread delays Monday due to staffing issues.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Miami Herald [11/3/2025 5:39 PM, David Goodhue] reports the $100 bills look real at first glance, but they are marked as fake and say they are only meant for use in making motion pictures, according to sheriff's office spokesman Adam Lindhard. Most of the counterfeit cash is turning up in the Lower Keys and Key West, Linhardt said. The Key West Police Department recently issued a similar warning about fake $20 bills finding their way to the Southernmost City. Linhardt said the bogus bills are likely left over from a previous film production in the Keys. Authorities are warning people and businesses to double-check all cash they receive. The Sheriff's Office has received reports of fake/counterfeit money that's used in films/movies circulating in Monroe County, notably the Lower Keys and Key West.

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:17 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports federal agents say an Illinois man allegedly called for President Donald Trump's execution in a string of profanity-laced Instagram videos, prompting a Secret Service investigation that led to a federal charge of making interstate threats to kill public officials. In a criminal complaint filed Oct. 31 in the Northern District of Illinois and unsealed Monday morning, Trent Schneider, 57, of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, was charged with allegedly making a true threat to injure another person in interstate commerce. According to the allegations, Schneider posted violent videos and memes on social media calling for Trump's execution as his home neared foreclosure. In one video posted Oct. 16, he allegedly looked directly into the camera and railed against judges, doctors, lawyers and police, saying, "People like me have suffered real f---ing crimes from f---ing judges, doctors, lawyers, police. They all should be killed. All of them should be executed for what they've done." "They need to be killed. They need to be executed, ok? They are frauds, ok? I think it's time. I've waited long enough," he allegedly continued. "I'm going to get some guns. I know where I can get a lot of f---ing guns and I am going to take care of business myself. I'm tired of all you f---ing frauds. People need to f---ing die and people are going to die. F--- all of you, especially you, Trump. You should be executed." Prosecutors allege Schneider reposted the same video nearly 20 times over several days, often tagging Trump Tower Chicago. Each post carried the same caption: "THIS IS NOT A THREAT!!! … AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING and My House Auction date is 11.04.2025 @realDonaldTrump SHOULD BE EXECUTED!!!". A viewer in Florida allegedly saw one of the videos and reported it to authorities, according to court documents. That tip led the U.S. Secret Service to begin investigating Schneider and identify his Instagram account, which agents say he used to post threats viewable nationwide. Agents went to Schneider's home in Winthrop Harbor on Oct. 22 to question him, according to the affidavit. When they arrived, they allegedly saw cameras set up on tripods in the driveway. Schneider came outside, yelled at the officers to get off his property and later posted a video of them walking away – with the same caption calling for Trump's execution. Law enforcement had previously encountered Schneider, according to the complaint. In 2022, agents interviewed him over violent social media posts targeting public officials, and later that year he was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a T-Mobile store. A court found him unfit to stand trial in 2023, according to the complaint.

Reported similarly:

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Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:43 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K]
Telemundo52 [11/3/2025 5:57 PM, James Neveau, 76K]

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor
CBS Chicago [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports a Winthrop Harbor man under investigation by the U.S. Secret Service was arrested Monday morning at his home in Lake County, Illinois.

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home
(B) GMA3 [11/3/2025 1:26 PM, Staff] reports Secret Service is investigating a home in Winthrop Harbor in Lake County, Illinois. Sources say a man is under investigation for allegedly making threats against President Trump and other online. The Secret Service will only say that they are working with local law enforcement on a protective intelligence investigation.

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire
(B) NBC News Daily [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Staff] reports that according to Broward Sheriff's officials, a fire erupted on a 35-foot vessel in the waters near Dania Beach and Hollywood. Two people were onboard when the fire started. The boat appears to be completely destroyed. The two passengers were taken aboard at US Coast Guard vessel. There were no injuries to report.

CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach
CBS Miami [11/3/2025 6:12 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Chopper 4 captured the moment crews put out the blaze as the boat sank. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 6:21 PM, Patrick Howell O'Neill, 1538K] reports that, as voters across the U.S. from New York City to New Jersey and Virginia to California prepare to cast ballots Tuesday, election officials are operating with sharply reduced support from a federal government agency that had previously helped states and localities counter bomb threats and cyberattacks. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has abandoned an Election Day situation room it had operated for years to share vital intelligence on physical and cyber threats with state and local authorities, said Paul Lux, chair of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a national coalition of election officials. CISA's decision to end the information-sharing arrangement follows the dismantling of the agency's election security team earlier this year. Remaining election personnel with CISA, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, have since been prohibited from working with or contacting state election officials, according to a person familiar with the matter. The cuts have sent state and local officials responsible for running elections searching for ways to shore up potential gaps in cybersecurity, threat monitoring and physical protection of polling places. Changes at Homeland Security are sinking in as the nation confronts a bitterly divided political climate marked by violent outbursts including the assassination of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. Americans will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide the winners of gubernatorial, mayoral and legislative races, as well as judicial seats and ballot initiatives. Election Day marks the first real test of the political landscape since Donald Trump's return to the White House, offering an early glimpse of how his administration will oversee elections whose integrity he and his allies have repeatedly challenged. The New York City mayoral race, in particular, has drawn national attention as a proxy battle over urban governance, progressive politics and the future of the Democratic party.

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Homeland Security officials continue to communicate and provide guidance to state and local personnel on other matters, according to an agency spokesperson. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA has refocused on its core mission and leads the nation's effort to secure critical infrastructure, and that includes election infrastructure from cyber and physical threats," said DHS spokesperson Scott McConnell. "Every day, DHS and CISA are providing our partners the most capable and timely threat intelligence, expertise and resources they need to defend against risks." DHS officials forcibly reassigned or put on leave members of CISA's election security and resilience team in the months after Trump returned to power in January, according to people familiar with the matter. The CISA team was charged with coordinating election security efforts among the more than 10,000 election jurisdictions throughout the U.S. The federal government has historically taken a lead in uniting, informing, and enabling state and local election officials to secure elections. In February, CISA froze all election security activities and the department initiated a review of CISA's role in helping state and local officials, Politico reported. Nine months later, the result has not been made public.

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 4:16 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 18207K] reports three employees at cybersecurity companies spent years moonlighting as criminal hackers, launching their own ransomware attacks in a plot to extort millions of dollars from victims around the country, US prosecutors alleged in court filings. Ryan Clifford Goldberg, the former director of incident response at Sygnia Consulting Ltd., and Kevin Tyler Martin, who was a ransomware negotiator for DigitalMint, were charged with working together to hack five businesses starting in May 2023. In one instance, they, along with a third person, received a ransom payment of nearly $1.3 million worth of cryptocurrency from a medical device company based in Tampa, Florida, according to prosecutors. The trio worked in a part of the cybersecurity industry that has sprung up to help companies negotiate with hackers to unfreeze their computer networks — sometimes by paying ransom. They are also accused of sharing their illicit profits with the developers of the type of ransomware they allegedly used on their victims. DigitalMint informed some customers about the charges last week, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News. The other person who was allegedly involved in the scheme was also a ransomware negotiator at the same firm as Martin but wasn't charged, according to court records. The person wasn't identified in court records, nor are the companies that the defendants' former employers. Sygnia confirmed Goldberg had worked there. Martin last year gave a talk at a law school, which listed him as an employee of DigitalMint. Goldberg is being held in a federal jail in Florida and his lawyer, federal public defender MaeAnn Renee Dunker, declined to comment. Court records don't indicate whether Goldberg has entered a plea. Martin, who was released on bond, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Tor Ekeland, declined to comment.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [11/3/2025 7:45 PM, Raphael Satter, 36480K]

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications
NPR [11/4/2025 4:41 AM, Jenna McLaughlin, 34837K] reports a team of academics studying satellites accidentally intercepted phone calls, texts and other sensitive communications. They were able to intercept the data with just a satellite dish on the roof. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says
Reuters [11/3/2025 12:32 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 36480K] reports federal prosecutors have charged two men tied to what they allege was an ISIS-inspired plot based out of Michigan to carry out an attack in the U.S., according to a court document made public on Monday. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud each purchased firearms, including AR-15-style rifles, in recent months and participated in online conversations indicating they had knowledge of an attack plot, according to an FBI affidavit. Ali and Mahmoud were each

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charged under a federal law that bars attempting or conspiring to transfer firearms and ammunition that the person believes would be used in a crime of terrorism, in this case providing material support to ISIS. The pair have not yet entered pleas. A lawyer for Ali did not immediately respond to a request for comment and attorney information for Mahmoud was not immediately available. Prosecutors allege that five people, including at least one juvenile, were involved in the plot though only two are so far facing federal charges. The group used encrypted messaging platforms and social media to share ISIS-related messages encouraging attacks, according to court documents. U.S. authorities allege both men practiced shooting firearms at gun ranges in recent weeks and appeared to set October 31, Halloween, as the date for the attack, according to the FBI affidavit. The document does not identify any specific targets for the alleged plot. The New York Times [11/3/2025 4:54 PM, Karoun Demirjian, 135475K] reports that the affidavit does not specify whether the accused individuals and their accused co-conspirators ever settled on a target for their attack, even as they chose to time it around Halloween — using the word “pumpkin” to refer to the date. But it surmises that Person 1, Mr. Ali and Mr. Mahmoud were “scouting possible L.G.B.T.Q.+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale,” a suburb of Detroit. CNN [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Alaa Elassar, 18595K] reports that an FBI raid on Halloween morning stunned neighbors in Dearborn, the second-safest city in Michigan and home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the US. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud face charges of "Receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the firearms and ammunition would be used to commit a Federal crime of terrorism," according to a criminal complaint. "Our newly unsealed complaint reveals a major ISIS-linked terror plot," US Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on X. "According to the complaint, subjects had multiple AR-15 rifles, tactical gear, and a detailed plan to carry out an attack on American soil," she said, thanking officials for averting an attack "before innocent lives were lost.” If convicted, Ali and Mahmoud could face up to 15 years in federal prison and a $250,000 fine, a spokesperson for the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan said. Ali and an unidentified juvenile were "planning to conduct a terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the designated foreign terrorist organization ISIS," an FBI agent wrote in the criminal complaint, citing communications on an encrypted app. Further investigation revealed Mahmoud and others were co-conspirators in the plot, the agent said. Ali purchased a shotgun, an AR-15-style rifle and multiple accessories, including "a forced reset trigger that allows a shooter to increase the rate of fire in a semiautomatic weapon," the complaint says. Mahmoud also bought an AR-15-style rifle and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used in AR-15 style rifles he and Ali had purchased, the agent said. A suspect mentions doing the ‘same thing as France’ on Halloween. In addition to meeting in person, Ali, Mahmoud, the juvenile and co-conspirators chatted online, sharing "extremist and ISIS-related materials that encourage attacks similar to what they planned," the FBI agent wrote. Ali and the juvenile "discussed when to conduct their attack, which they appeared to set for Halloween," the complaint says. The Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 12:05 PM, David Zimmermann, 1394K] reports that on Friday, FBI Director Kash Patel announced multiple suspects who allegedly planned a "potential terrorist attack" were arrested. "The FBI stopped a potential terrorist attack in Michigan before it could unfold," Patel said in a subsequent post later that day. "Thanks to swift action and coordination with our partners, a violent plot tied to international terrorism was disrupted. This is what defending the homeland looks like — vigilance saves lives." Law enforcement initially detained at least five suspects, two of whom were released after being questioned. The other three remain in custody. The suspects were apprehended in Dearborn, a city with the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, and nearby Inkster. The FBI has revealed few details of the foiled terror attack since Friday, but according to federal authorities, it was expected to take place over the holiday weekend.

Reported similarly:
AP [11/3/2025 5:45 PM, Ed White, 31753K]
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:25 PM, Chloe Atkins and Doha Madani, 34509K]
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:43 AM, Jim Mishler, 4109K]
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 3:38 PM, Tresa Baldas and Darcie Moran, 4030K]

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

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FOX News [11/3/2025 2:37 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Michigan men have been charged in a foiled ISIS-inspired terror attack that allegedly would have involved a massacre in a Detroit suburb on Halloween, according to an FBI affidavit. Mohmed Ali, of Dearborn, Michigan, and Majed Mahmoud are accused of plotting to launch a terror-inspired mass shooting codenamed "pumpkin," according to court documents. They've been charged with receiving, transferring and attempting to receive and transfer firearms knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that they would be used to commit terrorism. Ali practiced shooting at a local gun range multiple times, including with Mahmoud, a juvenile suspect referred to as "Person 1" and under the alias "Athari" — and once with an unnamed "Co-conspirator 4," according to the complaint. The charges come after Amir Makled, a lawyer for Ali, who was arrested Friday, claimed to The Associated Press that there was no plot and that he did not expect charges to be filed. Makled did not respond to a request for comment from Fox News Digital Monday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:34 AM, Sarah Fortinsky, 12595K] reports a defense attorney in Michigan is pushing back on the FBI's allegations that his client and a group of young men arrested on Friday were planning to carry out a violent attack over the Halloween weekend. FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrests of multiple individuals on Friday that he said were plotting a "potential terrorist attack." He said more details would be forthcoming. Amir Makled, the lawyer for a Dearborn, Mich., man who was still detained on Saturday, said he hasn't gotten many details about the case, but told The Associated Press that, after reviewing the matter, he doesn't expect any charges to be filed. He said he concluded no terror attack was being planned. "I don't know where this hysteria and this fearmongering came from," Makled said. "If these young men were on forums that they should not have been on or things of that nature, then we'll have to wait and see," Makled added. "But I don't believe that there's anything illegal about any of the activity they were doing."

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 5:03 PM, Andrea May Sahouri, 4030K] reports ever since FBI Director Kash Patel posted on Oct. 31 about the alleged thwarted Halloween terrorism plot, it's been a "here-we-go-again" moment for many in Dearborn who say they've grown too accustomed to racism and Islamophobia against their largely Arab and Muslim community. The FBI says that two men from Michigan − Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud − were part of a larger group that shared ISIS-related extremist materials online and in encrypted chats. According to federal investigators: The group talked about and encouraged terrorist attacks and members bought AR-15 rifles along with large amounts of ammunition. They held multiple gun training sessions over a period of about three months. And they also scouted locations in LGBTQI+-friendly Ferndale as possible targets for an attack on Halloween. The FBI's investigation began about a year ago and involved an undercover informant who recorded the group's conversations. Authorities say the men had planned and trained for months to carry out a possible attack in Michigan over Halloween weekend.

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 4:11 PM, Dave Boucher, 4030K] reports Ferndale's top law enforcement officer said the city may have bourne the brunt of brutal violence but for the swift actions of federal agents to thwart what prosecutors call a terrorism plot. The comments come hours after federal prosecutors revealed charges against two people accused of plotting a terrorism attack Halloween weekend in Ferndale. As of Monday, Nov. 3, prosecutors charged Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud, both 20, with receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition with the intent to commit terrorism. The two men are accused of scouting "possible LGBTQ+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale," according to the 73-page criminal complaint. Prosecutors say a group of men conspired to commit an atrocity in the name of the terrorist group ISIS, collecting AR-15-style firearms and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition while scouting possible locations for an attack. Both men charged in this case are scheduled to appear in federal court again next week.

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FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel
FOX News [11/3/2025 9:46 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports the mystery surrounding the motive for the Tesla Cybertruck attack outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day only deepened after the final investigative report from local police provided few new details. The 78-page "after-action" report released Monday by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), confirmed that Matthew Livelsberger, who died by suicide before the explosion, left a manifesto on his phone, which investigators recovered during forensic analysis. The Department of War declared the manifesto classified, and the investigation was turned over to the federal government, the report said. The report, seen by Fox News Digital, confirms that the Green Beret was on leave from his Special Forces unit and had rented a Tesla Cybertruck through the car-sharing platform Turo. He filled it with fireworks, gas cans and camping fuel, and drove it to the Trump International Hotel just after 8:40 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2025. There, the vehicle detonated, causing damage and injuring six people. LVMPD and federal investigators described the incident as a premeditated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack "with the potential to cause mass casualties and extensive structural damage" but did not call it terrorism. Investigators also reconstructed Livelsberger's final days using phone data, bank records and surveillance footage. Surveillance video showed Livelsberger pouring accelerant into the truck bed moments before detonation, an act LVMPD said reflected planning rather than impulse. Counterterrorism investigators concluded he sought to make "a very big, very public statement," suggesting the Las Vegas location was chosen for visibility and impact. He also left behind a note claiming the attack was not terror-related, but a way for the soldier to "cleanse" his mind but criticized the "feckless leadership" of a U.S. that is "near collapse," officials said. "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake-up call," Livelsberger wrote in the notes app on his phone. "Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives," Livelsberger wrote. One of his messages was said to have gone to Shawn Ryan, an ex-Navy SEAL and CIA contractor. Fox News Digital has reached out to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for comment.

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 9:37 AM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports a conservative watchdog group is urging the Trump administration to take a closer look at its contracts with Microsoft as the Biden-era "Arctic Frost" probe continues to unravel. The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is demanding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review its contracts with Microsoft after the tech giant hired former Biden Justice Department official Lisa Monaco, according to a letter obtained by the Daily Caller News Foundation. The letter warns that Monaco's senior position poses a national security risk, as she is privy to sensitive information between Microsoft and the federal government. "The risk that Monaco could again use access to information contained in Department contracts to turn against her political opponents, or even those Microsoft users within the government with whom she disagrees, is great given her past outrageous behavior," CASA Director James Fitzpatrick stated to DHS. "Considering the various national security implications of Microsoft's government contracts being overseen by Monaco, we ask you to immediately initiate a review of Microsoft's contracts with the Department for potential termination." Appointed earlier this year as Microsoft's president of global affairs, Monaco previously served as deputy attorney general under President Joe Biden. As a top prosecutor within the Biden administration, Monaco played an integral role in "Arctic Frost," a wide-ranging investigation that Republicans contend used an election interference case as a pretense to essentially target the entire Republican Party.

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court
The Hill [11/3/2025 6:48 PM, Sylvan Lane, 12595K] reports the main question looming over the case is whether Trump can use emergency powers to justify his worldwide levies as he seeks to transform global trade — an untested expansion of executive authority. Trump has justified the bulk of his sweeping tariff agenda by pointing to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which gives the president power to "regulate" imports in response to certain emergencies. Small businesses and

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Democratic-led states will make the case Wednesday that Congress never envisioned "regulate" to include tariffs when it passed IEEPA in 1977. No president before Trump invoked the law to impose tariffs, so the Supreme Court has never decided that question. The justices' answer may depend on how they view a 50-year-old appellate decision dating back to former President Nixon. An appeals court's 50-year-old decision could come into play regarding Trump's own statements about his banner policy.

