



Attorney General Jay Jones says a four-lawyer team will identify and litigate alleged federal overreach affecting Virginia.

BY POLLY TICKS

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FRONTPAGE NEWS

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Virginia Attorney General Creates Unit to Challenge Federal Actions

Attorney General Jay Jones says a four-lawyer team will identify and litigate alleged federal overreach affecting Virginia.

BY POLLY TICKS



Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones is creating a four-lawyer Federal Accountability Unit inside his Richmond office, with Deputy Solicitor General Megan Keenan named to lead it. The announcement turns what had been case-by-case opposition to federal actions into a standing state function. Jones says the team will identify federal measures that affect Virginia and decide when the commonwealth should sue, join multistate litigation or seek emergency relief. The unit crosses the solicitor general and civil-litigation divisions rather than operating as a separate agency.

The office's stated portfolio is unusually broad: federal funding, tariffs, elections, health care, immigration, environmental rules, consumer issues and workforce reductions all appear on the list. Virginia job postings show the office recruiting attorneys for the team, confirming that the announcement includes a staffing plan and is not merely a new label for existing work. Four lawyers will not cover every federal dispute, so Keenan's first practical choices will be which matters deserve resources and which are better handled by other divisions or partner states.

For Virginia taxpayers, the change means federal litigation can begin faster because a permanent team can monitor agency actions, preserve records and coordinate pleadings before a deadline arrives. It also means the attorney general is making a durable budget and management choice. The office has not published the unit's annual cost, its complete hiring schedule or a first-case docket. Those omissions matter: a press release can establish the unit's mission, but only filed complaints and court orders will show how aggressively that mission is used.

Jones describes the target as federal overreach threatening Virginia. That is his legal and political position, not a judicial finding. The federal government will be entitled to defend each challenged action, and the state will still have to establish standing, a valid cause of action and a remedy a court can grant. A permanent unit does not invalidate a tariff, funding decision or immigration rule by itself. It creates the capacity to ask a court to do so under the facts and law of a particular case.

Polly's practical watch list is straightforward: the names of the remaining hires, the first complaint bearing the unit's name, the legal authority cited and the relief requested. Supporters will judge the team by whether it protects Virginia interests; critics will ask whether it converts partisan disagreement into recurring public expense. Neither verdict can be reached from the launch announcement. The confirmed news is the organizational decision and Keenan's leadership. The next meaningful evidence will arrive when the office assigns the unit a real dispute and puts its argument on a public docket.

SOURCES: Virginia Office of the Attorney General; Just the News / The Center Square

DEFENSE & SECURITY

U.S. Strikes Iranian Launchers Preparing to Seed the Strait of Hormuz

CENTCOM says two launchers on Larak Island posed an imminent mine-laying threat; Iran reported casualties and vowed retaliation.

BY VICTOR TALON



U.S. forces struck two Iranian rocket launchers on Larak Island after Central Command said Revolutionary Guard units were preparing rockets carrying sea mines for use in the Strait of Hormuz. Navy Capt. Tim Hawkins described the action as limited and precise. The location gives the strike immediate maritime significance: Larak sits beside the narrow passage used by commercial vessels and energy cargoes, where even a suspected mining operation can alter routing, escorts and insurance decisions well beyond the physical target.

CENTCOM's account says the launchers presented an imminent mine-laying threat. That assessment explains the timing of the strike, but the command has not publicly released the underlying intelligence package. The operation came after U.S. officials said international shipping routes had been cleared of mines the previous week, raising the possibility that new deployment preparations could undo costly clearance work. Destroying launchers can interrupt an operation; it does not prove every mine, rocket, crew or supporting system connected to it has been eliminated.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard acknowledged deaths and injuries through state media and promised retaliation. Iran also characterized follow-on missile fire as a response to the U.S. attack. At publication, the full damage at U.S. sites, the complete casualty count and the scope of Iran's operational response had not been independently established. Those gaps are not small footnotes. They determine whether this remains a contained exchange around the strait or becomes a broader round involving regional bases, civilian shipping or additional Iranian military infrastructure.

The immediate operational task is layered. Naval forces must watch for mines and launch preparations, protect clearance teams and warn merchant traffic without closing the channel unnecessarily. Commanders responsible for U.S. facilities in Jordan and elsewhere must also prepare for retaliation that may arrive far from Larak Island. Shipping companies will make their own risk calculations from notices, insurer guidance and observed military activity. A reopened route can remain commercially constrained if crews and underwriters believe the threat has returned.