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

ABC News [11/3/2025 6:06 PM, Mariam Khan, 30493K] reports the State Department on Monday officially updated its designation for Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its alleged severe violations of religious freedom and persecution of Christians. The CPC label is given by the U.S. government to nations "engaged in severe violations of religious freedom" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The designation is largely symbolic, but U.S. law states that governments must "take targeted responses to violations of religious freedom." The move comes after President Donald Trump accused the Nigerian government of not doing enough to protect Christians from violence. He also instructed the Pentagon on Saturday to prepare for possible action in Nigeria and threatened to cut U.S. aid. The secretary of state is responsible for deeming a country a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC). Other countries designated as CPCs include Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Trump previously designated Nigeria as a CPC in December 2020 during his first term in office, but that designation was reversed the following year under the Biden administration. Biden Secretary of State Antony Blinken removed Nigeria from the CPC designation list in November 2021 after assessing it did not meet the criteria a formal designation of concern regarding "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" violations of religious freedom. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom blasted the move at the time and said the decision to remove Nigeria from the special designation was "unexplainable" and appalling. According to the State Department, the International Religious Freedom Act requires an annual review of the status of religious freedom worldwide and the designation of countries that have "engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" during the reporting period. The IRFA defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including violations such as torture, degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons," according to the State Department.

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Axios [11/3/2025 8:56 AM, Avery Lotz, 12972K] reports President Trump instructed the Pentagon over the weekend to prepare for possible military action in Nigeria, threatening to enter the West African nation "guns-a-blazing" over accusations of violence against Christians. Violence and instability in Nigeria has affected Muslims and Christians alike for more than a decade. It's highly unlikely that the U.S. would be able to solve the problem with a swift strike, as Trump suggested. Trump did not rule out U.S. boots on the ground in Nigeria while traveling aboard Air Force One Sunday. Asked if he could envisage boots on the ground or air strikes, he replied, "Could be." Trump wrote that if the Nigerian government "continues to allow the killing of Christians," the U.S. will cease all aid to the country. He added that the U.S. "may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities." If there is a U.S. attack, he said, it "will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!" Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth responded to the president's post: "Yes sir," and added that his department was "preparing for action."

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

Breitbart [11/3/2025 8:46 AM, Frances Martel, 2416K] reports Nigerian President Bola Tinubu condemned President Donald Trump's statements acknowledging the ongoing genocide of Christians in his country in

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remarks on Saturday, claiming they did not reflect "reality," while a top adviser told local media Tinubu planned to meet Trump "in the coming days." "The characterisation of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality," Tinubu said in a statement on Saturday, "nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians." The president claimed his administration "maintained an open and active engagement with Christian and Muslim leaders alike." His statement did not address the top jihadist threats in his country – ethnic Fulani jihadist militias and the terrorist organization Boko Haram – by name. On Sunday, Tinubu special adviser Daniel Bwala announced on social media that the Nigerian president expected to hold meetings with Trump in person in the near future. "Both President Bola Tinubu and President Donald Trump have shared interest in the fight against insurgency and all forms of terrorism against humanity," Bwala wrote, in a much more conciliatory message towards Trump than Tinubu's initial remarks. "President Trump has assisted Nigeria a lot by authorizing the sale of arms to Nigeria, and President Tinubu has adequately utilized the opportunity in the fight against terrorism, for which we have massive results to show for it," Bwala highlighted, adding that the disagreement over the existence of the ongoing Christian genocide "would be discussed and resolved" in the near future.

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

CNN [11/3/2025 11:45 AM, Nimi Princewill, 606K] reports US President Donald Trump caused alarm across Nigeria over the weekend when he said he was contemplating military action in Africa's most populous nation in response to what he claimed was a "mass slaughter" of Christians by Islamist insurgents. The reality on the ground, experts and analysts say, is a more complex and nuanced one. Both Christians and Muslims — the two main religious groups in the country of more than 230 million people — have been victims of attacks by radical Islamists, they say. The West African nation has grappled for years with deep-rooted security problems that are driven by various factors, including religiously motivated attacks. Observers say other violent conflicts arise from communal and ethnic tensions, as well as disputes between farmers and herders over limited access to land and water resources. The Nigerian government rejects claims that it is not doing enough to protect Christians from violence, saying it was bewildered by Trump's suggestion of a potential military intervention. "We are shocked that President Trump is mulling an invasion of our country," Nigerian presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga told CNN after the US president instructed the Pentagon to prepare for possible military action. Additionally, Trump threatened to stop all US aid to Nigeria if its government fails to take steps to stop the killings of Christians. He warned that the proposed intervention would be "fast and vicious," aimed at eliminating the "Islamic Terrorists" he said were responsible for these atrocities.

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

FOX News [11/3/2025 12:33 PM, Ashley J., 40621K] reports the U.S. State Department has issued an increased travel advisory pertaining to Tanzania, adding an "unrest" risk indicator. The Level 2 advisory was increased to Level 3 on Oct. 31, following the presidential, Parliament and council elections there. "Reconsider travel to Tanzania due to unrest, crime, terrorism and targeting of gay and lesbian individuals," the advisory says. "Some areas [carry] increased risk." The State Department has warned that demonstrations can be unpredictable, and the Tanzanian government has increased security presence around protests. "Members of the gay and lesbian community have been arrested, targeted and harassed. People who identify as gay or lesbian may experience a higher likelihood of being targeted by police," the advisory says. The advisory adds, "People detained under suspicion of same-sex sexual conduct may face invasive physical exams." Violent crime is also listed as common; the advisory mentioned the risk of robberies, assault and sexual assault. The State Department also says there's a risk of "terrorist violence," stating that it is most common in the Mtwara Region.

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

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Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 12:01 PM, Wafaa Shurafa and Julia Frankel, 14862K] reports Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza. The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire intended to end the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. Since the truce took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza. For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire.

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

New York Post [11/3/2025 6:49 PM, Maria Lencki, 42219K] reports for decades, security concerns shaped relations between Iraq and the United States almost exclusively. Long wars, the fight against terrorism and heavy sacrifices on both sides left deep marks. Yet Iraq today is no longer the country it was 20 years ago. Our armed forces are stronger, our institutions more mature, and — thanks to cooperation with the United States and the international coalition — we are increasingly capable of defending our sovereignty. The gradual reduction of coalition troops is not a retreat but a reflection of Iraq's growing confidence and its willingness to shoulder responsibility. This transition marks the beginning of a new era — one focused on prosperity rather than mere survival. Iraq now seeks a partnership rooted in economic opportunity: We need investment, jobs and access to markets, while the United States brings leading expertise in technology, energy and agriculture, along with unmatched investment capacity. By combining Iraq's natural wealth with America's innovation, both nations stand to benefit. Recent agreements with companies like Chevron and General Electric are not just contracts on paper; they represent real jobs, stronger infrastructure and a more stable Middle East. Iraq is a young nation: 40% of our citizens are under age 15. This demographic reality can be either a powerful engine for growth — or a breeding ground for despair. If we provide education and employment, our youth will drive Iraq forward; if we fail, we risk exposing them to extremism. That is why Iraq does not seek aid but investment — partnerships that generate sustainable opportunity.

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

CNN [11/3/2025 10:19 AM, Chris Isidore, 606K] reports China has agreed to allow the export of chips critical to auto production, averting widespread shutdowns that had been predicted by the industry. The chips are provided by Nexperia, a Chinese-owned chipmaker based in the Netherlands. It's a critical supplier for the global auto industry, providing 40% of the automotive chips in the market segment that includes transistors and diodes, according to research firm TechInsights. After the Dutch government took control of Nexperia several weeks ago and removed its Chinese CEO, citing national security concerns, Beijing suspended shipments from China. Auto industry trade groups in the United States and Europe both feared the trade dispute would lead them to run out of the chips they needed. That could drive up car prices, as happened in the years following the pandemic. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that "The Dutch government's inappropriate interference in the company's internal affairs has led to the current chaos in the global supply chain." But after US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met last week, Beijing said it would allow customers to apply for exemptions from a recently imposed export control and get the chips they need.

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
By TechMIS
(b)(7)(E)

Mobile User Copy

Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff

DATE: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

Blaze: Deportations top 2 million under Trump — and most aren't by force

Blaze [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Cooper Williamson, 1442K] reports deportations and border security have been a crucial part of the second Trump administration, and nine months in, the government has started to release some results. Despite seemingly constant obstruction from Democrats, the administration has begun to deliver on its promises of mass deportations. "The president is all about results, ... and what President Trump, Secretary Noem, and our law enforcement have been able to do in the past 270 days, despite the injunctions, despite the obstruction from sanctuary city politicians and these activist judges, is really nothing short of extraordinary," Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a Fox News interview on Monday. She went on to report that over 2 million illegal aliens have left the country since the beginning of

Trump's term, citing an October 27 press release. McLaughlin claimed in the press release that the majority of the deportations have been voluntary: "More than 2 million illegal aliens have left the U.S. including 1.6 million who have voluntarily self-deported and over 527,000 deportations."

NewsMax: Trump Orders Expanded Hill Briefings on Anti-Narcotics Operations in Caribbean

NewsMax [11/3/2025 5:04 PM, Staff, 4109K] reports President Donald Trump has ordered his national security and defense teams to expand classified briefings for Congress on his administration's anti-narcotics operations in the Caribbean and Pacific, Axios reported Monday. The move comes as lawmakers in both parties demand more transparency after a wave of deadly maritime interdictions and increased U.S. military activity near Venezuela. Axios reports U.S. forces have sunk at least 15 vessels and killed more than 60 suspected smugglers since the spring. Pentagon officials say the operations are meant to "disrupt and dismantle" criminal networks, though they warn cartels are increasingly armed and confrontational.

NewsMax/NBC News: Trump Admin Trains Troops for Possible Targeting of Mexico Cartels

NewsMax [11/3/2025 10:30 AM, Charlie McCarthy, 4109K] reports the Trump administration reportedly has begun training U.S. troops for a potential mission to target drug cartels inside Mexico. Two current and two former U.S. officials told NBC News that the early stage training involves Joint Special Operations Command units and intelligence officers under Title 50 authority, which allows covert operations led by the CIA. The effort could represent a major escalation in President Donald Trump's campaign against cartels, expanding from recent strikes in Venezuela and maritime operations in the Caribbean to potential ground missions in Mexico. Newsmax has reached out to the White House for comment. The CIA declined comment, while the Pentagon referred inquiries to the White House. According to NBC News, U.S. forces would focus primarily on drone strikes against cartel drug labs and leadership targets, with some drones requiring on-the-ground operators for precision and safety. Although no final decision has been made, officials described ongoing debates over the mission's scale and whether it should proceed with or without coordination from the Mexican government. "The Trump administration is committed to utilizing an all-of-government approach to address the threats cartels pose to American citizens," a senior administration official told NBC. The reported planning comes as the administration intensifies efforts to dismantle human smuggling and narcotics networks linked to cartels operating across Mexico, Venezuela, and beyond. NBC News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Courtney Kube, Dan De Luce, and Gordon Lubold, 34509K] reports that the early stages of training for the potential mission, which would include ground operations inside Mexico, has already begun, the two current U.S. officials said. But a deployment to Mexico is not imminent, the two U.S. officials and one of the former U.S. officials said. Discussions about the scope of the mission are ongoing, and a final decision has not been made, the two current U.S. officials said. The U.S. troops, many of whom would be from Joint Special Operations Command, would operate under the authority of the U.S. intelligence community, known as Title 50 status, the two current officials said. They said officers from the Central Intelligence Agency also would participate. A U.S. mission using American forces to hit drug cartel targets inside Mexico would open a new front in President Donald Trump's military campaign against drug cartels in the Western Hemisphere. So far, the

administration has focused on Venezuela and conducting strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats.

FOX News: Trump backs ICE raid tactics, says they 'haven't gone far enough'
FOX News [11/3/2025 8:29 AM, Ashley Carnahan, 40621K] Video: HERE reports President Donald Trump said he believes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids "haven't gone far enough" when asked about the federal agency's tactics that have sparked protests and lawsuits. Trump sat down for a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday with CBS News' Norah O'Donnell, who asked the president about videos of an ICE agent shoving a woman to the floor at an immigration courthouse, federal agents deploying tear gas in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood and smashing car windows. "Have some of these raids gone too far?" O'Donnell asked. "No. I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the – by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in by Biden and by Obama," Trump replied. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:
USA Today [11/3/2025 11:40 AM, Kathryn Palmer, 67103K]

FOX News: Trump reveals immigration raids 'haven't gone far enough' on '60 Minutes'
FOX News [11/3/2025 11:25 AM, Staff, 40621K] reports DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin joins 'America's Newsroom' after the president's interview, revealing that ICE will be 'surging resources' in the coming days for immigration raids. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

NewsMax: DHS' McLaughlin to Newsmax: Pritzker 'Dehumanizes, Vilifies' ICE Agents
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:55 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports Tricia McLaughlin, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for public affairs, sharply criticized Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker during a Monday morning appearance on Newsmax, accusing the Democrat governor of "dehumanizing and vilifying" Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and other federal law enforcement officers. McLaughlin said Pritzker's rhetoric misrepresents the actions of federal officers and distorts the reality of violent confrontations that law enforcement faces. "The way he's been framing this is completely to whitewash and manipulate the American people," she said on "Wake Up America." "He's acting as if there's tear gassing of the public going on. That's absolutely not true," McLauglin added. McLauglin also described increasingly hostile encounters between federal officers and organized agitators. "What the facts on the ground are, we are routinely seeing highly organized agitators and rioters not only stalk our law enforcement but then surround them, begin throwing rocks at them, and otherwise assaulting them," McLaughlin said. "They will deploy tear gas to control that crowd as a method to make sure that the public is safe." McLaughlin charged that Pritzker's characterization of law enforcement actions emboldens criminal elements and undermines public safety in cities like Chicago.

CBS News: Violent threats, once concentrated in Washington, are increasing against local public servants, new data shows
CBS News [11/3/2025 7:50 PM, Nicole Sganga, Laura Geller, 39474K] reports Matt McCaffery was a relatively unknown GOP chair in suburban Pennsylvania when police showed up at his door last year after an anonymous tip accused the Marine veteran of holding his family hostage — a swatting incident meant to terrorize him and his family just

hours after he endorsed Kamala Harris for president. "If it could happen to me, small-town Matt McCaffery, it can happen to you," said the former chairman of the Upper Merion Republican Committee. The hoax call was just one of nearly 2,000 records of threats to local officials identified over the past decade in new data from the Impact Project and the Public Service Alliance. CBS News received exclusive access to the dataset, dubbed the "Security Map," ahead of its public release. It compiles more than a decade of cases from court filings, news reports and academic databases. The findings show that violent threats targeting public officials have surged across all levels of government and political parties. At the same time, the threat landscape has "fundamentally changed," according to researchers. "We're seeing not only an increase in volume, but also an expansion in who's being targeted," Abby André, executive director and cofounder of the Impact Project, said in a statement. "A decade ago, threats were concentrated at the federal level. Today, school board members, county clerks, and even mail carriers face similar dangers." While federal officials remain the most frequent targets, threats against local officials are growing and now make up roughly one-third of all documented threats, researchers found. "That's what we see in the map. The threats facing public servants — they span the entire country," said Isa Ulloa, founder of the Public Service Alliance. Threats were recorded in every state, with roughly a quarter of incidents concentrated in the seven battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan. And for every physical threat, researchers found nine verbal or online threats — fueling what they call a dangerous chilling effect. Both Democrats and Republicans were targeted at almost equal rates, with 58% of reviewed threats affecting Democrats. Ulloa isn't just measuring the problem — her organization also offers security and privacy tools for the nation's roughly 40 million current and former public officials, including McCaffery, who is considering another run for office. "Who wants to run for public office if your family's being put in threat, even at the local level where most of the decisions in your life are being made? If they're too scared to do it, we're not gonna have anybody run," McCaffery said.

New York Times: The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller
New York Times [11/3/2025 6:44 PM, Devlin Barrett, 135475K] reports federal and state criminal investigations into a Virginia woman who distributed leaflets disclosing the home address of a White House official, Stephen Miller, have prompted a secret court fight over the balance between personal safety and free speech at a time of rising political violence, recently unsealed court documents show. The records, which were reviewed by The New York Times, reveal that a local court approved the search of a cellphone belonging to the woman as part of an investigation that included multiple local law enforcement agencies as well as the F.B.I. and Secret Service. The activist, Barbara Wien, has not been charged with any crime, though the Virginia State Police still have her phone. The investigation remains active, leaving it unclear whether law enforcement has since gathered additional evidence. The dispute captures the fierce tensions over political activism that have become a defining feature of the second Trump presidency, pitting the Miller family's concerns for their security against the First Amendment claims of a critic of the administration. In an atmosphere in which political violence against Republicans and Democrats has become more common, administration officials have increasingly voiced worries about their security, citing in particular the assassination of the right-wing activist Charlie Kirk and two attempts in 2024 to kill Donald J. Trump. But liberal groups and activists say the White House is seeking to demonize its political opponents and use the levers of government to stamp out opposing views in the name of public safety. At the heart of the clash is whether the involvement of federal authorities in investigating a local act of protest, and the tactics used by state and federal investigators, amount to overkill, or whether Ms. Wien posed a true threat to Mr.

Miller and his family. A lawyer for Ms. Wien and a county prosecutor have raised concerns over the conduct of the investigation, including the involvement of multiple federal and state agencies. They have also raised questions about the issuance of the search warrant for Ms. Wien's phone by state authorities based on evidence that she might have committed a misdemeanor. Ms. Wien's lawyer, Bradley R. Haywood, said law enforcement agencies were misusing their authority to pursue a political critic. The county prosecutor, a Democrat, has accused the state attorney general's office, led by a Republican, of overstepping its authority in trying to intervene in the case. A White House spokeswoman, Abigail Jackson, said that the law enforcement response was warranted, noting that Mr. Trump and others in his administration had been targets of members of the public. "Doxxing and any other actions that directly threaten the safety of officials and their families should be resoundingly denounced and thoroughly investigated to ensure attacks against members of the administration are not realized," she said.

Breitbart: Chicago Lawfare Activists Use Bovino Court Case to Spy on Stephen Miller
Breitbart [11/3/2025 5:58 PM, Warner Todd Huston, 2416K] reports pro-migrant lawyers proved to be far more interested in uncovering intel on Donald Trump adviser Stephen Miller than they were in Chicago ICE actions during a legal deposition by Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino. Bovino was dragged into court by activists who claim that his immigration agents are indiscriminately using violence against anti-Trump and pro-illegal migrant protesters in Chicago. Obama-appointed District Judge Sara Ellis ordered Bovino to give a deposition last week, but it seemed to quickly grind to a halt, as the Chicago Tribune reported. The activist lawyers and Judge Ellis seemed far more interested in uncovering communications between ICE and Border Patrol and Stephen Miller than they were in local Chicago ICE actions. Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh protested all the questions about Miller and said she was "sandbagged" after concentrating her preparation on what was going on in Chicago. Khojasteh said she worked to prep Bovino on the local issues, only to have plaintiffs' attorneys throw a "grab bag of anything" at him that had nothing to do with what was going on in Chicago.

Breitbart: Gov. JB Pritzker Called Out After Illegal Alien Allegedly Kills GOP Official, His Wife: 'How Many More Have to Die?'
Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:39 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D), a fierce defender of sanctuary policies, is getting called out as an illegal alien is accused of killing a local elected Republican official and his wife last week. As Breitbart News reported, 34-year-old illegal alien Edwin Pacheco-Meza of Honduras was driving a van on Oct. 24 when he crossed the center lane and struck 71-year-old Michael Clayton and his wife, 66-year-old Gail Clayton — killing them instantly. Pacheco-Meza, who crossed the southern border as an unknown got-away, was in his vehicle with 18-year-old illegal alien Juan Morales-Martinez of Guatemala, who crossed the border in December 2023 and was released into the United States interior by the Biden administration.

Chicago Tribune: Deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino nearly ground to halt last week, records show
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 1:03 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K] reports the deposition of Border Patrol Cmdr. Greg Bovino nearly ground to a halt last week as government lawyers repeatedly objected to questions by plaintiffs' attorneys, including some about communications between Bovino and White House advisor Stephen Miller, court records obtained by the Tribune show. The impasse prompted attorneys for both sides to go before

U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis in the middle of Bovino's sworn testimony on Thursday, where lawyers for the Justice Department complained that Bovino was being asked questions that were overbroad, poorly constructed and were not directly tied to the claims in the underlying lawsuit about the use of force by immigration agents during "Operation Midway Blitz." During the hearing, Justice Department attorney Sarmad Khojasteh piqued the frustration of the judge by repeatedly interrupting her and fumbling over the facts of the case. Kosjasteh, who filed his first appearance in the case the day before Bovino's deposition, repeatedly referred to the Chicago immigration push as "Operation Midway Drift" and had to apologize for being new to the table. "This is the problem when people come in, right, and we've got a revolving door of attorneys and they haven't been here for the entire thing," Ellis told Khojasteh, according to a transcript of the proceedings. "…They haven't sat through people's testimony, they haven't sat through these hearings, and so now I'm having to explain myself multiple times. And I find it at this point extremely frustrating and a waste of time."

Chicago Tribune: Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:30 AM, Sam Charles, Laura Rodríguez Presa, and Rebecca Johnson 4829K] reports the rate of 911 calls made in Chicago has dropped precipitously in the two months since the start of Operation Midway Blitz, a Tribune review of city data found. And nowhere is the decrease more pronounced than in Little Village, home to Chicago's largest Mexican American population, where calls to 911 have fallen by more than 21% since the surge of federal immigration officers began, city data show. Neighborhood leaders acknowledge a sharp year-over-year decline in crime, but note that the wave of immigration enforcement has left many residents in fear of calling 911 for help during that stretch. The decline reflects more than just safer streets in Little Village, said Matt DeMateo, executive director of New Life Centers, a nonprofit serving youths and families in Little Village. It's residents' fear, fueled by federal immigration enforcement, that may be driving the decline. "It's less about trust in police, it's more about fear," DeMateo said. "ICE is creating chaos, and people are making decisions for their own safety."

Chicago Tribune: Location of man hospitalized after federal immigration arrest in Melrose Park unknown, family says

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:33 PM, Adriana Pérez and Laura Turbay, 4829K] reports family members of a man hospitalized after being arrested by federal immigration agents in Melrose Park on Sunday morning said they were not allowed to see Ricardo Aguayo Rodriguez during his stay in the hospital and no longer know where he is. According to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security: "He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Stephanie Suane, 33, Aguayo Rodriguez's niece, said her uncle was released Monday afternoon from Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, but the doctor did not tell them where he was sent. The family believes he may have been moved to the Broadview detention facility. Dora Suane, Aguayo Rodriguez's older sister, said earlier Monday that she was denied a visit by the Melrose Park hospital for a second day in a row. Videos shared on social media show Aguayo Rodriguez struggling on the ground, lying next to a white truck, while a federal agent kept him in a headlock. "Por favor, amigo," he can be heard pleading as he groans and yells in pain. "Please, friend." According to the DHS statement, Aguayo Rodriguez fled from U.S. Border Patrol agents and resisted arrest. "He actively resisted and assaulted law enforcement," the statement said. "The agent deployed pepper spray to deescalate the

situation and stop the assaults. After Rodriguez continued to violently resist and put law enforcement in danger, the agent delivered strikes as a last resort. As a precaution, Border Patrol took the suspect to a hospital for medical treatment. He will remain in custody under medical supervision pending removal proceedings." Aguayo Rodriguez has a criminal record that includes convictions for assault and battery as well as possession of a controlled substance, according to the statement. A hospital spokesperson said in an emailed statement: "Loyola Medicine treats federal agencies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the same way we treat all law enforcement personnel. If they need to enter our facilities, they coordinate with our Security team. This morning, ICE personnel came to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital to accompany a patient in their custody who required medical care. Visitation is restricted for any patient in custody and is at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. Hospital staff have been in contact with the family to update them on the patient's condition."

Wall Street Journal: How Elite Agents Use High-Risk Military Tactics on Civilians in Chicago

Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:10 PM, Staff, 646K] reports federal officers from various agencies have been reassigned to assist with immigration enforcement operations. WSJ analyzes the use of force, high-risk maneuvers and military-style tactics agents from elite units have deployed in Chicago. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

USA Today: 'Terrified': Video of masked agents hauling woman from car renews outrage in Chicago

USA Today [11/4/2025 12:07 AM, Michael Loria, 67103K] reports a woman on her way to work got into a traffic accident that turned into an ordeal where masked federal agents holding weapons dragged her out of her car and detained her without telling her why, the woman's family says. The video of masked men detaining Dayanne Figueroa, a U.S. citizen and paralegal, after a traffic accident in Chicago is the latest to make the rounds in the city where federal agents have faced scrutiny over aggressive tactics. Figueroa's account of the incident comes as the Supreme Court weighs whether to allow President Donald Trump to deploy the National Guard to the city. The White House says a rebellion is potentially underway in the Prairie State and troops are needed to help carry out Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown known as Operation Midway Blitz. Local Democratic leaders view the Republican president's efforts to deploy the military as a power grab. Many Chicagoans and residents of the surrounding areas view federal agents already deployed to the city as an occupying force. Reached on the phone by USA TODAY, the Figueroa family declined to immediately speak, citing potential upcoming litigation. Dayanne Figueroa released a statement online. "I was in shock and terrified," she said of the moment when she was dragged from her car and pinned to the asphalt. "Agents crashed into me. I was not involved in any protest or related activity and I intend to seek justice for how I was treated." Figueroa's encounter with agents came on Oct. 10 and was covered by the Chicago Tribune on Nov. 3. The woman's account of her detainment comes just days after Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters at a news conference in Gary, Indiana, that no U.S. citizens had been detained in connection with the blitz crackdown. Homeland Security officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the incident or on Noem's comment. The Figueroa family is raising funds for legal and medical fees associated with the incident. The woman says the encounter came after a recent kidney surgery and that afterwards she went to the hospital "because of the excessive force used during her detention." Video published on YouTube by the Figueroa family shows

immigration agents detaining a man on a city street while a handful of passersby protest the arrest.

Axios: Chicago Sun-Times demands DHS stop using its photos of immigration enforcement

Axios [11/3/2025 12:54 PM, Carrie Shepherd, 12972K] reports that the Chicago Sun-Times has told the Department of Homeland Security to stop using the newspaper's photos and videos in the federal agency's videos of immigration enforcement. Why it matters: In a letter to the department, the Sun-Times accuses DHS of using three of the paper's photos in its social media posts, which the paper's attorney says is intellectual property rights infringement, but also implies that the paper "endorses" DHS' enforcement tactics. What they're saying: "It is imperative that, as a news organization, CSTM [Chicago Sun-Times Media] maintains its independence in order to fairly report on government agencies," attorney Steven Mandell wrote in the letter. DHS' "false implication that CSTM gave permission for its intellectual property to be used in connection with the Department's publicity campaign damages CSTM's credibility and interferes with its ability to report on these issues." Zoom in: One of the examples Mandell cites is a photo of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents walking in front of Trump Tower, taken by Sun-Times photo editor Ashlee Rezin in September. Two other examples cited include photos in a montage posted last week by DHS of Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino in a video superimposed with the text: "We Will Not be Stopped." Zoom out: This is not the first time DHS has been called out by artists and photographers for using their work in the department's media, including a Thomas Kincaide painting that the late artist's foundation asked DHS to remove, according to ABC News. When asked if DHS has responded to the letter, Mandell told Axios: "Crickets."

AP: Judge again bars Trump administration from deploying troops to Portland

AP [11/3/2025 11:35 PM, Claire Rush and Gene Johnson, 31753K] reports a federal judge in Oregon on Sunday barred President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard to Portland, Oregon until at least Friday, saying she "found no credible evidence" that protests in the city grew out of control before the president federalized the troops earlier this fall. The city and state sued in September to block the deployment. It is the latest development in weeks of legal back-and-forth in Portland, Chicago and other U.S. cities as the Trump administration has moved to federalize and deploy the National Guard in city streets to quell protests. The ruling from U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut, a Trump appointee, followed a three-day trial in which both sides argued over whether protests at the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building met the conditions for using the military domestically under federal law. In a 16-page filing late Sunday, Immergut said she would issue a final order on Friday due to the voluminous evidence presented at trial, including more than 750 exhibits. The purpose of the deployment, according to the Trump administration, is to protect federal personnel and property where protests are occurring or likely to occur. Legal experts said that a higher appellate court order that remains in effect would have barred troops from being deployed anyway. Immergut wrote that most violence appeared to be between protesters and counter-protesters and found no evidence of "significant damage" to the immigration facility at the center of the protests.

Reported similarly:
The Hill [11/3/2025 8:58 AM, Zach Schonfeld, 12595K]

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USA Today [11/3/2025 8:53 AM, Bart Jansen, 67103K] r
Daily Caller [11/3/2025 11:29 AM, Hailey Gomez, 835K]

NPR: Trump's National Guard deployments aren't random. They were planned years ago

NPR [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Kat Lonsdorf, 28013K] reports President Trump's deployments of National Guard troops to U.S. cities have outraged his political rivals, tested legal precedents and led to nationwide protests. The courts are weighing in on their legality. But — if successful — they could also fulfill a long-running administration goal of employing America's military to aid in the mass deportation of immigrants without legal status, according to an NPR review of past comments from Trump and his allies. It's a move that would stray significantly from past federal use of the Guard, challenging laws that dictate how the U.S. military can be used domestically. And with the 2026 midterms looming, some experts worry Guard troops could even be used as a tool of systemic voter suppression and intimidation. Trump has sent troops into four Democratic-led cities and threatened to send them to several more, claiming they are needed to crack down on crime and protect federal immigration facilities and officers. Those deployments, and the White House's rhetoric around them, have regularly conflated violent crime and illegal immigration into a single crisis, blurring the lines around the role of the Guard and federal agents. Taken one at a time, the deployments can seem random or fickle — Trump will often muse about sending troops into a city, only to back track his comments and focus on a different city days later. But the president and several others in his inner circle — most notably Stephen Miller, a senior aide to Trump in his first term, and now Trump's right hand man on immigration — have long talked about using the National Guard to help with mass deportations and immigration raids, despite U.S. laws broadly preventing the military from being used for domestic policing. To get around those laws, both Trump and Miller have talked about invoking the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military within the U.S. in certain situations. Legal experts, activists and watchdog groups worry the Trump administration could fundamentally change the way the military is used on U.S. soil, specifically raising concerns about the upcoming 2026 midterm elections and what armed troops on the streets could mean as voters cast ballots.

New York Times: How to Make Sense of the Federal Forces on the Streets

New York Times [11/4/2025 2:47 AM, Bora Erden, 330K] reports that, with the Border Patrol marching through Chicago and the National Guard patrolling Memphis, the variety of federal forces deployed to support President Trump's mass deportation campaign and anticrime efforts continues to expand. Often, it can be difficult for the public to tell them apart, or to understand what powers each agency has. Here is a guide to how these forces are operating, including alongside local law enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the primary immigration law enforcement agency in the country, and its officers wear a variety of uniforms and identifiers. ICE is made up of two main branches. The officers of Enforcement and Removal Operations typically handle arrests and deportations. In the past, Homeland Security Investigations focused on transnational crimes, but Mr. Trump has called on its officers to make other arrests in the field. Confusion over immigration officers' relationship to other law enforcement is not new. In 2020, community organizations in California sued ICE, claiming officers misrepresented themselves as the police during immigration operations. The lawsuit was settled in August and mandated that officers clearly identify themselves as ICE on their clothing. Elsewhere, ICE officers may operate in plain clothes with no or minimal identification but are supposed

to identify themselves during arrests. One case involving a Turkish doctoral student sparked outrage when footage surfaced of plainclothes agents confronting her on the street outside Boston in March. Still other ICE officers may appear in full military-style fatigues, like the agency's Special Response Teams, who are trained for high-risk operations. Since the anti-ICE summer protests in Los Angeles, they have also been guarding ICE facilities and making some street arrests. Customs and Border Protection is charged with law enforcement at the border, but Mr. Trump has deployed its agents nationwide to arrest immigrants. Within 100 miles of the border, they have greater authority than local law enforcement to conduct certain searches. Like ICE officers, their uniforms vary. After protests mounted over his immigration crackdown, Mr. Trump sent National Guard troops to Chicago, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., citing a need to protect immigration agents and federal property. He also has called upon the National Guard to work alongside the local police in Memphis and Washington, D.C. Local officials in most of these cities, which are led by Democrats, have strongly objected to the deployments, saying Mr. Trump is misusing the Guard, a part-time military force that most often is called upon during natural disasters, wars or civil unrest. Where the president's deportation and crime-prevention campaigns intersect, the lines have blurred, and all types of law enforcement share overlapping roles. While immigration enforcement is the purview of ICE and Border Patrol, other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security and in the Justice Department have increasingly taken on this work. ICE often conducts raids on residences, and the agency has revived workplace raids, a practice largely suspended under the previous administration. Officers more often now stop people on the street, sometimes detaining U.S. citizens. ICE and Border Patrol agents also make arrests at courthouse immigration hearings, a practice legal groups say violates due process protections. In many places, the local police work directly with Homeland Security to arrest immigrants, or to detain them until immigration officers arrive. In Washington, at least eight federal agencies were part of Mr. Trump's efforts to take control of law enforcement. The local police helped immigration officers identify targets during stops for minor infractions, and immigration officers helped with arrests for nonimmigration crimes.

Wall Street Journal: Homeland Security Biometric Policy for Foreign Travelers Poses Data-Theft Risks

Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 3:09 PM, Angus Loten, 646K] reports the Department of Homeland Security is directing border-patrol agents to screen all foreign travelers with facial recognition tools as they enter and leave the U.S., seeking to identify immigrants who entered the country illegally or overstayed visas, the agency said. Expanding the use of facial recognition at border checkpoints will "make the process for verifying the identity of aliens more efficient, accurate and secure," DHS said. The move, set to take effect in late December, would also create a massive biometric database—what DHS is calling a "gallery"—on countless non-U. S. citizens that risks becoming a rich source for deepfakes and other cybercrimes, security experts said. Biometric data can include fingerprints or voice patterns to identify individuals. Initially, the new directive will apply only to photos and at commercial airports. The agency plans to eventually extend the screening to all air, sea and land ports of entry. "Anytime you collect and build a large, centralized database of biometrics, especially one which can span decades and include data from millions of individuals, it creates the opportunity for long-term risk," said Patrick Joyce, global resident chief information security officer at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. "As we've seen in other attacks, such systems are incredibly valuable targets," Joyce said. Beyond secure storage, passing biometric data along to other government agencies or third-party contractors can create additional vulnerabilities, said Mark McCreary, co-chair of the privacy and data

security practice at law firm Fox Rothschild. McCreary said there is an “ongoing concern about the potential for data breaches, mission creep and the lack of transparency around how data is shared across agencies and with commercial partners.” Extending biometric data-gathering to include foreign travelers leaving the U.S. also comes with added risks, McCreary said. Because exit-screening is relatively new and untested, the initial program will likely rely on a mix of government and airline-provided cameras, along with mobile devices used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, he said: “This hybrid approach increases the number of entities handling sensitive biometric data, amplifying the risk of unauthorized access or misuse.”

NBC News: Jury selection begins in the trial of D.C.’s ‘sandwich guy’
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:38 PM, Megan Lebowitz and Ryan J. Reilly, 34509K] reports jury selection started Monday in the trial of former Justice Department employee Sean Dunn, also known as the "sandwich guy," months after he went viral for throwing a salami sub at a Customs and Border Protection agent in Washington, D.C., at close range. In return, prosecutors hit Dunn with a misdemeanor assault charge in August. That came a day after U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro’s office failed to persuade a grand jury to indict Dunn on felony charges — a sub-optimal result for prosecutors. Dunn pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge in September. The case is proceeding after a judge rejected the government’s motion to delay the trial because of a disagreement over jury instructions. Jury selection is being done in open court, but U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols is using technology, including a white noise machine, to block members of the public and the media from hearing what the potential jurors are being asked and what they’re answering. In the past, such broad restrictions on jury selection have been found to be unconstitutional. Dunn’s lawyers have claimed the case is "selective and vindictive prosecution," arguing he was singled out for prosecution "not because of the nature of his alleged conduct — throwing a soft object that caused no injury — but because his outspoken, viral critique of the current administration’s policing and immigration policies made him a political target.” Federal prosecutors opposed Dunn’s lawyers’ motion to dismiss the charge, writing that Dunn was "recorded throwing a sandwich at a federal officer at point-blank range."

Reported similarly:
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:57 AM, Solange Reyner, 4109K]

CNN: DC jurors dismissed in the trial of man charged with throwing sandwich at federal agent are deeply skeptical of the case
CNN [11/3/2025 5:47 PM, Holmes Lybrand] reports potential jurors who were not selected to serve in the trial of a DC man accused of throwing a sub sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection officer expressed deep skepticism of the federal case. A group of eight dismissed jurors spoke to CNN Monday, questioning whether any jury in DC would convict the accused sandwich-thrower, Sean Dunn. Dunn has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. A jury was selected in the trial Monday afternoon. A grand jury declined to hand up a more severe assault charge against Dunn over the summer, which carried a maximum sentence of nearly a decade in prison. Prosecutors then filed a complaint against Dunn that carries a far lower maximum sentence of 1 year. Dunn, who worked at the Justice Department at the time of the alleged sandwich throwing, was quickly fired after the incident, which Attorney General Pam Bondi publicly announced. Prosecutors say Dunn, in early August, yelled offensive things at a group of officers before throwing the sandwich and running away.