Talon's assessment is disciplined: the strike and its stated target are confirmed by U.S. authorities, while Iran confirms casualties and vows a response. Whether the launchers were hours from firing, whether all mine-carrying rockets were destroyed and whether deterrence has improved remain unresolved. CENTCOM will keep monitoring the strait and American bases as regional forces adjust. The next credible indicators are official damage assessments, navigation warnings and verified follow-on attacks - not triumphant claims from either belligerent. In this passage, restraint in reporting is part of maintaining an accurate operational picture.

SOURCES: U.S. Central Command; Associated Press; Axios

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Five Men Charged in \$7.4 Million Elder-Scam Laundering Case

Federal prosecutors say 77 victims sent money after tech-support, government and bank impersonation scams; the charges remain allegations.

BY GIDEON MARSH



A federal grand jury in Seattle has indicted five men on money-laundering charges tied to an alleged nationwide impersonation scheme that prosecutors say took \$7.4 million from 77 victims. The indictment describes callers posing as technology-support workers, government officials or financial-institution employees. Victims were allegedly persuaded to send cashier's checks and money orders under urgent instructions. The charges shift the investigation from scattered fraud reports to a criminal case built around the people and accounts accused of moving the proceeds.

Prosecutors say the money passed through 44 bank accounts connected to Washington shell companies before portions were wired to China and Hong Kong. That transaction map is the spine of the government's case. To prove laundering, prosecutors must do more than show money moved quickly or crossed borders; they must establish the charged defendants' knowledge and the statutory purpose of the transactions. Bank records, business formation documents, communications and testimony will determine whether the alleged network was coordinated and what each defendant understood.

Three defendants remain detained, and one person charged in the case was still being sought when the government announced the indictment. Detention affects custody before trial, not guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent, and the prosecution's description has not yet been tested through cross-examination, evidentiary motions or a jury verdict. The release also does not identify every alleged caller, trace every victim payment in public or establish how much of the \$7.4 million remains available for forfeiture or restitution.

For families and financial institutions, the alleged pattern offers concrete warning signs: an unsolicited authority figure, instructions to move savings outside normal payment channels, cashier's checks or money orders, and rapid transfers through newly formed businesses. Those indicators do not prove a particular transaction is criminal, but they can justify pausing, contacting the institution through a known number and involving a trusted relative. Once money moves through layered accounts and overseas wires, recovery becomes far more difficult even if investigators later identify the route.

Gideon's lantern stays on the docket. Detention hearings, discovery and motions will precede the currently scheduled November trial, and any plea agreement would change the posture for the people involved. Still unknown are whether the remaining defendant is arrested, which evidence a judge admits and how much money can be recovered for victims. The indictment is a documented accusation - not a conviction -

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but its account structure gives investigators and the public a specific set of claims to test as the case proceeds.

SOURCES: U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington; DOJ Elder Justice Initiative

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Walmart Agrees to \$50 Million Opioid-Prescription Settlement

The Justice Department says Walmart pharmacies filled thousands of invalid controlled-substance prescriptions; no court determined liability.

BY LIBERTY BELLE



Walmart has agreed to pay \$50 million to resolve Justice Department and Drug Enforcement Administration allegations that its pharmacies filled thousands of unlawful opioid and other controlled-substance prescriptions. The settlement closes the federal civil claims without a trial on the merits or a court finding of liability. It also pairs the payment with operational requirements, making the agreement about future dispensing controls as much as the disputed conduct that produced the case.

The government says pharmacists filled prescriptions connected to known pill-mill prescribers or carrying warning signs such as dangerous drug combinations, repeated high doses and early refill requests. Those are allegations in the resolved matter, not findings that every listed prescription lacked a medical purpose or that every pharmacist possessed the same information. Walmart's national scale is central to the government's theory: patterns that look isolated at one counter may become clearer when prescriptions, prescribers and stores are compared across a larger system.

Under a memorandum with DEA, Walmart must maintain a reporting hotline, monitor dispensing patterns proactively and use a process for evaluating suspicious prescribers. The practical challenge lands at the pharmacy counter. A centralized alert can flag a pattern, but a pharmacist must still review the prescription, communicate with a prescriber when appropriate, document the decision and avoid abandoning legitimate patients. Strong compliance is not an automatic refusal system; it is a defensible process for resolving red flags before a controlled substance is dispensed.