CBS Mornings: Truck Driver Not Under Influence During Crash

(B) CBS Mornings [11/3/2025 10:56 AM, Staff] reports that a semi-truck driver who allegedly hit and killed three people in a crash in southern California will no longer be charged with a felony DUI. Prosecutors now say he was not under the influence during the wreck. The San Bernadino County district attorney said toxicology reports confirm Jashanpreet Singh was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any tested substances. He remains in jail and still facing vehicular manslaughter charges. The Department of Homeland Security said Singh is in the country illegally.

The Hill: Congressional approval for alleged drug boat strikes not needed, White House says

The Hill [11/3/2025 9:12 PM, Filip Timotija, 12595K] reports the White House argued lethal military strikes against alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific do not rise to the level of "hostilities" that would warrant authorization from Congress under the War Powers Resolution (WPR). The administration said the WPR, which Congress passed in 1973, would only apply when putting the U.S. in harm's way and that the strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, which so far have killed at least 64 people, are not endangering military personnel since they are "largely" conducted by unmanned aerial vehicles that take off from Navy vessels. "Here, the operation comprises precise strikes conducted largely by unmanned aerial vehicles launched from naval vessels in international waters at distances too far away for the crews of the targeted vessels to endanger American personnel," a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Hill on Monday. Monday marked the 60-day deadline since the White House first notified Congress of its initial strike against an alleged drug-trafficking vessel. The WPR says the president needs to discontinue military operations after 60 days if an authorization from Congress is not obtained or the commander-in-chief can request a 30-day extension. The administration official said the escalating strikes do not meet the threshold of "hostilities" and that the Trump administration's Office of Legal Counsel's (OLC) position on the matter is "consistent with its traditional approach," pointing to legal opinions authored by assistant attorneys general during the Clinton and Reagan presidencies. In a 1996 opinion, Walter Dellinger, the assistant attorney general in the OLC, did not discuss the 60-day limit when addressing former President Clinton's deployment of peacekeeping forces to Haiti, but added the decision would "not involve the risk of major or prolonged hostilities or serious casualties to either the United States or Haiti." "The Executive Branch has taken the position from the very beginning" that the WPR "does not constitute a legally binding definition of Presidential authority to deploy our armed forces," former Assistant Attorney General Theodore Olson wrote in the 1984 legal opinion, referenced by the White House. Other administrations have made similar arguments. In 2011, the Obama administration said the WPR was not applicable since there were no U.S. troops on the ground and continued fighting with opposing forces during the air campaign against Libya. The strikes targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats have continued, with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announcing late Saturday that the U.S. military took out a "narco-trafficking" vessel operated by a designated terrorist organization in the Caribbean, killing three. "On the campaign trail, President Trump promised to take on the cartels — and he has taken unprecedented action to stop the scourge of narcoterrorism that has resulted in the needless deaths of innocent Americans," the administration official said Monday. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have asked the administration for more information about the legal rationale the White House is relying on for the strikes. Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee were not satisfied with last week's briefing on the boat strikes, expressing frustration with the answers they have gotten on the legality of the

operations and the White House's "end game." The administration official pushed back, saying by "regularly notifying and briefing the House and the Senate on this important matter, the Administration continues to demonstrate great transparency in its communications" with Congress.

Washington Examiner: Trump cagey about looming Venezuela strikes, but says Maduro's days are numbered

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 7:11 AM, Jamie McIntyre, 1394K] reports if President Donald Trump's strategy is to keep everybody guessing whether he is considering airstrikes on Venezuela, he doesn't seem to be fooling anyone, but he's doing his best not to say what is looking more and more likely — that military action is coming. Asked on Friday by a reporter on Air Force One, whether reports were true that he was "considering strikes within Venezuela," Trump said flatly, "No, it's not true." The same day, he sat for a lengthy interview with 60 Minutes, which aired last night, and gave contradictory answers to CBS correspondent Norah O'Donnell. "Are we going to war against Venezuela?" O'Donnell asked. "I doubt it. I don't think so." Trump said, only to indicate just a few minutes later that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro may soon be deposed. "Are Maduro's days as president numbered?" asked O'Donnell. "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," Trump replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" she pressed. "I don't tell you that. I mean, I'm not saying it's true or untrue, but you know, I wouldn't be inclined to say that I would do that." Later on Air Force One, Trump berated a reporter for even asking the question. "How can I answer a question like that? Are there plans for a strike on Venezuela? Who would say that? Supposing there were, would I say that to you? Listen, we have very secret plans."

Opinion – Editorials

Houston Chronicle: [TX] Houston police called ICE on a missing teen. Then they blamed his mom.

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Staff, 2983K] reports she is poised and impossibly polite. Through a blur of calls with a case worker, a social worker, another case worker, the 42-year-old mother doesn't snap. Even as she's told her video calls with her son will be limited to weekly 15-minute phone calls. Even as her questions are met with scripted non-answers. Still, every indignant word the mother speaks is carefully calibrated. But the moment Maria García hears her son's voice over the phone, her own voice breaks. When he asks how she's doing, she doesn't tell him about the sleepless nights, about the tears, about the hours clutching her rosary – praying for an end to this nightmare. She steadies her voice and asks what any mom would: "Are they taking good care of you?" she says into a speaker phone, as a member of the editorial board listens nearby. The 15-year-old gives one-word answers. Trapped inside a federal children's detention center in Houston, Emmanuel Gonzalez García says he's bored. He's desperate. On Oct. 4, Emmanuel wandered from his mother's side on the corner of Clay and Hempstead Road, disappearing on a Metro bus in the time it took her to finish preparing a spicy-sweet mango snack for a customer from her makeshift roadside stall. For nearly a week, Maria had no idea where her son was. She had no way to know whether her baby was dead or alive – even as the Houston Police Department, the very people she turned to for help, knew exactly where he was. Even as they knew they'd handed her child over to immigration authorities and put him at risk of deportation. The disappearance of Emmanuel is a story that has ricocheted in our

city and beyond in recent weeks – breathlessly covered by TV news outlets, dissected on Facebook and debated at City Hall.

Opinion – Op-Eds

NewsMax: Time for SCOTUS to End Birthright Citizenship
NewsMax [11/3/2025 12:06 PM, Michael Dorstewitz, 4109K] reports one of the first things President Trump did at the start of his second term was to sign an executive order ending birthright citizenship — the notion that a woman could cross the border into the United States and deliver a child for one purpose: To grant the child U.S. citizenship. Birthright citizenship is based on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." On the surface that would appear to end all debate. Birthright citizenship is the law of the land and therefor so called "anchor babies" are legitimate American citizens — until you consider the purpose of the amendment. It was among the three post-Civil War amendments known as the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th granted citizenship and guaranteed equal protection under the law, and the 15th prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on race. Getting to specifics, the Citizenship Clause was included to reverse a portion of the Dred Scott decision. It held that African Americans were not and could not become United States citizens or enjoy any of the privileges and immunities of citizenship. So the Citizenship Clause was included in the Reconstruction Amendments to clearly make former slaves, and children of those former slavers, American citizens. It was meant to correct a past wrong, and never intended to create "anchor babies."

FOX News: Their plan was a flood of illegal immigration. Our answer is an immigration moratorium
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:00 AM, Nate Morris, 40621K] reports President Joe Biden's decision to allow the free flow of illegal immigration into our country has resulted in 20 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. We knew nothing about these people. We didn't know where they came from or why they were here. Now Americans are forced to compete even more with illegal immigrants for jobs and housing, to have their children share our classrooms, to wait longer at the hospital, and to even have their lawfully earned, government-funded benefits depleted because of them. Why? All because career politicians either turned a blind eye to it, or, as I suspect, more insidiously cheered it on. But illegal immigration is frankly a symptom of the broader disease that, if we choose to ignore, will cost us our country. This very minute, New York City is on the precipice of electing a Ugandan immigrant who is hell-bent on the destruction of a once great city. There's a member of Congress from Mogadishu whose entire existence is predicated on turning America into Somalia. These are not isolated incidents, either — they're a sign of things to come. This is what happens when career politicians have contempt for a secure border.

Wall Street Journal: Trump's New World Order
Wall Street Journal [11/3/2025 4:59 PM, Walter Russell Mead, 646K] reports "On Venezuela in particular," CBS News's Norah O'Donnell asked President Trump on "60 Minutes" Sunday, "are Maduro's days as president numbered?" "I would say yeah. I think so, yeah," he replied. "And this issue of potential land strikes in Venezuela, is that true?" "I

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don't tell you that. . . . You know, you're a wonderful reporter, you're very talented, but I'm not gonna tell you what I'm gonna do with Venezuela, if I was gonna do it or if I wasn't going to do it." And that's where matters stand. With a carrier strike group joining eight warships already in the region, a squadron of F-35s in Puerto Rico, and assorted elite military units in the area, the Trump administration has ramped up its standoff with Venezuela. Regime change is clearly the goal; the timetable and means are unspecified. In normal times, a crisis of this magnitude would dominate world news, but in our era it struggles to stay on the front page. The Venezuela crisis escalated to the brink of war the same week Mr. Trump's lightning Asia tour concluded with a summit with Xi Jinping. While senators such as Kentucky's Rand Paul denounced what they called illegal American strikes against alleged drug-running boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, lawyers on both sides were prepping oral arguments for the historic Supreme Court showdown over the legality of Mr. Trump's tariffs, which have upended world trade. Russian troops ground out more gains in Ukraine even as the air war between Kyiv and its nuclear-armed neighbor raged. Scenes of horror unfolded in Darfur as Sudan descended deeper into civil war. The fragile cease-fire in Gaza hung by a thread. Meanwhile, on Truth Social, Mr. Trump threatened to attack Nigeria if that country doesn't do a better job of protecting Christians. Not since Franklin D. Roosevelt has an American president been this powerful or this busy.

The Hill: [Venezuela] Please don't invade Venezuela
The Hill [11/3/2025 1:00 PM, Harlan Ullman, 12595K] reports that the U.S. Navy nuclear carrier USS Gerald Ford and its battle group, which includes some 80 strike and other aircraft and Tomahawk equipped surface combatants, is about to join a dozen other warships including a force of about 2,000 Marines, in the Caribbean. Part of this force includes the U.S. Military Sealift Command's Ocean Trader, a 22,000-ton mystery ship over two football fields in length with a crew of about 40 and up to 200 special forces and their equipment embarked. All are off the Venezuelan coast as B-52's and B-2's pass overhead like wolves circling prey. A word of advice: Do not invade Venezuela. This is not Operation Just Cause of December 1989, in which George H.W. Bush ordered 27,000 U.S. troops to capture Panamanian President Manuel Noriega. The U.S. had a base in Panama facilitating that operation. No such base exists in or near Venezuela. And Venezuela is 12 times larger than Panama with about six times the population. As far as regime change, the White House needs to be reminded of a bit of history. We tried that in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as a number of attempts in Central America. Further, Venezuela is viewed as the center of gravity for these operations. But U.S. intelligence and law enforcement reports show that Colombia and especially Mexico are the villains in the drug and fentanyl trade. Venezuela is a sideshow. The White House has already disclosed that CIA units have been authorized to operate in Venezuela in what are now non-covert ways.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FOX News: Acting ICE director pledges to fulfill Trump's largest deportation effort: 'No one's off the table'
FOX News [11/3/2025 5:25 PM, Maria Lencki, 40621K] reports acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons is pledging to keep President Donald Trump's promise to have one of the largest deportation efforts the country has seen. The president was pressed on his immigration policy on Sunday's "60 Minutes" interview on CBS, where he was asked if some of the raids have gone "too far." "No, I think they haven't gone far enough, because we've been held back by the judges, by the liberal judges that were put in

by Biden and by Obama," Trump said. "You have to get the people out, you know? You have, look at the people. Many of them are murderers. Many of them are people that were thrown out of their countries because they were, you know, criminals." Lyons told "America Reports" ICE will work with state and local partners as they identify as many illegal immigrants as they can and "take action on them." "No one's off the table," he warned. "We're going to use all the tools in the toolbox. We have great federal partners. Department of Justice has been outstanding with us, and we are going to team up with everyone that wants to work with us, and we're to go out there and keep the president's promise to sure that we have one of the largest deportation efforts ever." The acting ICE director, who says many agents have been targeted due to the rhetoric against them, explained that officials are being swarmed by protesters before even making arrests.

FOX News: ICE reveals stunning statistic after exposing Halloween weekend's 'worst of the worst' arrests

FOX News [11/3/2025 8:02 PM, Peter Pinedo, 40621K] reports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continued its crackdown on the "worst of the worst" dangerous illegal immigrants over Halloween weekend, arresting criminals convicted of intercourse with minor, sexual abuse, kidnapping, homicide and other serious crimes. The Department of Homeland Security highlighted that 70 percent of ICE arrests are of criminal illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S., according to a statement to Fox News Digital. One criminal illegal, Sisawang Khambounheuang, from Laos, was arrested by ICE after being convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in San Diego. Just to the north, another criminal illegal alien, Milton Rene Mendez-Arevalo, from Guatemala, was arrested after a conviction for kidnapping in Los Angeles. In Houston, where ICE arrested over 120 illegal immigrants over the weekend, the agency nabbed Honduran criminal illegal Hector Eugenio Ramirez-Martinez, who was convicted for indecency with child sexual contact in Harris County. Another, Francisco Nava-Garcia, from Mexico, was arrested in Houston after being convicted of assault on a family/household member. Elsewhere in Texas, ICE arrested Kunal Chhetri, an illegal alien from India, who was convicted for alien smuggling in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas. ICE also continued its crackdown in Florida, arresting Lazaro Mateo Ruiz, from Cuba, who was convicted for homicide, weapon offense and robbery in Miami-Dade County. Over in Florida's gulf coast, ICE arrested Juan Gomez-Gutierrez, from Colombia, who was convicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine while aboard a vessel in Tampa. Another drug distributor, Juan Brito-Rios, from Mexico, was arrested by ICE following his conviction for possession with the intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin, five kilograms or more of cocaine and money laundering in the U.S. Middle District Court of Tennessee. In Illinois, a sanctuary state that has been resisting the Trump administration's crackdown, ICE arrested Brigidio Ovido Gomez Garcia, from Guatemala, who was convicted of aggravated domestic battery/strangle, domestic battery, and driving under the influence in Wheaton, a Chicago suburb. Commenting on the arrests, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin pointed out that amidst pushback from pro-sanctuary politicians, 70 percent of all ICE arrests are of illegal aliens charged or convicted of a crime in the U.S. "President Trump and Secretary Noem unleashed ICE to remove the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens from American communities," McLaughlin told Fox News Digital. "Despite the Democrats' government shutdown, ICE is continuing to arrest criminal illegal aliens across the country," she continued. "While Americans enjoyed their weekends, ICE was hard at work getting the worst of the worst off our streets—including pedophiles, murderers, and kidnappers."

NPR: ICE seizing migrants from county jails, raising due process concerns
NPR [11/3/2025 4:59 AM, Mose Buchele, 28013K] Audio: HERE reports in some parts of the U.S., ICE agents are seizing people directly from county jails to take into immigration custody. The tactic has raised concerns over due process. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

AP: [PA] Courts Order ICE Not to Deport Man Who Spent 43 Years in Prison Before Murder Case Overturned
AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale, 19051K] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that's equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, a legal permanent resident known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam's lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend's 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction. "Having a single conviction vacated will not stop ICE's enforcement of the federal immigration law," Tricia McLaughlin," Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, said in an email.

Reported similarly:
Univision [11/3/2025 6:11 PM, Staff, 5004K]

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Chicago woman dragged out of her car after colliding with ICE demands accountability
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 12:55 PM, Laura Rodríguez Presa and Jonathan Bullington, 4829K] reports Dayanne Figueroa was on her way to get coffee before heading to work when she encountered a chaotic scene in West Town: heavily armed, masked federal agents making arrests on a residential street. People yelled as vehicles honked their horn - a sign now used to alert neighbors that immigration federal agents are in the area - and witnesses said federal agents had arrested several landscaper workers presumed to be in the country without authorization. As Figuero tried to drive through the 1600 block of West Hubbard Street on Friday, Oct. 10, an unmarked vehicle driven by federal agents collided with Figueroa's as it tried to speed away from a hostile crowd, multiple videos reviewed by the Tribune show. Seconds after the crash, agents abruptly stopped their vehicle and exited with weapons in hand pointing at Figueroa, a U.S citizen. Agents then forcibly opened her door and pulled her out of the vehicle by her legs without identifying themselves, presenting a warrant or informing her that she was under arrest. As bystanders yelled, "You hit her! We have it on video!" agents ignored the crowd and forced Figueroa into a red minivan and drove away. The Department of Homeland Security later released a statement claiming that

Figueroa was at fault, saying "she crashed into an unmarked government vehicle and violently resisted arrest, injuring two officers." Figueroa was released the same day a few hours later without charges. Figueroa's arrest highlights growing concerns about the use of force against U.S. citizens and due process. Federal enforcement actions in Chicago have increasingly drawn scrutiny amid reports of aggressive tactics and blurred lines between immigration enforcement and public safety, including incidents involving deploying tear gas in residential areas and arrests of bystanders filming agents or for following the unmarked vehicles. While DHS says its operations are being impeded and that there will be consequences for interfering with federal agents, many individuals who are detained are released without charges. DHS, however, maintains that Figueroa was taken into custody because she "violently resisted" arrest. In a statement to the Tribune, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin alleged that Figueroa "used her vehicle to block in agents, honking her horn," and that she "stuck an unmarked government vehicle" as agents were departing. "In fear of public safety and of law enforcement, officers attempted to remove her from the vehicle. She violently resisted, kicking two agents and causing injuries. This agitator was arrested for assault on a federal agent," McLaughlin said.

Chicago Tribune: [IL] ICE pushes Chicago restaurants in immigrant neighborhoods into survival mode: 'We are dying a slow death'

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Zareen Syed, 4829K] reports most days as of late, a heaviness envelops 26th Street in Chicago's Little Village. Some restaurants are closing earlier than usual, street vendors are fewer and farther away, and more and more customers are using food delivery services instead of dining in. On a recent Wednesday, only a handful of people were nervously standing at the bus stop on Hamlin Avenue across from Carnitas Uruapan. Inside the popular Mexican restaurant, tables sat empty during what would typically be a busy weekday lunch hour. Staff were screening customers at the door before letting them in. It had been a chaotic morning marked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on the city's Southwest Side. Federal immigration agents, accompanied by Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino, had swarmed one of Chicago's oldest and largest immigrant communities - known as "Mexico of the Midwest" - and neighboring Cicero, arresting at least seven people, including U.S. citizens, and clashing with residents who filmed them. The security camera at Carnitas Uruapan had caught what appeared to be an ICE agent trying to enter - but the door was locked. "We're being selective about who we let in today, I guarantee most places out here right now have their doors locked," Marcos Carbajal, owner of Carnitas Uruapan, told the Tribune on Oct. 22. "Lately, we have to keep an eye on the door just to make sure we're only letting people in who look like they're a regular diner."

Chicago Tribune: [IL] Lake Bluff officials weighing whether to object to ICE's practices during raids in Chicago area

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 7:12 PM, Daniel I. Dorfman, 4829K] reports amid growing concern about recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Lake Bluff officials are weighing possible steps to formally object to the agency's practices. The Trump administration in September launched "Operation Midway Blitz," an initiative it said was aimed at detaining "criminal illegal aliens." The effort has prompted anxiety in several Chicago-area communities, including Lake Bluff. During his report at the Oct. 27 Village Board meeting, Village President Regis Charlot said the village had received multiple letters and phone calls from residents about the impact of ICE raids in the greater Chicago region. "This is a very sad conversation," Charlot said. Charlot's comments came

before reports surfaced of Border Patrol agents appearing in Evanston and other nearby communities, encounters that in some cases led to confrontations with residents. Trustee Shana Fried said she has heard from residents with family members who were detained in the area. "It is an issue that is already affecting our community and is having real practical and financial consequences," Fried said.

ABC News: [IL] Faith leaders blocked by ICE from delivering Communion to immigrants speak out

ABC News [11/3/2025 8:14 PM, Gaby Vinick, 30493K] reports faith leaders denounced Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for rejecting access to give Communion to immigrants being held at an Illinois facility over the weekend. The Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL), a Catholic and Christian-rooted nonprofit, organized a Mass by the immigration processing center on All Saints Day and Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Organizers estimate some 2,000 people attended on Saturday, as many prayed, sang and held signs protesting ICE. "Operation Midway Blitz has caused chaos and mayhem in our city," Michael Okińczyc-Cruz, the executive director of CSPL, told ABC News, referring to the immigration crackdown in Chicago. "It's creating such fear and trauma for so many of the families that we work with and that are members of our coalition," he said. Okińczyc-Cruz said that CSPL formally submitted a letter requesting access more than a week in advance and took numerous steps for ministers to give Communion to migrants in the Broadview facility. This is the second time they were denied entry since their first attempt on Oct. 11, he told ABC News. "These days are so symbolically important for us in the Catholic Church to honor the saints who've come before us," Okińczyc-Cruz said. Katrina Thompson, the mayor of Broadview, also submitted a letter on their behalf to DHS and ICE requesting permission on Oct. 22. It went unanswered, according to Okińczyc-Cruz. ABC News reached out but did not immediately hear back from DHS. Sister JoAnn Persch is the president of Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that supports asylum seekers with housing, legal and medical needs. She and Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José María Garcia-Maldonado led the delegation on Saturday. For nearly two decades, Persch and the late Sister Pat Murphy prayed for immigrants outside of the center, she said. A starkly different scene on Saturday emerged: leaders were not permitted to walk all the way down to the building, she told ABC News. "We never saw an ICE officer -- except when they kept riding up and down the street during the Mass," Persch said. Some members interpreted this to be an intimidation tactic, according to Okińczyc-Cruz.

New York Times: [IL] Trump, Chicago and the logistics of hosting a global sports match

New York Times [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Adam Crafton, 153395K] reports on Thursday evening, at the official welcome reception for New Zealand's rugby union test match against Ireland, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson took to the stage. "Holding this game at Soldier Field is a testament to Chicago's vibrant spirit," Johnson, a Democrat, began. "It is also about our ability to bring people from all around the world together. That is so critical at this time, because as a global city, we have a deep sense of local pride. We understand the combination of the ideal world, where we can bring all people together to understand the importance of not just the game, but also of our collective strength to uphold our humanity." For Chicago, it has been a fraught period in which the city, and the broader state of Illinois, has found itself at odds with President Donald Trump's administration. The federal government says there is a crime crisis in Chicago. In September, the administration

launched Operation Midway Blitz, led by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, with the stated objective to target “criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois.” Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin accused Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, also a Democrat, of “making Chicago a magnet for criminals” — a claim he denies — and said the operation would target “the worst of the worst.”

Breitbart: [MN] Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Plans to Alert Illegal Aliens Ahead of ICE Raids

Breitbart [11/3/2025 9:15 PM, Jasmyn Jordan, 2416K] reports Minneapolis mayoral candidate Omar Fateh discussed a plan during a podcast interview involving coordination between city leadership and community-based organizations to ensure elected officials and neighborhood groups are informed before potential immigration enforcement activity. Fateh, a Minnesota state senator and self-described democratic socialist now running for mayor of Minneapolis, said during a podcast interview: “We need to strengthen our separation ordinance. We need to have better communication between the mayor and the chief, and also the city council members, so that whenever we know something is coming down the pike, the city council is alerted immediately because they’re the connection point to the community, and they can articulate that and disseminate that information to folks. We really have to work really hard to better work with some of those boots-on-the-ground organizations that I just spoke about right now that are already providing the ‘Know Your Rights’ training, legal counseling, multilingual services. They’re the ones that are finding out a lot of times what’s happening on the ground. Because the city cannot do it alone, and we need to lock arms not just cross-jurisdictionally but with these organizations as well, because things are scary, and it’s going to get scarier as well.” According to a mayor’s update from Jacob Frey, the separation ordinance is described as: "City employees — including police officers and firefighters — are prohibited from participating in civil immigration enforcement.” Fateh is running on a platform that includes limiting police power, increasing non-police emergency response services, opposing cooperation between the Minneapolis Police Department and ICE, expanding funding for immigrant rights initiatives, and implementing carbon fees approved by the City Council. He previously supported legislation to provide taxpayer-funded college tuition to households earning under $80,000 per year, regardless of immigration status. He accused Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) of "white supremacy" for opposing taxpayer-funded tuition for illegal aliens, and labeled the U.S. policing system "systemically white supremacist.” Breitbart News has also reported that Fateh opened his campaign office as a support hub during the 2020 George Floyd riots, returned thousands in campaign donations tied to the Feeding Our Future fraud scheme after donors were identified in FBI warrants, pushed Amazon on mandatory prayer breaks for Muslim workers, supported banning tear gas and rubber bullets, cast an "uncommitted" vote in Minnesota’s 2024 Super Tuesday primary over the Biden administration’s Israel policy, and advocated raising the Minneapolis minimum wage to $20 per hour by 2028. Fateh received the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party’s endorsement for mayor in July 2025, but the endorsement was later revoked by the DFL’s Constitution, Bylaws & Rules Committee following verification of voting errors at the convention. Fateh criticized that decision and urged supporters to continue engaging in his campaign. He has drawn support from Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and former Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) in recent months.

AP: [TX] Data shows 1 in 4 immigration arrests happen in Texas, where about 1.6M immigrants illegally live

AP [11/3/2025 2:45 PM, Uriel J. Garcia, Colleen Duguzman, Alex Nguyen, and Carla Astudillo, 31753K] reports that on the evening of July 1, Luis Medrano called Houston police for help after his wife had gotten violent and punched him twice in the face during a schizophrenic episode in which she was hearing tormenting voices, according to a police report. Medrano, 50, a Mexican immigrant who met his wife when they crossed the Rio Grande with a group of about a dozen other migrants more than three decades ago, had tried to take his 47-year-old wife to the hospital, but she refused to go. So he did what he'd done three times before: called the police so they would take her to a hospital. But this time, the officer arrested her on suspicion of assault and booked her into jail. And after a prosecutor dismissed the case, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, picked her up from jail and eventually deported her to Mexico. In Texas, which has the second-largest population of immigrants living illegally in the country — with more than 1.6 million of the estimated 13.7 million nationally — the local criminal justice system has become the main funnel sending immigrants into ICE custody, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of federal government data. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, responded to questions from the Tribune by citing an Oct. 30 social media post by DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin that said "70% of illegal aliens ICE has arrested have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. "And that doesn't even account for those wanted for violent crimes in their country of origin or another country, INTERPOL notices, human rights abusers, gang members, terrorists," the post says. "The list goes on. The media continues to act as a PR firm for criminals."

Breitbart: [TX] 120 Illegal Aliens Arrested on Houston Streets in One Day

Breitbart [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Randy Clark, 2416K] reports more than 120 illegal aliens were arrested on Texas roadways in the greater Houston area in a single day. The operation that stretched into the late hours of October 29 cleared the roads of often unlicensed and uninsured illegal aliens, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A social media post on Sunday shows a video of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers carrying out the arrests in a parking lot near a Houston-area business and during several vehicle stops. The video described the activities with a statement saying, "We made over 120 arrests in Houston Oct.29-clearing our roads of dangerous, often uninsured, illegal aliens who should NOT be behind the wheel." As reported by Breitbart Texas, ERO officers and other federal agents in the greater Houston area have ramped up day and nighttime operations in targeted operations that have resulted in multiple arrests of illegal aliens around local businesses and on Houston roadways. During one nighttime sweep just days before the latest operation, Breitbart Texas's Bob Price rode with a team of 40 federal officers and agents as the group arrested approximately 25 illegal aliens, many with criminal records. Moving through Houston's high-crime corridors, Breitbart Texas observed the officers and agents, now armed with a new data-driven targeting system that seemed to send a clear message: ICE is now a 24/7 presence in Texas.

Houston Chronicle: [TX] A Texas priest is in ICE custody even though he can legally work in the U.S., diocese says

Houston Chronicle [11/3/2025 6:04 PM, Julián Aguilar, Haajrah Gilani, 2983K] reports an Episcopal priest and immigrant who was legally employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Conroe after

being detained last month, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas said. The diocese said it's unclear why the Kenyan man, the Rev. James Eliud Ngahu Mwangi, was detained while returning from his job Oct. 25. Doyle told Religion News Service, who first reported the story, that it's unclear why the priest was taken into custody, adding that the immigrant had a valid work permit.

New York Times: [CO] An Altercation With ICE Prompts a Police Chief to Push Back
New York Times [11/3/2025 6:59 PM, Jack Healy, 135475K] reports Brice Current, the police chief in Durango, Colo., knew there was a problem the moment he saw the video of an immigration agent putting a protester into what the chief saw as a chokehold and throwing her down an embankment. Immigration agents had arrested a Colombian man and his two children on their way to school last week, provoking a furious response from this liberal college town of 20,000 in the mountains of southwest Colorado. Dozens of residents — many with their arms linked — descended on the small Immigration and Customs Enforcement building where the family was being held, set up camp outside the razor-wire gates and tried to block authorities from removing the family from Durango. What set the protest apart from similar clashes between residents and immigration agents in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities was Chief Current's determination that the masked federal agent involved in the scuffle had crossed a line and his request for an investigation. He said he even considered filing criminal charges himself against the agent. "It appeared to be an out-of-policy and possibly illegal use of force," he said in an interview at police headquarters. The scene from Durango, captured by fellow protesters and put on social media, was violent and jarring, but no more so than many others across the country. Several protesters, including elected officials and a Democratic congressional candidate, have been arrested or charged with federal crimes at immigration detention centers. American citizens have been whisked into unmarked vehicles and charged with resisting arrest or attacking officers, though the people arrested have maintained they did no such thing. Protesters, journalists and clergy have sued over federal agents' use of tear gas and crowd-control munitions against protesters. A U.S. citizen who was violently thrown to ground in Chicago has vowed to "pursue all legal avenues" against the agents involved. But so far, no local prosecutors are known to have filed criminal charges against immigration agents. That might change. At Chief Current's request, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has opened an investigation into the incident in Durango, putting Democratic-led Colorado on a potential collision course with the Trump administration, which has threatened to prosecute any local officials if they charge federal agents carrying out President Trump's immigration crackdown.

Washington Examiner: [OR] 'Latinx' leader who served as Oregon policy advisor was illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes
Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Mia Cathell, 1394K] reports an illegal immigrant convicted of sex crimes in Oregon, a sanctuary state for unlawful immigration, held various advisory positions on state policymaking committees as a so-called "Latinx" community leader. Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia, a criminally convicted Venezuelan national who had overstayed his visa, according to U.S. immigration authorities, served in several committee roles advising the state of Oregon on policy areas such as behavioral health, "health equity," and healthcare for all, regardless of immigration status. Before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nabbed Garcia, a Portland-area activist and "educator," he was on Oregon's Community Engagement and Communications Committee to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which is tasked with creating a comprehensive plan for financing

and administering a single-payer healthcare system that covers all Oregonians, no matter their immigration status. Garcia's committee is responsible for developing community outreach recommendations and informational material, as part of the universal health plan that the board will present to Gov. Tina Kotek (D-OR) and the Oregon legislature. The board looks to committee members for "expertise and lived experience." Committee members are recruited by the governor-appointed board and are supposed to embody "equitable representation from every region and population around the state." On the Oregon government website, the board's community engagement committee describes Garcia as the executive director of LatinX Recovery Center, who is "currently in recovery from substance abuse with a criminal justice history." Over video conference, Garcia attended the committee's monthly meetings as recently as Sept. 24 and would offer insight in Spanish. Garcia, whose record reportedly includes sexual abuse and bestiality, was also an active member of the Behavioral Health Crisis System Advisory Committee, which advises the Oregon Health Authority, the state's health department, on overseeing the statewide crisis response system. While on the committee, Garcia served as a certified peer support specialist. Committee members were eligible for a $166 stipend each day of work on the advisory council. As of September 23, Garcia regularly appeared at committee meetings via video call and participated in discussions ranging from funding deliberations to legislative proposals. "It is SICKENING this monster was hiding in Oregon thanks to the state's sanctuary policies," the Department of Homeland Security said in an X post announcing that Garcia was in the United States on an overstayed B2 tourist visa. "Under President Trump and Secretary Noem, if you break the law, you will face the consequences," DHS wrote. "Criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the U.S.

New York Times: [CA] Man Shot by ICE Was Not Trying to Run Over Agent, Lawyers Say

New York Times [11/3/2025 7:46 PM, Soumya Karlamangla, 135475K] reports lawyers for a man shot last week by an immigration agent in Southern California are disputing the account given by federal officials who charged him with assault. The lawyers for Carlos Jimenez, 25, said on Monday that he was a bystander asking federal agents to move away from a bus stop where schoolchildren would soon be gathering. At the time, the immigration officers had stopped a vehicle near the bus stop in Ontario, Calif., about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Lawyers for Mr. Jimenez, a U.S. citizen, said he was later shot in the shoulder as he drove away from federal agents, but said that he did not try to use his vehicle to harm anyone. Federal prosecutors, however, said last week in a criminal complaint that an Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officer shot Mr. Jimenez because he pulled forward, turned his wheels and "rapidly accelerated" toward an officer during the vehicle stop on Thursday. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said on Monday that at about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, Mr. Jimenez drove up to a team of immigration officers overseeing a vehicle stop. He then "engaged in a verbal altercation with the officers," according to the criminal complaint filed against him, and officers ordered him to leave. Mr. Jimenez reversed his car toward them and "an ICE officer, fearing for his life, fired defensive shots at the vehicle," she said. He was charged on Friday with assault of a federal officer following the incident. He was released on bond. The altercation was the latest high-profile incident in which federal agents fired shots at drivers whom they accused of endangering them during immigration enforcement operations. Last month, a Mexican man targeted by immigration authorities was injured by gunfire during an operation in Los Angeles. In September, during a traffic stop in Chicago, an ICE agent shot and killed a man who authorities said had hit an officer with his car. A New York Times examination of video from the scene called into question

elements of the official D.H.S. account of the encounter. Ms. McLaughlin called the most recent incident an example of increasing threats that ICE officers face “as they risk their lives to enforce the law and arrest criminals.” She said that anyone who gets in the way of federal officers’ duties or threatens them will be arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Jimenez’s lawyers told a very different story. They described him, in an interview on Monday, as a father of three young children who lives in a mobile home park near where the officers were conducting their stop. He was headed to his job at a food bank, where he prepares and delivers donation boxes, when he noticed the officers blocking traffic, said Cynthia Santiago, one of his lawyers.

AP: [CA] Courts order ICE not to deport man who spent 43 years in prison before murder case overturned

AP [11/3/2025 5:48 PM, Maryclaire Dale] reports two separate courts have ordered immigration officials not to deport a Pennsylvania man who spent four decades in prison before his murder conviction was overturned. Subramanyam Vedam, 64, is currently detained at a short-term holding center in Alexandria, Louisiana, that’s equipped with an airstrip for deportations. Vedam, known as "Subu," was transferred there from central Pennsylvania last week, relatives said. An immigration judge stayed his deportation on Thursday until the Bureau of Immigration Appeals decides whether to review his case. That could take several months. Vedam’s lawyers also got a stay the same day in U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania, but said that case may be on hold given the immigration court ruling. Vedam came to the U.S. legally from India as an infant and grew up in State College, where his father taught at Penn State. He was serving a life sentence in a friend’s 1980 death before his conviction was overturned this year. He was released from state prison on Oct. 3, only to be taken straight into immigration custody. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking to deport Vedam over his no contest plea to charges of LSD delivery, filed when he was about 20. His lawyers argue that the four decades he wrongly spent in prison, where he earned degrees and tutored fellow inmates, should outweigh the drug case. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Monday that the reversal in the murder case does not negate the drug conviction.

Los Angeles Times: [CA] She helped get her violent husband deported. Then ICE deported her — straight into his arms.

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 6:00 AM, Rachel Uranga, 14862K] reports Carmen’s abusive husband came home drunk one night last summer. He pounded and kicked the door. He threatened to kill her as her young son watched in horror. She called police, eventually obtaining a restraining order. Months later he returned and beat her again. Police came again and he was eventually deported. Thinking she finally escaped his cruelty, Carmen applied for what is known as a U-Visa. The visa provides crime victims a way to stay in the United States legally, but the Trump administration has routinely ignored pending applications. During a regular immigration check-in in June, Carmen was detained. Two months later, she was put on a plane with her 8-year-old son, who just completed second grade. She was headed to her home country, terrified her husband would find her. Lawyers for Carmen along with several immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes last month sued the Trump administration in the Central District of California for detaining and deporting survivors with pending visa applications, some of whom have been granted status to stay and sometimes work. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, defended the practice of deporting those stuck in limbo, saying every unauthorized immigrant ICE removes "has had due

process and has a final order of removal — meaning they have no legal right to be in the country." The lawsuit argues the administration violated procedural rules in referencing the executive order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion" as the main justification for the policy. The invasion, it states, is "fictional" but the rhetoric has allowed Department of Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem and the immigration agencies to wage an "arbitrary, xenophobic and militarized mass deportation campaign that has terrorized immigrant communities and further victimized survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes who Congress sought to protect."