The settlement therefore creates two accountability tracks. Federal officials can measure whether Walmart builds and maintains the promised systems, while patients and pharmacists experience how those systems work in real time. Overly weak controls can permit diversion. Overly blunt controls can delay treatment for people with lawful prescriptions. The public documents do not predict how many prescriptions will be stopped, how frequently alerts will prove unfounded or whether state regulators will pursue separate action based on the same conduct.

Liberty's bell rings at the line between accusation and obligation. The allegations about past dispensing remain adjudicated, but the \$50 million payment and DEA compliance commitments are binding features of the resolution. Walmart must now implement the monitoring and reporting framework and demonstrate that it functions across thousands of pharmacies. The next useful evidence will be compliance results, enforcement disclosures and documented changes in dispensing practice - not a claim that the settlement either proves every government allegation or erases the risks that prompted federal scrutiny.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Justice; Walmart

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Appeals Court Lets Two McIver Assault Counts Proceed

The Third Circuit held that prosecuting alleged physical interference does not require the congresswoman to answer for protected legislative acts.

BY CONSTITUTIONOWL



A divided panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has allowed two federal assault counts against Rep. LaMonica McIver to proceed despite her argument that the Speech or Debate Clause bars the prosecution. The precedential decision arose from a confrontation at an immigration facility where McIver says she was conducting congressional oversight. The majority separated protected legislative fact-finding from the physical conduct alleged in the indictment and concluded that

prosecuting the two counts would not require her to answer for a legislative act.

That distinction is the constitutional center of the ruling. The Speech or Debate Clause protects lawmakers from being questioned elsewhere for legislative acts, a safeguard designed to preserve Congress's independence. It is not a general immunity from criminal law. According to the majority, the government can attempt to prove alleged assault and interference without asking a jury to condemn McIver's decision to inspect the facility or her oversight purpose. The ruling addresses what may be prosecuted, not whether the government's account of the encounter is true.

The panel treated a third count differently, sending it back for a narrower analysis of whether the charge depends on protected conduct. It also declined interlocutory review of McIver's selective- and vindictive-prosecution claims. Those issues remain procedurally distinct from the Speech or Debate question. Judge Thomas Ambro dissented in part, underscoring that the boundary between an official inspection and a physical confrontation is not self-defining when actions unfold in the same place and moment.

McIver denies wrongdoing and describes the prosecution as politically motivated. The indictment alleges assault and interference, but an indictment is not evidence of guilt and the appellate court did not make a factual finding that an assault occurred. Prosecutors must still prove the charged elements beyond a reasonable doubt if the case reaches trial. McIver may also seek rehearing or later Supreme Court review, while the district judge must apply the appellate instructions to the remanded count and the schedule below.

From ConstitutionOwl's perch, the decision preserves two principles at once: lawmakers retain protection for genuine legislative work, and that protection does not automatically absorb every act occurring during that work. What remains disputed is where the protected inspection ended and the alleged physical interference began. The district court's treatment of the third count, any further appellate petition and the eventual trial record will sharpen that boundary. For now, two counts may proceed; no court has decided McIver's guilt or resolved her separate claim of retaliatory prosecution.

SOURCES: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; Roll Call

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Education Department Reaches FERPA Agreement With Topeka Schools

Topeka agreed to rescind secrecy guidance and train staff, while two other Kansas districts face possible federal enforcement.

BY RUBY REDTAPE



The Education Department's Student Privacy Policy Office has entered a FERPA resolution agreement with Topeka Public Schools after concluding that district practices could prevent parents from seeing gender-related information contained in education records. Topeka agreed to change those practices rather than continue contesting the federal review. Olathe and Shawnee Mission did not enter parallel agreements, leaving those districts in a different enforcement posture and exposing them to possible litigation or federal funding action.

Topeka's written commitments are concrete. The district will stop creating gender-support plans under the challenged guidance, allow parents to inspect existing education records, rescind instructions that conflict with the federal interpretation and use FERPA training approved by the department. Implementation will require more than circulating a memo. Administrators must identify where records are stored, train employees who create or maintain them, process parental requests consistently and document any legal basis for withholding particular information.

FERPA generally gives parents rights to inspect education records, but the current dispute turns on what qualifies as a record and how federal access rights interact with student privacy, safety and other law. The department says policies that conceal a student's different name or pronouns from a requesting parent violate FERPA. The nonsettling districts may challenge that interpretation, the available remedy or both. The department's announcement states its enforcement position; it is not a nationwide court judgment resolving every gender-related school-record dispute.

For Topeka families, the agreement should produce a clearer route to request records and a clearer answer about what the district keeps. For school employees, it creates a documentation problem that cannot be solved through informal assurances. A conversation that is never recorded may raise different FERPA questions from a written plan maintained by the district. The agreement does not answer every difficult safety scenario, and it does not establish that federal officials will take the same view of every fact pattern.

Ruby's red-tape check begins with the signed terms, responsible officials and the deadline calendar. Topeka must deliver the promised training and access changes in a form families can actually use. Federal officials must decide whether to negotiate

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further with Olath and Shawnee Mission, pursue administrative funding remedies or go to court. Still unknown are the final positions of those districts and whether a judge will review the department's interpretation. The confirmed result is one district's resolution agreement - not a universal rulebook - and the next filings will determine how far the federal campaign reaches.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education; Just the News / The Center Square

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

SEC Charges 38 Entities Over Fake Adviser Filings

The complaints allege foreign-linked operators used false Forms ADV and fabricated registration signals to lure retail investors.

BY UNCLE SIBURSAM



The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged 38 entities with filing materially false Forms ADV to make themselves appear connected to legitimate U.S. investment-adviser activity. The civil complaints, filed in federal court in Colorado, describe an alleged network that used the government's own disclosure system as a credibility prop. Some associated websites displayed fabricated SEC-registration certificates, turning an authentic filing portal into the first layer of a false online identity aimed at retail investors.

The SEC says the filings listed nonexistent Colorado offices, disconnected or unrelated phone numbers, nearly identical ownership information and audit firms that do not appear in public registries. Investigators also traced some filing access to foreign IP addresses. Each detail is a warning signal, but the government's case must still connect particular entities and operators to particular statements. An IP address may support attribution; it does not by itself identify the person at the keyboard or prove how separate firms coordinated.

The scheme also exploits a vocabulary gap. A Form ADV record can look official to a prospective investor, yet an exempt-reporting-adviser filing is not the same as full SEC registration or an endorsement. A registration number, certificate image or search result should therefore be the beginning of verification, not the end. Investors can compare addresses, telephone numbers, named executives and disciplinary history across official databases, then contact the firm through independently confirmed channels before sending money or identity documents.

The complaints seek injunctions and civil penalties. They are allegations, not criminal convictions, and the SEC has not publicly established that every person who visited the associated websites invested or lost money. The operators' identities, assets, total victim count and degree of coordination remain unresolved. Those gaps will affect service of process, asset recovery and any referral for criminal prosecution. The involvement of the FBI indicates a broader tracing effort, but it does not announce a separate criminal case.

Uncle Sibursam's signal check is simple: a real government database can contain information supplied by a dishonest filer. Authentic infrastructure does not authenticate every claim placed inside it. The Colorado cases will now test the SEC's evidence entity by entity while investigators follow domains, accounts and access records. Investors should carefully preserve all communications and payment records immediately if they recognize a name in the complaints. The next reliable milestones will be served defendants, court responses, freezes or judgments - not the polished certificate that allegedly opened the door.

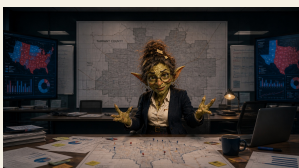
SOURCES: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Tarrant County Weighs 92-Site Election Day Reduction

Officials say more than 200 countywide vote centers would remain; opponents warn that closures could confuse voters in November.

BY TABITHA TALLY



Tarrant County commissioners are preparing to vote on a revised November election plan containing 92 fewer Election Day polling locations than the county used in the 2022 midterms. The proposal follows an earlier version that would have reduced the network from 316 sites to 176. After public opposition, officials restored some locations, leaving more than 200 countywide vote centers in the plan now before the Commissioners Court. The final number will not be official until commissioners act.

County election officials say removing low-turnout sites will reduce demands for workers and equipment while preserving sufficient capacity. Opponents argue that fewer familiar locations could confuse voters and create longer travel or waits, especially in communities with limited transportation. Because Tarrant County uses countywide voting, an eligible voter may cast a ballot at any Election Day center. That flexibility softens the effect of losing one neighborhood site, but it does not eliminate distance, accessibility, parking or capacity differences among the remaining locations.

Tabitha's tally needs denominators. Ninety-two closures sound large, but access must be evaluated against registered voters, geographic distribution, check-in stations, staffing, historical traffic and expected turnout. A site that handled few voters may be expendable; a low-volume site may also be the only practical option for a remote or mobility-limited population. The published map and equipment allocation will therefore say more than the countywide total. Actual Election Day wait times will supply the performance evidence that projections cannot.