San Francisco Chronicle: [CA] Bay Area advocates urge city leaders to provide stronger immigrant protections

San Francisco Chronicle [11/3/2025 12:00 PM, St. John Barned-Smith, 4722K] reports Bay Area immigration advocates called on San Francisco city leaders Monday to strengthen protections for the city's undocumented community. The move comes just weeks after President Donald Trump vowed to dispatch scores of federal immigration agents to San Francisco, only to about-face the following day after a conversation with Mayor Daniel Lurie. San Francisco Rising Executive Director Celi Tamayo-Lee said the threatened surge was "a drill," that Bay Area leaders should take note of in the face of future raids or immigration enforcement. "The crisis we're in presents an opportunity to work with the community. Last week, we realized we have a city of people dedicated to helping our immigrant neighbors in material ways. … This is a good time for an agenda to pose proactive measures to support our immigrant community." The 10-page letter from SF Rising, an alliance of grassroots organizations, provides guidance on reforms or other actions that Tamayo-Lee and others say are critical to protecting San Francisco's undocumented community. It asks to create a community safety plan that clarifies what residents can expect in case of a National Guard deployment, where to access resources, and how the city would protect people's safety and rights. The measures are meant to help the city's immigrant community be more prepared to fight potential deportation raids, strengthen the city's legal defense programs for its immigrants, and provide other resources to support San Francisco's immigrant community. In its letter, SF Rising called on city leaders to improve communication with organizations that provide immigration services and rapid response networks that track sightings of ICE raids or agents.

Chicago Tribune: [Mexico] 'They destroyed us': East Chicago woman with schizophrenia who opted for deportation now missing in Mexico

Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:34 PM, Meredith Colias-Pete and Kate Perez, 4829K] reports when federal immigration agents raided Martha Porcallo Martinez's East Chicago, Indiana home on June 12, they also arrested her 26-year-old daughter who has schizophrenia. They were separated even before she got to Porter County Jail. For a week or two, she had no idea where her daughter was taken. When her lawyer intervened to ask, they found out she was at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Kentucky. For Porcallo Martinez's family, the one anonymous phone call to a U.S. Homeland Security tip line in November that led to the arrest has had far-reaching consequences. Now, her daughter went missing a week ago in Mexico, her lawyer Adam Tavitas said in court Monday.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Breitbart: Trump Streamlines Voter Verification, Ensuring Only U.S. Citizens are Voting

Breitbart [11/3/2025 6:35 PM, John Binder, 2416K] reports President Donald Trump's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is streamlining the government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program in the hopes of eliminating non-citizen voting from elections. On Monday, USCIS Director Joseph Edlow announced upgrades to the SAVE program, which allows states to verify that only American citizens are voting in federal elections. Previously, when verifying voter eligibility, states would have to input all nine digits of a voter registrant's Social Security Number. Now, thanks to the agency's reforms, states will only be required to use the last four digits of a registrant's Social Security Number. "USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," agency spokesman Matthew Tragesser said in a statement: By allowing states to efficiently verify voter eligibility, we are reinforcing the principle that America's elections are reserved exclusively for American citizens. We encourage all federal, state, and local agencies to use the SAVE program. [Emphasis added].

Federalist: A Judge Just Blocked Trump's Voter Citizenship Order. Congress Should Pass The SAVE Act

Federalist [11/3/2025 12:58 PM, Brianna Lyman, 785K] reports that a federal judge on Friday ruled President Donald Trump's executive order requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote is unconstitutional, making it even more necessary that Republicans in Congress take advantage of Trump's momentum and pass the SAVE Act. Trump signed the executive order in March, directing that within 30 days, "the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to require, in its national mail voter registration form issued under 52 U.S.C. 20508 … documentary proof of United States citizenship." The order also required state and local officials to record the type of documentation used and the date such documentation was issued. Some examples of documentary proof of citizenship include a United States passport, a REAL ID that indicates citizenship, a military identification card, and a valid federal or state government-issued identification. But District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled the order is unconstitutional, arguing Trump "lacks the authority to direct such changes." "Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the states and to Congress, this Court holds that the President lacks the authority to direct such changes."

Telemundo51: Venezuelans with TPS face uncertainty as immigration benefit ends

Telemundo51 [11/3/2025 4:47 PM, Alejandro Isturiz, 182K] reports Temporary Protected Status (TPS) expires at midnight on November 7 for thousands of Venezuelans in the United States. For many, returning to their country is not an option, and they say the most painful part is the possibility of losing what they have built over the years on American soil. It is estimated that some 250,000 Venezuelans will face deportation or will have to leave the country on their own. To prevent the cancellation of TPS, various Venezuelan organizations in the United States had filed injunctions and legal appeals seeking judicial approval. William Díaz, director of Casa Venezuela, says that "a DED, a deferred deportation, means that no one can be expelled or deported." Thus began a long journey through different courts until, on October 3, the Supreme Court confirmed a May decision, and Venezuelans with TPS will be left without work permits and will technically become undocumented. With

its decision, the Supreme Court left 600,000 Venezuelans residing in the country without legal protection under that immigration benefit. The Trump administration has appealed the ruling, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now rule on the case.

Customs and Border Protection

The Hill/NewsMax: Federal memo says cartels offering $10K for shooting at Border Patrol agents

The Hill [11/3/2025 3:06 PM, Ali Bradley, 12595K] reports criminal cartels are offering payments of $10,000 to shooters who fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents on the southern border, federal authorities said in an internal communication. It says the Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector had received information about "a coordinated attack" in which cartels may be offering the $10,000 payments "to individuals who engage in shooting at" agents. The threat is believed to have originated from northern Sonora, Mexico, according to the communication. Sources said Border Patrol stations in Brownsville and Kingsville were the initial targets. NewsMax [11/3/2025 4:31 PM, Nicole Weatherholtz, 4109K] reports that the alert, which was obtained by NewsNation correspondent Ali Bradley, said that "additional reporting suggests that assailants may wear Mexican military uniforms to avoid raising suspicion while carrying long arms or machine guns." The threat is reportedly thought to have originated in northern Sonora, Mexico. Sources told The Hill that the Brownsville and Kingsville Border Patrol stations were the initial targets.

Telemundo: Trump will place Border Patrol chiefs in charge of ICE in US cities

Telemundo [11/3/2025 11:57 PM, Shelby Bremer, 57K] reports that, according to multiple sources, the Trump administration is planning a major restructuring of immigration enforcement, with the goal of putting Border Patrol leaders in charge of ICE operations in cities across the United States. This move comes after senior officials expressed frustration with the pace of deportations, as nationwide arrests average around 1,100 per day, well below the target of 3,000. "The mindset is that CBP does what it's told, and the administration believes ICE is not doing its job well," a Department of Homeland Security official told NBC News. "So CBP will take charge." Both the Border Patrol and ICE in San Diego said they could not comment because the matter is being handled by DHS in Washington, D.C. Previously limited to operations at or near the border, the Border Patrol has seen its powers expanded since Trump took office. It was the Border Patrol that was deployed to step up enforcement in Los Angeles and then in Chicago, where El Centro Sector Chief Greg Bovino was caught on video firing tear gas into a crowd. "This administration has reinstated mobile patrols like we've never seen before," said San Diego activist Benjamin Prado, who leads community patrols in response to police operations with his organization Unión del Barrio. "Everything indicates that this will be a much more aggressive and hostile entity than we have seen so far." DHS Deputy Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the agency does not plan to announce any personnel changes at this time, but stated in a release: "This is one team, one fight. President Trump has a brilliant and tenacious team, led by Secretary Noem, to fulfill the American people's mandate to remove illegal immigrants with criminal records from the country." On the program 60 Minutes, President Donald Trump himself said he believed law enforcement had not gone far enough. "I think they haven't gone far enough because we've been held back by the judges, the liberal judges that Biden and Obama appointed," Trump said. When asked if he agreed with those tactics, Trump replied, "Yes, because you have to get people out." "It's very

concerning," Prado said. "All of this indicates that we will see many more citizens and migrant workers being assaulted and attacked." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Washington Examiner: Border Patrol in rare position to prepare for future amid illegal immigration recession

Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 8:00 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 1394K] reports the Border Patrol is in a rare position to get its back-of-house in tip-top shape while illegal immigration at the southern border is at a historic low. Current and former senior Border Patrol agents, as well as a U.S. congressman who represents the largest district on the U.S.-Mexico border, shared their top recommendations for how the federal law enforcement organization should be preparing during this lull for when President Donald Trump leaves office in 2029. Arrests of illegal border crossers have come crashing down from as much as 250,000 per month during former President Joe Biden's tenure to less than 10,000 per month under President Donald Trump. The drop in illegal border crossers means agents are not busy inside processing facilities, interviewing migrants, transporting them, and the gamut of tasks associated with temporary detention. It has freed up Border Patrol to be able to assist ICE by deploying its own agents across the country to assist their partners at the Department of Homeland Security, tracking down illegal immigrants who have criminal histories or who a judge has ordered be deported. Last week, ICE and Border Patrol officials disclosed to the Washington Examiner that tensions are running high between agencies as border agents have moved in to help ICE, and senior border officials are being installed at ICE's top ranks. Both feel the other is to blame for the millions of illegal immigrants who were released into the United States during the Biden administration and have struggled recently to work together and emerge as one united front. Despite its work with ICE, Border Patrol still has plenty of time to focus on drug smuggling and other threats, as well as take a step back and consider what needs to be addressed internally to be more effective in the future.

Transportation Security Administration

Reuters: US travel group warns Congress of Thanksgiving chaos amid government shutdown

Reuters [11/3/2025 7:19 PM, Anshuman Tripathy, 36480K] reports a travel association has urged the U.S. Congress in a letter on Monday to reopen the federal government ahead of the Thanksgiving travel rush, as the shutdown stretches into its 34th day. The prolonged shutdown has led to a spike in airline delays, affecting airports and 3.2 million passengers due to a high number of absences in air traffic controllers, with many of them taking up second jobs to cope. The shutdown is estimated to cost the U.S. economy between $7 billion and $14 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "Air travel's number one priority is safety and while safety will be maintained, travelers will pay a heavy and completely unnecessary price in terms of delays, cancellations and lost confidence in the air travel experience," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman. In a letter that was signed by 500 organizations, including Hilton (HLT.N) and MGM Resorts (MGM.N), Freeman urged the Congress that the fastest way to restore confidence and restart travel was to reopen the government by passing a clean continuing resolution. "The damage from this shutdown is growing by the hour with 60% of Americans reconsidering their travel plans". The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay and snarled tens of thousands of flights.

San Diego Union Tribune: [CA] After widespread delays, operations back to normal at San Diego International Airport

San Diego Union Tribune [11/3/2025 6:30 PM, Alex Riggins, 1538K] reports operations were back to normal Monday at San Diego International Airport, a day after tower staffing issues linked to the federal government shutdown caused widespread delays, airport officials said. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground delay Sunday afternoon, and an FAA website indicated the delays were caused by staffing issues in the control tower. By Sunday night, the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that all inbound and departing flights out of the downtown San Diego airport were delayed by about an hour. An airport spokesperson said there was no lingering impact Monday from the delays. In a statement nearly identical to one issued Sunday, the spokesperson advised passengers traveling out of San Diego International to check their flight status before leaving for the airport, and to arrive two hours early for flights. Los Angeles International Airport and other large airports around the country also experienced delays due to staffing shortages Sunday. While most appeared to be back to normal operations Monday, the FAA reported that three airports in Texas — Dallas Love Field, Dallas/Fort Worth International and Austin-Bergstrom International — were all experiencing widespread delays Monday due to staffing issues.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Miami Herald: [FL] Movie cash circulating in the Florida Keys, Monroe County Sheriff's office warns

Miami Herald [11/3/2025 5:39 PM, David Goodhue] reports the $100 bills look real at first glance, but they are marked as fake and say they are only meant for use in making motion pictures, according to sheriff's office spokesman Adam Lindhard. Most of the counterfeit cash is turning up in the Lower Keys and Key West, Linhardt said. The Key West Police Department recently issued a similar warning about fake $20 bills finding their way to the Southernmost City. Linhardt said the bogus bills are likely left over from a previous film production in the Keys. Authorities are warning people and businesses to double-check all cash they receive. The Sheriff's Office has received reports of fake/counterfeit money that's used in films/movies circulating in Monroe County, notably the Lower Keys and Key West.

Secret Service

FOX News: [IL] Illinois man allegedly threatens Trump execution in profanity-laced videos, faces federal charges

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:17 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports federal agents say an Illinois man allegedly called for President Donald Trump's execution in a string of profanity-laced Instagram videos, prompting a Secret Service investigation that led to a federal charge of making interstate threats to kill public officials. In a criminal complaint filed Oct. 31 in the Northern District of Illinois and unsealed Monday morning, Trent Schneider, 57, of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, was charged with allegedly making a true threat to injure another person in interstate commerce. According to the allegations, Schneider posted violent videos and memes on social media calling for Trump's execution as his home neared foreclosure. In one video posted Oct. 16, he allegedly looked directly into the camera and railed against judges, doctors, lawyers and police, saying, "People like me have suffered real f---ing crimes from f---ing judges, doctors, lawyers, police. They all should be killed. All of them should be executed for what they've done." "They need to be killed. They need to

be executed, ok? They are frauds, ok? I think it's time. I've waited long enough," he allegedly continued. "I'm going to get some guns. I know where I can get a lot of f---ing guns and I am going to take care of business myself. I'm tired of all you f---ing frauds. People need to f---ing die and people are going to die. F--- all of you, especially you, Trump. You should be executed." Prosecutors allege Schneider reposted the same video nearly 20 times over several days, often tagging Trump Tower Chicago. Each post carried the same caption: "THIS IS NOT A THREAT!!! … AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING and My House Auction date is 11.04.2025 @realDonaldTrump SHOULD BE EXECUTED!!!". A viewer in Florida allegedly saw one of the videos and reported it to authorities, according to court documents. That tip led the U.S. Secret Service to begin investigating Schneider and identify his Instagram account, which agents say he used to post threats viewable nationwide. Agents went to Schneider's home in Winthrop Harbor on Oct. 22 to question him, according to the affidavit. When they arrived, they allegedly saw cameras set up on tripods in the driveway. Schneider came outside, yelled at the officers to get off his property and later posted a video of them walking away – with the same caption calling for Trump's execution. Law enforcement had previously encountered Schneider, according to the complaint. In 2022, agents interviewed him over violent social media posts targeting public officials, and later that year he was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a T-Mobile store. A court found him unfit to stand trial in 2023, according to the complaint.

Reported similarly:
Chicago Tribune [11/3/2025 5:43 PM, Jason Meisner, 4829K]
Telemundo52 [11/3/2025 5:57 PM, James Neveau, 76K]

CBS Chicago: [IL] Man arrested, home searched by Secret Service and SWAT in Winthrop Harbor
CBS Chicago [11/3/2025 5:06 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports a Winthrop Harbor man under investigation by the U.S. Secret Service was arrested Monday morning at his home in Lake County, Illinois.

GMA3: [IL] Secret Service Investigating at Lake County, IL Home
(B) GMA3 [11/3/2025 1:26 PM, Staff] reports Secret Service is investigating a home in Winthrop Harbor in Lake County, Illinois. Sources say a man is under investigation for allegedly making threats against President Trump and other online. The Secret Service will only say that they are working with local law enforcement on a protective intelligence investigation.

Coast Guard

NBC News Daily: [FL] Crews Battle Boat Fire
(B) NBC News Daily [11/3/2025 3:23 PM, Staff] reports that according to Broward Sheriff's officials, a fire erupted on a 35-foot vessel in the waters near Dania Beach and Hollywood. Two people were onboard when the fire started. The boat appears to be completely destroyed. The two passengers were taken aboard at US Coast Guard vessel. There were no injuries to report.

CBS Miami: [FL] Good Samaritan, U.S. Coast Guard help rescue 2 men after boat catches fire near Hollywood Beach

CBS Miami [11/3/2025 6:12 PM, Staff, 39474K] Video: HERE reports CBS News Chopper 4 captured the moment crews put out the blaze as the boat sank. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Bloomberg: US Elections Face Security Test as DHS Cuts Local Support
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 6:21 PM, Patrick Howell O'Neill, 1538K] reports that, as voters across the U.S. from New York City to New Jersey and Virginia to California prepare to cast ballots Tuesday, election officials are operating with sharply reduced support from a federal government agency that had previously helped states and localities counter bomb threats and cyberattacks. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has abandoned an Election Day situation room it had operated for years to share vital intelligence on physical and cyber threats with state and local authorities, said Paul Lux, chair of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a national coalition of election officials. CISA's decision to end the information-sharing arrangement follows the dismantling of the agency's election security team earlier this year. Remaining election personnel with CISA, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, have since been prohibited from working with or contacting state election officials, according to a person familiar with the matter. The cuts have sent state and local officials responsible for running elections searching for ways to shore up potential gaps in cybersecurity, threat monitoring and physical protection of polling places. Changes at Homeland Security are sinking in as the nation confronts a bitterly divided political climate marked by violent outbursts including the assassination of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. Americans will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide the winners of gubernatorial, mayoral and legislative races, as well as judicial seats and ballot initiatives. Election Day marks the first real test of the political landscape since Donald Trump's return to the White House, offering an early glimpse of how his administration will oversee elections whose integrity he and his allies have repeatedly challenged. The New York City mayoral race, in particular, has drawn national attention as a proxy battle over urban governance, progressive politics and the future of the Democratic party. Homeland Security officials continue to communicate and provide guidance to state and local personnel on other matters, according to an agency spokesperson. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, CISA has refocused on its core mission and leads the nation's effort to secure critical infrastructure, and that includes election infrastructure from cyber and physical threats," said DHS spokesperson Scott McConnell. "Every day, DHS and CISA are providing our partners the most capable and timely threat intelligence, expertise and resources they need to defend against risks." DHS officials forcibly reassigned or put on leave members of CISA's election security and resilience team in the months after Trump returned to power in January, according to people familiar with the matter. The CISA team was charged with coordinating election security efforts among the more than 10,000 election jurisdictions throughout the U.S. The federal government has historically taken a lead in uniting, informing, and enabling state and local election officials to secure elections. In February, CISA froze all election security activities and the department initiated a review of CISA's role in helping state and local officials, Politico reported. Nine months later, the result has not been made public.

Bloomberg: Ex-Cybersecurity Staffers Charged With Moonlighting as Hackers
Bloomberg [11/3/2025 4:16 PM, Jake Bleiberg, 18207K] reports three employees at cybersecurity companies spent years moonlighting as criminal hackers, launching their own

ransomware attacks in a plot to extort millions of dollars from victims around the country, US prosecutors alleged in court filings. Ryan Clifford Goldberg, the former director of incident response at Sygnia Consulting Ltd., and Kevin Tyler Martin, who was a ransomware negotiator for DigitalMint, were charged with working together to hack five businesses starting in May 2023. In one instance, they, along with a third person, received a ransom payment of nearly $1.3 million worth of cryptocurrency from a medical device company based in Tampa, Florida, according to prosecutors. The trio worked in a part of the cybersecurity industry that has sprung up to help companies negotiate with hackers to unfreeze their computer networks — sometimes by paying ransom. They are also accused of sharing their illicit profits with the developers of the type of ransomware they allegedly used on their victims. DigitalMint informed some customers about the charges last week, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News. The other person who was allegedly involved in the scheme was also a ransomware negotiator at the same firm as Martin but wasn't charged, according to court records. The person wasn't identified in court records, nor are the companies that the defendants' former employers. Sygnia confirmed Goldberg had worked there. Martin last year gave a talk at a law school, which listed him as an employee of DigitalMint. Goldberg is being held in a federal jail in Florida and his lawyer, federal public defender MaeAnn Renee Dunker, declined to comment. Court records don't indicate whether Goldberg has entered a plea. Martin, who was released on bond, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Tor Ekeland, declined to comment.

Reported similarly:
Reuters [11/3/2025 7:45 PM, Raphael Satter, 36480K]

NPR: Researchers uncover security gap while studying satellite communications
NPR [11/4/2025 4:41 AM, Jenna McLaughlin, 34837K] reports a team of academics studying satellites accidentally intercepted phone calls, texts and other sensitive communications. They were able to intercept the data with just a satellite dish on the roof. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

Terrorism Investigations

Reuters/New York Times/CNN/Washington Examiner: [MI] Suspects charged in alleged terror plot cited ISIS and may have tried to replicate Paris terror attack on US soil, FBI says
Reuters [11/3/2025 12:32 PM, Andrew Goudsward, 36480K] reports federal prosecutors have charged two men tied to what they allege was an ISIS-inspired plot based out of Michigan to carry out an attack in the U.S., according to a court document made public on Monday. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud each purchased firearms, including AR-15-style rifles, in recent months and participated in online conversations indicating they had knowledge of an attack plot, according to an FBI affidavit. Ali and Mahmoud were each charged under a federal law that bars attempting or conspiring to transfer firearms and ammunition that the person believes would be used in a crime of terrorism, in this case providing material support to ISIS. The pair have not yet entered pleas. A lawyer for Ali did not immediately respond to a request for comment and attorney information for Mahmoud was not immediately available. Prosecutors allege that five people, including at least one juvenile, were involved in the plot though only two are so far facing federal charges. The group used encrypted messaging platforms and social media to share ISIS-related messages encouraging attacks, according to court documents. U.S. authorities allege both

men practiced shooting firearms at gun ranges in recent weeks and appeared to set October 31, Halloween, as the date for the attack, according to the FBI affidavit. The document does not identify any specific targets for the alleged plot. The New York Times [11/3/2025 4:54 PM, Karoun Demirjian, 135475K] reports that the affidavit does not specify whether the accused individuals and their accused co-conspirators ever settled on a target for their attack, even as they chose to time it around Halloween — using the word “pumpkin” to refer to the date. But it surmises that Person 1, Mr. Ali and Mr. Mahmoud were “scouting possible L.G.B.T.Q.+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale,” a suburb of Detroit. CNN [11/3/2025 4:00 PM, Alaa Elassar, 18595K] reports that an FBI raid on Halloween morning stunned neighbors in Dearborn, the second-safest city in Michigan and home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the US. Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud face charges of "Receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the firearms and ammunition would be used to commit a Federal crime of terrorism," according to a criminal complaint. "Our newly unsealed complaint reveals a major ISIS-linked terror plot," US Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on X. "According to the complaint, subjects had multiple AR-15 rifles, tactical gear, and a detailed plan to carry out an attack on American soil," she said, thanking officials for averting an attack "before innocent lives were lost.” If convicted, Ali and Mahmoud could face up to 15 years in federal prison and a $250,000 fine, a spokesperson for the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan said. Ali and an unidentified juvenile were "planning to conduct a terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the designated foreign terrorist organization ISIS," an FBI agent wrote in the criminal complaint, citing communications on an encrypted app. Further investigation revealed Mahmoud and others were co-conspirators in the plot, the agent said. Ali purchased a shotgun, an AR-15-style rifle and multiple accessories, including "a forced reset trigger that allows a shooter to increase the rate of fire in a semiautomatic weapon," the complaint says. Mahmoud also bought an AR-15-style rifle and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used in AR-15 style rifles he and Ali had purchased, the agent said. A suspect mentions doing the ‘same thing as France’ on Halloween. In addition to meeting in person, Ali, Mahmoud, the juvenile and co-conspirators chatted online, sharing "extremist and ISIS-related materials that encourage attacks similar to what they planned," the FBI agent wrote. Ali and the juvenile "discussed when to conduct their attack, which they appeared to set for Halloween," the complaint says. The Washington Examiner [11/3/2025 12:05 PM, David Zimmermann, 1394K] reports that on Friday, FBI Director Kash Patel announced multiple suspects who allegedly planned a "potential terrorist attack" were arrested. "The FBI stopped a potential terrorist attack in Michigan before it could unfold," Patel said in a subsequent post later that day. "Thanks to swift action and coordination with our partners, a violent plot tied to international terrorism was disrupted. This is what defending the homeland looks like — vigilance saves lives." Law enforcement initially detained at least five suspects, two of whom were released after being questioned. The other three remain in custody. The suspects were apprehended in Dearborn, a city with the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, and nearby Inkster. The FBI has revealed few details of the foiled terror attack since Friday, but according to federal authorities, it was expected to take place over the holiday weekend.

Reported similarly:
AP [11/3/2025 5:45 PM, Ed White, 31753K]
NBC News [11/3/2025 12:25 PM, Chloe Atkins and Doha Madani, 34509K]
NewsMax [11/3/2025 11:43 AM, Jim Mishler, 4109K]
Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 3:38 PM, Tresa Baldas and Darcie Moran, 4030K]

FOX News: [MI] Suspects in foiled Halloween terror plot pictured practicing at Michigan gun range: FBI

FOX News [11/3/2025 2:37 PM, Michael Ruiz, 40621K] Video: HERE reports two Michigan men have been charged in a foiled ISIS-inspired terror attack that allegedly would have involved a massacre in a Detroit suburb on Halloween, according to an FBI affidavit. Mohmed Ali, of Dearborn, Michigan, and Majed Mahmoud are accused of plotting to launch a terror-inspired mass shooting codenamed "pumpkin," according to court documents. They've been charged with receiving, transferring and attempting to receive and transfer firearms knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that they would be used to commit terrorism. Ali practiced shooting at a local gun range multiple times, including with Mahmoud, a juvenile suspect referred to as "Person 1" and under the alias "Athari" — and once with an unnamed "Co-conspirator 4," according to the complaint. The charges come after Amir Makled, a lawyer for Ali, who was arrested Friday, claimed to The Associated Press that there was no plot and that he did not expect charges to be filed. Makled did not respond to a request for comment from Fox News Digital Monday. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

The Hill: Halloween terror plot Patel described never existed: Lawyer

The Hill [11/3/2025 8:34 AM, Sarah Fortinsky, 12595K] reports a defense attorney in Michigan is pushing back on the FBI's allegations that his client and a group of young men arrested on Friday were planning to carry out a violent attack over the Halloween weekend. FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrests of multiple individuals on Friday that he said were plotting a "potential terrorist attack." He said more details would be forthcoming. Amir Makled, the lawyer for a Dearborn, Mich., man who was still detained on Saturday, said he hasn't gotten many details about the case, but told The Associated Press that, after reviewing the matter, he doesn't expect any charges to be filed. He said he concluded no terror attack was being planned. "I don't know where this hysteria and this fearmongering came from," Makled said. "If these young men were on forums that they should not have been on or things of that nature, then we'll have to wait and see," Makled added. "But I don't believe that there's anything illegal about any of the activity they were doing."

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Dearborn leaders skeptical of government after alleged terrorism plot

Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 5:03 PM, Andrea May Sahouri, 4030K] reports ever since FBI Director Kash Patel posted on Oct. 31 about the alleged thwarted Halloween terrorism plot, it's been a "here-we-go-again" moment for many in Dearborn who say they've grown too accustomed to racism and Islamophobia against their largely Arab and Muslim community. The FBI says that two men from Michigan − Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud − were part of a larger group that shared ISIS-related extremist materials online and in encrypted chats. According to federal investigators: The group talked about and encouraged terrorist attacks and members bought AR-15 rifles along with large amounts of ammunition. They held multiple gun training sessions over a period of about three months. And they also scouted locations in LGBTQI+-friendly Ferndale as possible targets for an attack on Halloween. The FBI's investigation began about a year ago and involved an undercover informant who recorded the group's conversations. Authorities say the men had planned and trained for months to carry out a possible attack in Michigan over Halloween weekend.

Detroit Free Press: [MI] Ferndale police chief thanks FBI; terror attack could have 'come to our doorstep'

Detroit Free Press [11/3/2025 4:11 PM, Dave Boucher, 4030K] reports Ferndale's top law enforcement officer said the city may have bourne the brunt of brutal violence but for the swift actions of federal agents to thwart what prosecutors call a terrorism plot. The comments come hours after federal prosecutors revealed charges against two people accused of plotting a terrorism attack Halloween weekend in Ferndale. As of Monday, Nov. 3, prosecutors charged Mohmed Ali and Majed Mahmoud, both 20, with receiving and transferring, and attempting and conspiring to transfer, firearms and ammunition with the intent to commit terrorism. The two men are accused of scouting "possible LGBTQ+-friendly attack locations in Ferndale," according to the 73-page criminal complaint. Prosecutors say a group of men conspired to commit an atrocity in the name of the terrorist group ISIS, collecting AR-15-style firearms and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition while scouting possible locations for an attack. Both men charged in this case are scheduled to appear in federal court again next week.

FOX News: [NV] Questions grow about soldier's Tesla Cybertruck attack at Trump Las Vegas hotel

FOX News [11/3/2025 9:46 PM, Emma Bussey, 40621K] reports the mystery surrounding the motive for the Tesla Cybertruck attack outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day only deepened after the final investigative report from local police provided few new details. The 78-page "after-action" report released Monday by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), confirmed that Matthew Livelsberger, who died by suicide before the explosion, left a manifesto on his phone, which investigators recovered during forensic analysis. The Department of War declared the manifesto classified, and the investigation was turned over to the federal government, the report said. The report, seen by Fox News Digital, confirms that the Green Beret was on leave from his Special Forces unit and had rented a Tesla Cybertruck through the car-sharing platform Turo. He filled it with fireworks, gas cans and camping fuel, and drove it to the Trump International Hotel just after 8:40 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2025. There, the vehicle detonated, causing damage and injuring six people. LVMPD and federal investigators described the incident as a premeditated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack "with the potential to cause mass casualties and extensive structural damage" but did not call it terrorism. Investigators also reconstructed Livelsberger's final days using phone data, bank records and surveillance footage. Surveillance video showed Livelsberger pouring accelerant into the truck bed moments before detonation, an act LVMPD said reflected planning rather than impulse. Counterterrorism investigators concluded he sought to make "a very big, very public statement," suggesting the Las Vegas location was chosen for visibility and impact. He also left behind a note claiming the attack was not terror-related, but a way for the soldier to "cleanse" his mind but criticized the "feckless leadership" of a U.S. that is "near collapse," officials said. "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake-up call," Livelsberger wrote in the notes app on his phone. "Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives," Livelsberger wrote. One of his messages was said to have gone to Shawn Ryan, an ex-Navy SEAL and CIA contractor. Fox News Digital has reached out to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for comment.

National Security News

Daily Caller: 'Arctic Frost' Prosecutor Could Use Cushy Big Tech Job To Target Conservatives, Watchdog Warns

Daily Caller [11/3/2025 9:37 AM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports a conservative watchdog group is urging the Trump administration to take a closer look at its contracts with Microsoft as the Biden-era "Arctic Frost" probe continues to unravel. The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is demanding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review its contracts with Microsoft after the tech giant hired former Biden Justice Department official Lisa Monaco, according to a letter obtained by the Daily Caller News Foundation. The letter warns that Monaco's senior position poses a national security risk, as she is privy to sensitive information between Microsoft and the federal government. "The risk that Monaco could again use access to information contained in Department contracts to turn against her political opponents, or even those Microsoft users within the government with whom she disagrees, is great given her past outrageous behavior," CASA Director James Fitzpatrick stated to DHS. "Considering the various national security implications of Microsoft's government contracts being overseen by Monaco, we ask you to immediately initiate a review of Microsoft's contracts with the Department for potential termination." Appointed earlier this year as Microsoft's president of global affairs, Monaco previously served as deputy attorney general under President Joe Biden. As a top prosecutor within the Biden administration, Monaco played an integral role in "Arctic Frost," a wide-ranging investigation that Republicans contend used an election interference case as a pretense to essentially target the entire Republican Party.

The Hill: Trump tariffs face Supreme Court

The Hill [11/3/2025 6:48 PM, Sylvan Lane, 12595K] reports the main question looming over the case is whether Trump can use emergency powers to justify his worldwide levies as he seeks to transform global trade — an untested expansion of executive authority. Trump has justified the bulk of his sweeping tariff agenda by pointing to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which gives the president power to "regulate" imports in response to certain emergencies. Small businesses and Democratic-led states will make the case Wednesday that Congress never envisioned "regulate" to include tariffs when it passed IEEPA in 1977. No president before Trump invoked the law to impose tariffs, so the Supreme Court has never decided that question. The justices' answer may depend on how they view a 50-year-old appellate decision dating back to former President Nixon. An appeals court's 50-year-old decision could come into play regarding Trump's own statements about his banner policy.

ABC News: [Nigeria] US designates Nigeria 'Country of Particular Concern' after Trump threat over alleged attacks on Christians

ABC News [11/3/2025 6:06 PM, Mariam Khan, 30493K] reports the State Department on Monday officially updated its designation for Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" for its alleged severe violations of religious freedom and persecution of Christians. The CPC label is given by the U.S. government to nations "engaged in severe violations of religious freedom" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The designation is largely symbolic, but U.S. law states that governments must "take targeted responses to violations of religious freedom." The move comes after President Donald Trump accused the Nigerian government of not doing enough to protect Christians from violence. He also instructed the Pentagon on Saturday to prepare for possible action in Nigeria and threatened to cut U.S. aid. The secretary of state is responsible for deeming a country a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC). Other countries designated as CPCs include Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Trump previously

designated Nigeria as a CPC in December 2020 during his first term in office, but that designation was reversed the following year under the Biden administration. Biden Secretary of State Antony Blinken removed Nigeria from the CPC designation list in November 2021 after assessing it did not meet the criteria a formal designation of concern regarding "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" violations of religious freedom. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom blasted the move at the time and said the decision to remove Nigeria from the special designation was "unexplainable" and appalling. According to the State Department, the International Religious Freedom Act requires an annual review of the status of religious freedom worldwide and the designation of countries that have "engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" during the reporting period. The IRFA defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including violations such as torture, degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons," according to the State Department.

Axios: [Nigeria] Trump threatens U.S. military intervention in Nigeria

Axios [11/3/2025 8:56 AM, Avery Lotz, 12972K] reports President Trump instructed the Pentagon over the weekend to prepare for possible military action in Nigeria, threatening to enter the West African nation "guns-a-blazing" over accusations of violence against Christians. Violence and instability in Nigeria has affected Muslims and Christians alike for more than a decade. It's highly unlikely that the U.S. would be able to solve the problem with a swift strike, as Trump suggested. Trump did not rule out U.S. boots on the ground in Nigeria while traveling aboard Air Force One Sunday. Asked if he could envisage boots on the ground or air strikes, he replied, "Could be." Trump wrote that if the Nigerian government "continues to allow the killing of Christians," the U.S. will cease all aid to the country. He added that the U.S. "may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities." If there is a U.S. attack, he said, it "will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!" Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth responded to the president's post: "Yes sir," and added that his department was "preparing for action."

Breitbart: [Nigeria] Nigerian President Denies Jihadist Slaughter, Says via Adviser He Will Meet Trump

Breitbart [11/3/2025 8:46 AM, Frances Martel, 2416K] reports Nigerian President Bola Tinubu condemned President Donald Trump's statements acknowledging the ongoing genocide of Christians in his country in remarks on Saturday, claiming they did not reflect "reality," while a top adviser told local media Tinubu planned to meet Trump "in the coming days." "The characterisation of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality," Tinubu said in a statement on Saturday, "nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians." The president claimed his administration "maintained an open and active engagement with Christian and Muslim leaders alike." His statement did not address the top jihadist threats in his country – ethnic Fulani jihadist militias and the terrorist organization Boko Haram – by name. On Sunday, Tinubu special adviser Daniel Bwala announced on social media that the Nigerian president expected to hold meetings with Trump in person in the near future. "Both President Bola Tinubu and President Donald Trump have shared interest in the fight against insurgency and all forms of terrorism against

humanity," Bwala wrote, in a much more conciliatory message towards Trump than Tinubu's initial remarks. "President Trump has assisted Nigeria a lot by authorizing the sale of arms to Nigeria, and President Tinubu has adequately utilized the opportunity in the fight against terrorism, for which we have massive results to show for it," Bwala highlighted, adding that the disagreement over the existence of the ongoing Christian genocide "would be discussed and resolved" in the near future.

CNN: [Nigeria] The violence in Nigeria that Trump cites as a reason for military strikes is not limited to Christians

CNN [11/3/2025 11:45 AM, Nimi Princewill, 606K] reports US President Donald Trump caused alarm across Nigeria over the weekend when he said he was contemplating military action in Africa's most populous nation in response to what he claimed was a "mass slaughter" of Christians by Islamist insurgents. The reality on the ground, experts and analysts say, is a more complex and nuanced one. Both Christians and Muslims — the two main religious groups in the country of more than 230 million people — have been victims of attacks by radical Islamists, they say. The West African nation has grappled for years with deep-rooted security problems that are driven by various factors, including religiously motivated attacks. Observers say other violent conflicts arise from communal and ethnic tensions, as well as disputes between farmers and herders over limited access to land and water resources. The Nigerian government rejects claims that it is not doing enough to protect Christians from violence, saying it was bewildered by Trump's suggestion of a potential military intervention. "We are shocked that President Trump is mulling an invasion of our country," Nigerian presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga told CNN after the US president instructed the Pentagon to prepare for possible military action. Additionally, Trump threatened to stop all US aid to Nigeria if its government fails to take steps to stop the killings of Christians. He warned that the proposed intervention would be "fast and vicious," aimed at eliminating the "Islamic Terrorists" he said were responsible for these atrocities.