No finding of voter suppression or administrative waste follows automatically from a proposal. Commissioners have not yet adopted the list, and projected savings and queue lengths are not certified outcomes. County officials bear responsibility for explaining why each site was removed, ensuring notice reaches voters and moving resources if early demand reveals a problem. Opponents can test the equity claim by comparing closures and travel burdens across precincts rather than relying solely on partisan assumptions about intent.

The scheduled Tuesday vote is the next controlling event. If commissioners approve the plan, election administrators must publish the final locations, update voter information, train workers and operate the approved network in November. Clear notice will be essential before early voting ends. Last-minute site changes, turnout and wait times remain unknown. The honest status today is a revised proposal with 92 fewer sites than 2022, not a completed closure program. The final map - and then the voters' experience using it - will determine whether the reduction is efficient, disruptive or both.

SOURCES: Tarrant County Commissioners Court; Associated Press

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

House Republicans Escalate New Jersey Voter-Roll Oversight

Lawmakers say Gov. Mikie Sherrill's response left key questions unanswered and are considering hearings and possible subpoenas.

BY SILAS SPIRE



House Republicans are escalating oversight of a New Jersey motor-voter registration error after Gov. Mikie Sherrill responded to committee questions. Rep. Jeff Van Drew says the response did not supply the records and explanations lawmakers requested, and he has left hearings and subpoenas on the table. The committees are now reviewing the governor's reply and earlier state disclosures before deciding whether to compel testimony or documents. No hearing date has been formally announced, and no subpoena identified in the current record has been issued.

New Jersey disclosed that roughly 6,600 applicants who indicated they were not citizens were nevertheless registered between June 2023 and June 2024. A preliminary review found fewer than 400 of those registrations associated with ballots cast. The error arose in the motor-vehicle registration process, making vendor records, data transfers and state validation steps central to the inquiry. Those numbers document a serious system failure; they do not by themselves prove that every affected person acted knowingly or that any statewide election result changed.

The committees want details about how the registrations were created, when officials detected the problem, which voters and elections were affected, what the vendor knew and what controls now prevent a repeat. Congress can request that material, hold oversight hearings and authorize subpoenas through its committees. It must still distinguish administrative error from individual fraud and legislative fact-finding from political accusation. People who truthfully marked noncitizen status may have been placed on the rolls by the government process they used.

Sherrill says her administration has been transparent and calls the Republican campaign political theater. Van Drew and committee Republicans say her response dodged core questions and may support federal election-integrity legislation. Those are competing political interpretations. The factual measure is the completeness of the documents: a dated incident timeline, a reconciled count of registrations and ballots, the removal process, vendor findings and evidence showing whether safeguards work before November. A press statement from either side cannot substitute for that audit trail.

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From Silas Spire's view on Capitol Hill, the story has entered an oversight phase, not reached a verdict. The committees may negotiate additional production, schedule testimony or vote to compel records. Still unknown are the full ballot audit, vendor responsibility, a hearing date and whether lawmakers agree on a legislative response. The next meaningful development will be an actual document production, scheduled hearing or issued subpoena. Until then, the disclosed registration error is confirmed; claims about intent, electoral impact and political motive remain contested.

SOURCES: Office of Rep. Jeff Van Drew; House Judiciary Committee Republicans; Fox News Digital

SPORTS

Florida State Opens 2026 With a 34-17 Win Over New Mexico State

The Seminoles built a 17-7 halftime lead, answered a third-quarter push and finished Week 0 at 1-0.

BY PARKER FIELDS



Florida State opened the 2026 college football season with a 34-17 victory over New Mexico State at Doak Campbell Stadium. The Seminoles carried a 17-7 advantage into halftime, gave up a 12-play, 68-yard field-goal drive after the break and then rebuilt the margin. The scoreboard is settled: Florida State is 1-0 after Week 0, and New Mexico State leaves Tallahassee with a loss. Everything beyond that result belongs to evaluation, not certification.

The game's shape matters more than a celebratory clip. Florida State established the early lead, absorbed a sustained third-quarter drive that pulled the margin to seven and answered rather than allowing the contest to tighten further. Coaches now have evidence from live snaps about protection calls, third-down choices, tackling, special-teams execution and the offense's response after momentum shifted. Those details will decide which portions of the opener are repeatable when the opponent, game plan and pressure change.

A 17-point win can support confidence without proving a turnaround. New Mexico State's own season, injuries and level of competition will determine how strong this result looks later. Florida State supporters can point to a controlled finish and a complete opening-night score. Skeptics can note that one Week 0 game cannot establish the team's ceiling. Both sides need more possessions against stronger opponents before converting the opener into a forecast for conference play or postseason contention.