FOX News: [Tanzania] Urgent advisory for safari destination warns of 'terrorist violence' and risk of 'unrest'

FOX News [11/3/2025 12:33 PM, Ashley J., 40621K] reports the U.S. State Department has issued an increased travel advisory pertaining to Tanzania, adding an "unrest" risk indicator. The Level 2 advisory was increased to Level 3 on Oct. 31, following the presidential, Parliament and council elections there. "Reconsider travel to Tanzania due to unrest, crime, terrorism and targeting of gay and lesbian individuals," the advisory says. "Some areas [carry] increased risk." The State Department has warned that demonstrations can be unpredictable, and the Tanzanian government has increased security presence around protests. "Members of the gay and lesbian community have been arrested, targeted and harassed. People who identify as gay or lesbian may experience a higher likelihood of being targeted by police," the advisory says. The advisory adds, "People detained under suspicion of same-sex sexual conduct may face invasive physical exams." Violent crime is also listed as common; the advisory mentioned the risk of robberies, assault and sexual assault. The State Department also says there's a risk of "terrorist violence," stating that it is most common in the Mtwara Region.

Los Angeles Times: [Israel] Israel hands over bodies of 45 Palestinians after Hamas returns the remains of 3 soldiers

Los Angeles Times [11/3/2025 12:01 PM, Wafaa Shurafa and Julia Frankel, 14862K] reports Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a

day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza. The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire intended to end the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. Since the truce took effect on Oct. 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza. For each hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire.

New York Post: [Iraq] Iraqi PM: Let us join in America's peaceful prosperity — and help calm the Middle East

New York Post [11/3/2025 6:49 PM, Maria Lencki, 42219K] reports for decades, security concerns shaped relations between Iraq and the United States almost exclusively. Long wars, the fight against terrorism and heavy sacrifices on both sides left deep marks. Yet Iraq today is no longer the country it was 20 years ago. Our armed forces are stronger, our institutions more mature, and — thanks to cooperation with the United States and the international coalition — we are increasingly capable of defending our sovereignty. The gradual reduction of coalition troops is not a retreat but a reflection of Iraq's growing confidence and its willingness to shoulder responsibility. This transition marks the beginning of a new era — one focused on prosperity rather than mere survival. Iraq now seeks a partnership rooted in economic opportunity: We need investment, jobs and access to markets, while the United States brings leading expertise in technology, energy and agriculture, along with unmatched investment capacity. By combining Iraq's natural wealth with America's innovation, both nations stand to benefit. Recent agreements with companies like Chevron and General Electric are not just contracts on paper; they represent real jobs, stronger infrastructure and a more stable Middle East. Iraq is a young nation: 40% of our citizens are under age 15. This demographic reality can be either a powerful engine for growth — or a breeding ground for despair. If we provide education and employment, our youth will drive Iraq forward; if we fail, we risk exposing them to extremism. That is why Iraq does not seek aid but investment — partnerships that generate sustainable opportunity.

CNN: [China] China backs off chip export ban that could have shut down global auto plants

CNN [11/3/2025 10:19 AM, Chris Isidore, 606K] reports China has agreed to allow the export of chips critical to auto production, averting widespread shutdowns that had been predicted by the industry. The chips are provided by Nexperia, a Chinese-owned chipmaker based in the Netherlands. It's a critical supplier for the global auto industry, providing 40% of the automotive chips in the market segment that includes transistors and diodes, according to research firm TechInsights. After the Dutch government took control of Nexperia several weeks ago and removed its Chinese CEO, citing national security concerns, Beijing suspended shipments from China. Auto industry trade groups in the United States and Europe both feared the trade dispute would lead them to run out of the chips they needed. That could drive up car prices, as happened in the years following the pandemic. China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that "The Dutch government's inappropriate interference in the company's internal affairs has led to the current chaos in the global supply chain." But after US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met last week, Beijing said it would allow customers to apply for exemptions from a recently imposed export control and get the chips they need.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

From: NOC.SWO [noc.swo@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: 11/4/2025 3:24:36 PM
CC: NOC.SWO [noc.swo@hq.dhs.gov]
Subject: Election Threats - U.S. (Awareness NOC 0786-25)

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The DHS National Operations Center has expanded reporting on this event to the Awareness level to include DHS mission partners at the federal, state, and local levels. The report below may include information in prior reporting by the DHS National Operations Center but warrants additional situational awareness throughout the broader Homeland Security Enterprise.

Overview: Media reports bomb threats were received at numerous NJ polling centers. Newark Public Safety officials say they are reviewing threatening emails with bomb threats that have been deemed a hoax.

The Attorney General reported law enforcement responded to the emailed threats at polling places in multiple NJ counties and secured each location. Some of those locations have reopened, and voters for others were redirected to a nearby polling location.

County and local authorities are conducting sweeps of locations targeted, and at this time there appears to be no credible threat. Other municipalities within NJ are adding additional patrols at polling sites.

There have been unconfirmed reports that voting machines are freezing and crashing at some polling places. Media reports the issues could be related to new technology.

There have been no reports of threats to the election process in other jurisdictions.

For additional information, refer to the DHS Common Operating Picture and the Homeland Security Information Network

Distribution: DHS HQ Leadership and Senior Staff; DHS Component Leadership and Operations Centers; WHSR; Federal Interagency Operations Centers and State and Local Mission Partners.

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Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14248 of March 25, 2025

Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. *Purpose and Policy.* Despite pioneering self-government, the United States now fails to enforce basic and necessary election protections employed by modern, developed nations, as well as those still developing. India and Brazil, for example, are tying voter identification to a biometric database, while the United States largely relies on self-attestation for citizenship. In tabulating votes, Germany and Canada require use of paper ballots, counted in public by local officials, which substantially reduces the number of disputes as compared to the American patchwork of voting methods that can lead to basic chain-of-custody problems. Further, while countries like Denmark and Sweden sensibly limit mail-in voting to those unable to vote in person and do not count late-arriving votes regardless of the date of postmark, many American elections now feature mass voting by mail, with many officials accepting ballots without postmarks or those received well after Election Day.

Free, fair, and honest elections unmarred by fraud, errors, or suspicion are fundamental to maintaining our constitutional Republic. The right of American citizens to have their votes properly counted and tabulated, without illegal dilution, is vital to determining the rightful winner of an election.

Under the Constitution, State governments must safeguard American elections in compliance with Federal laws that protect Americans' voting rights and guard against dilution by illegal voting, discrimination, fraud, and other forms of malfeasance and error. Yet the United States has not adequately enforced Federal election requirements that, for example, prohibit States from counting ballots received after Election Day or prohibit non-citizens from registering to vote.

Federal law establishes a uniform Election Day across the Nation for Federal elections, 2 U.S.C. 7 and 3 U.S.C. 1. It is the policy of my Administration to enforce those statutes and require that votes be cast and received by the election date established in law. As the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit recently held in *Republican National Committee* v. *Wetzel* (2024), those statutes set "the day by which ballots must be both cast by voters and received by state officials." Yet numerous States fail to comply with those laws by counting ballots received after Election Day. This is like allowing persons who arrive 3 days after Election Day, perhaps after a winner has been declared, to vote in person at a former voting precinct, which would be absurd. Several Federal laws, including 18 U.S.C. 1015 and 611, prohibit foreign nationals from registering to vote or voting in Federal elections. Yet States fail adequately to vet voters' citizenship, and, in recent years, the Department of Justice has failed to prioritize and devote sufficient resources for enforcement of these provisions. Even worse, the prior administration actively prevented States from removing aliens from their voter lists.

Additionally, Federal laws, such as the National Voter Registration Act (Pub. L. 103–31) and the Help America Vote Act (Pub. L. 107–252), require States to maintain an accurate and current Statewide list of every legally registered voter in the State. And the Department of Homeland Security is required to share database information with States upon request so they

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can fulfill this duty. See 8 U.S.C. 1373(c). Maintaining accurate voter registration lists is a fundamental requirement in protecting voters from having their ballots voided or diluted by fraudulent votes.

Federal law, 52 U.S.C. 30121, prohibits foreign nationals from participating in Federal, State, or local elections by making any contributions or expenditures. But foreign nationals and non-governmental organizations have taken advantage of loopholes in the law's interpretation, spending millions of dollars through conduit contributions and ballot-initiative-related expenditures. This type of foreign interference in our election process undermines the franchise and the right of American citizens to govern their Republic.

Above all, elections must be honest and worthy of the public trust. That requires voting methods that produce a voter-verifiable paper record allowing voters to efficiently check their votes to protect against fraud or mistake. Election-integrity standards must be modified accordingly.

It is the policy of my Administration to enforce Federal law and to protect the integrity of our election process.

Sec. 2. *Enforcing the Citizenship Requirement for Federal Elections.* To enforce the Federal prohibition on foreign nationals voting in Federal elections:

(a)(i) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to require, in its national mail voter registration form issued under 52 U.S.C. 20508:

(A) documentary proof of United States citizenship, consistent with 52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(3); and

(B) a State or local official to record on the form the type of document that the applicant presented as documentary proof of United States citizenship, including the date of the document's issuance, the date of the document's expiration (if any), the office that issued the document, and any unique identification number associated with the document as required by the criteria in 52 U.S.C. 21083(a)(5)(A), while taking appropriate measures to ensure information security.

(ii) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, ''documentary proof of United States citizenship'' shall include a copy of:

(A) a United States passport;

(B) an identification document compliant with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–13, Div. B) that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States;

(C) an official military identification card that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States; or

(D) a valid Federal or State government-issued photo identification if such identification indicates that the applicant is a United States citizen or if such identification is otherwise accompanied by proof of United States citizenship.

(b) To identify unqualified voters registered in the States:

(i) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with applicable law, ensure that State and local officials have, without the requirement of the payment of a fee, access to appropriate systems for verifying the citizenship or immigration status of individuals registering to vote or who are already registered;

(ii) the Secretary of State shall take all lawful and appropriate action to make available information from relevant databases to State and local election officials engaged in verifying the citizenship of individuals registering to vote or who are already registered; and

(iii) the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the DOGE Administrator, shall review each State's publicly available voter registration list and available records concerning voter list maintenance activities as

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required by 52 U.S.C. 20507, alongside Federal immigration databases and State records requested, including through subpoena where necessary and authorized by law, for consistency with Federal requirements.

(c) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with applicable law, provide to the Attorney General complete information on all foreign nationals who have indicated on any immigration form that they have registered or voted in a Federal, State, or local election, and shall also take all appropriate action to submit to relevant State or local election officials such information.

(d) The head of each Federal voter registration executive department or agency (agency) under the National Voter Registration Act, 52 U.S.C. 20506(a), shall assess citizenship prior to providing a Federal voter registration form to enrollees of public assistance programs.

(e) The Attorney General shall prioritize enforcement of 18 U.S.C. 611 and 1015(f) and similar laws that restrict non-citizens from registering to vote or voting, including through use of:

(i) databases or information maintained by the Department of Homeland Security;

(ii) State-issued identification records and driver license databases; and

(iii) similar records relating to citizenship.

(f) The Attorney General shall, consistent with applicable laws, coordinate with State attorneys general to assist with State-level review and prosecution of aliens unlawfully registered to vote or casting votes.

Sec. 3. *Providing Other Assistance to States Verifying Eligibility.* To assist States in determining whether individuals are eligible to register and vote:

(a) The Commissioner of Social Security shall take all appropriate action to make available the Social Security Number Verification Service, the Death Master File, and any other Federal databases containing relevant information to all State and local election officials engaged in verifying the eligibility of individuals registering to vote or who are already registered. In determining and taking such action, the Commissioner of Social Security shall ensure compliance with applicable privacy and data security laws and regulations.

(b) The Attorney General shall ensure compliance with the requirements of 52 U.S.C. 20507(g).

(c) The Attorney General shall take appropriate action with respect to States that fail to comply with the list maintenance requirements of the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act contained in 52 U.S.C. 20507 and 52 U.S.C. 21083.

(d) The Secretary of Defense shall update the Federal Post Card Application, pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. 20301, to require:

(i) documentary proof of United States citizenship, as defined by section 2(a)(ii) of this order; and

(ii) proof of eligibility to vote in elections in the State in which the voter is attempting to vote.

Sec. 4. *Improving the Election Assistance Commission.* (a) The Election Assistance Commission shall, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 21003(b)(3) and 21142(c) and consistent with applicable law, take all appropriate action to cease providing Federal funds to States that do not comply with the Federal laws set forth in 52 U.S.C. 21145, including the requirement in 52 U.S.C. 20505(a)(1) that States accept and use the national mail voter registration form issued pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 20508(a)(1), including any requirement for documentary proof of United States citizenship adopted pursuant to section 2(a)(ii) of this order.

(b)(i) The Election Assistance Commission shall initiate appropriate action to amend the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 and issue other appropriate guidance establishing standards for voting systems to protect election

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integrity. The amended guidelines and other guidance shall provide that voting systems should not use a ballot in which a vote is contained within a barcode or quick-response code in the vote counting process except where necessary to accommodate individuals with disabilities, and should provide a voter-verifiable paper record to prevent fraud or mistake.

(ii) Within 180 days of the date of this order, the Election Assistance Commission shall take appropriate action to review and, if appropriate, re-certify voting systems under the new standards established under subsection (b)(i) of this section, and to rescind all previous certifications of voting equipment based on prior standards.

(c) Following an audit of Help America Vote Act fund expenditures conducted pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 21142, the Election Assistance Commission shall report any discrepancies or issues with an audited State's certifications of compliance with Federal law to the Department of Justice for appropriate enforcement action.

(d) The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, consistent with applicable law, shall in considering the provision of funding for State or local election offices or administrators through the Homeland Security Grant Programs, 6 U.S.C. 603 *et seq.*, heavily prioritize compliance with the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 developed by the Election Assistance Commission and completion of testing through the Voting System Test Labs accreditation process.

Sec. 5. *Prosecuting Election Crimes.* To protect the franchise of American citizens and their right to participate in fair and honest elections:

(a) The Attorney General shall take all appropriate action to enter into information-sharing agreements, to the maximum extent possible, with the chief State election official or multi-member agency of each State. These agreements shall aim to provide the Department of Justice with detailed information on all suspected violations of State and Federal election laws discovered by State officials, including information on individuals who:

(i) registered or voted despite being ineligible or who registered multiple times;

(ii) committed election fraud;

(iii) provided false information on voter registration or other election forms;

(iv) intimidated or threatened voters or election officials; or

(v) otherwise engaged in unlawful conduct to interfere in the election process.

(b) To the extent that any States are unwilling to enter into such an information sharing agreement or refuse to cooperate in investigations and prosecutions of election crimes, the Attorney General shall:

(i) prioritize enforcement of Federal election integrity laws in such States to ensure election integrity given the State's demonstrated unwillingness to enter into an information-sharing agreement or to cooperate in investigations and prosecutions; and

(ii) review for potential withholding of grants and other funds that the Department awards and distributes, in the Department's discretion, to State and local governments for law enforcement and other purposes, as consistent with applicable law.

(c) The Attorney General shall take all appropriate action to align the Department of Justice's litigation positions with the purpose and policy of this order.

Sec. 6. *Improving Security of Voting Systems.* To improve the security of all voting equipment and systems used to cast ballots, tabulate votes, and report results:

(a) The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all appropriate actions to the extent permitted by 42 U.S.C. 5195c

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and all other applicable law, so long as the Department of Homeland Security maintains the designation of election infrastructure as critical infrastructure, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 5195c(e), to prevent all non-citizens from being involved in the administration of any Federal election, including by accessing election equipment, ballots, or any other relevant materials used in the conduct of any Federal election.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Election Assistance Commission and to the maximum extent possible, review and report on the security of all electronic systems used in the voter registration and voting process. The Secretary of Homeland Security, as the head of the designated Sector Risk Management Agency under 6 U.S.C. 652a, in coordination with the Election Assistance Commission, shall assess the security of all such systems to the extent they are connected to, or integrated into, the Internet and report on the risk of such systems being compromised through malicious software and unauthorized intrusions into the system.

Sec. 7. *Compliance with Federal Law Setting the National Election Day.* To achieve full compliance with the Federal laws that set the uniform day for appointing Presidential electors and electing members of Congress:

(a) The Attorney General shall take all necessary action to enforce 2 U.S.C. 7 and 3 U.S.C. 1 against States that violate these provisions by including absentee or mail-in ballots received after Election Day in the final tabulation of votes for the appointment of Presidential electors and the election of members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

(b) Consistent with 52 U.S.C. 21001(b) and other applicable law, the Election Assistance Commission shall condition any available funding to a State on that State's compliance with the requirement in 52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(6) that each State adopt uniform and nondiscriminatory standards within that State that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote, including that, as prescribed in 2 U.S.C. 7 and 3 U.S.C. 1, there be a uniform and nondiscriminatory ballot receipt deadline of Election Day for all methods of voting, excluding ballots cast in accordance with 52 U.S.C. 20301 *et seq.,* after which no additional votes may be cast.

Sec. 8. *Preventing Foreign Interference and Unlawful Use of Federal Funds.* The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prioritize enforcement of 52 U.S.C. 30121 and other appropriate laws to prevent foreign nationals from contributing or donating in United States elections. The Attorney General shall likewise prioritize enforcement of 31 U.S.C. 1352, which prohibits lobbying by organizations or entities that have received any Federal funds.

Sec. 9. *Federal Actions to Address Executive Order 14019.* The heads of all agencies, and the Election Assistance Commission, shall cease all agency actions implementing Executive Order 14019 of March 7, 2021 (Promoting Access to Voting), which was revoked by Executive Order 14148 of on January 20, 2025 (Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions), and, within 90 days of the date of this order, submit to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, a report describing compliance with this order.

Sec. 10. *Severability.* If any provision of this order, or the application of any provision to any agency, person, or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this order and the application of its provisions to any other agencies, persons, or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 11. *General Provisions.* (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

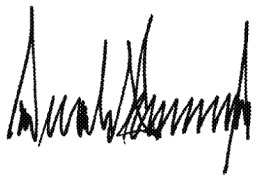
(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

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(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.



THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 25, 2025.

[FR Doc. 2025–05523
Filed 3–27–25; 8:45 am]
Billing code 3395–F4–P

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From:

Sent:
To:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Subject: Voter Fraud : EO 14248
Attachments: EO 14248_Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.pdf; Reference Flow Chart.pptx

EO and Flow Chart ((b)(7)(E)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(F)
Special Assistant
Office of the Executive Associate Director
Homeland Security Investigations
Cell 202-369- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(F)

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