Parker's board separates outcome from projection. The final score and halftime margin are facts. Claims that a particular unit is fixed, a player has secured a season-long role or the program has returned to national prominence require a larger sample. The staff will also review injury follow-ups and any lineup changes that were not clear from the public recap. Full film, not only scoring highlights, will show whether Florida State won isolated matchups or executed a structure capable of traveling.

The practical next step is ordinary but important: grade the film, correct Week 0 mistakes and prepare for the next scheduled opponent. Florida State earned the chance to make those corrections from 1-0 rather than chasing an early loss. Players also have a complete game benchmark for the next practice week. That is valuable, but it is not a season verdict. The honest read from Tallahassee is a decisive 34-17 opener, a tested response to a third-quarter push and a fresh set of questions about how the same roster performs when the margin, opponent and stakes become less forgiving.

SOURCES: Florida State University Athletics; NCAA.com

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Judge Pauses USPS Mail-Ballot Rule for 14 Days

The temporary restraining order follows the Supreme Court's procedural ruling and targets parts of the finalized postal regulation.

BY BALLOT BEAST



U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani has temporarily restrained the Postal Service from implementing parts of its finalized mail-ballot rule for 14 days. The Boston order followed a rapid procedural turn: the Supreme Court had lifted an earlier injunction because the dispute was considered speculative before USPS issued a final regulation, and the Postal Service published that rule on Aug. 26. With concrete requirements now on paper, the plaintiffs returned to court to challenge what they say the government will actually do.

The contested provisions concern ballot envelopes, voter lists and transmission requirements. Election officials say those rules could disrupt established state procedures as ballot-mail deadlines approach. The administration says the changes protect ballot integrity and fall within federal authority. Talwani's temporary restraining order preserves the pre-rule position while the court considers immediate harm and the plaintiffs' likelihood of success. It does not permanently invalidate the regulation, and it does not establish a nationwide constitutional rule for every method of voting by mail.

That sequence is the Ballot Beast's essential bracket. The Supreme Court's earlier action did not approve the policy on its merits; it addressed the posture of a challenge brought before the final rule existed. Talwani's later order does not overrule the Supreme Court. It addresses a changed record containing a published regulation and alleged implementation harms. Confusing those two procedural moments turns a live lawsuit into a false claim that one court definitively blessed - or another definitively killed - the policy.

For state and local administrators, fourteen days is operational time, not abstract doctrine. Officials need to know which envelope designs, voter-data exchanges and postal steps govern ballots already being prepared. The pause reduces immediate pressure but leaves planning uncertainty because it can expire, be extended, become a preliminary injunction or be altered on emergency appeal. Voters should follow current state instructions rather than assuming a nationwide rule change from a headline about the litigation.

The parties will now brief longer relief while the government decides whether to seek review in the First Circuit or Supreme Court. Still disputed are presidential and postal authority, statutory limits, standing and the weight of election-administration harms. Still unknown is which rule will control when the relevant ballots enter the mail. The certified legal status today remains deliberately narrow: selected provisions are temporarily paused for exactly 14 days. The next signed order - not partisan shorthand - will determine whether that pause ends, expands or moves to another court.

SOURCES: U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts; Associated Press; U.S. Supreme Court

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

G20 Finance Ministers Gather in Asheville Under Debt and Iran Pressure

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is hosting two days of talks on growth and financial coordination as Washington prepares another Iran bank sanction.

BY WARREN BULLION



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has opened the U.S.-hosted meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Asheville, North Carolina. Deputies met over the weekend, and the ministerial runs Aug. 31 through Sept. 1. Bessent has identified global growth and financial cooperation against Iran as priorities. He also told the Associated Press that the administration expects to announce another sanction targeting an Iranian bank this week, putting security policy directly beside the gathering's economic agenda.

A G20 meeting creates a negotiating table, not an agreement. Delegations arrive with different debt burdens, inflation paths, exchange-rate concerns and relationships with Iran. Language accepted in a final communiqué may be narrower than the host's opening position, and bilateral discussions may produce commitments that never become group policy. Markets will therefore watch both the collective statement and the side meetings for signals on debt management, currency stability, sanctions enforcement and the appetite for coordinated growth measures.

The American balance sheet is part of the credibility test. Federal debt is approaching \$40 trillion, while Treasury has used an unusual bond-buyback program to support market functioning. Buybacks can improve liquidity in particular securities; they do not erase the underlying debt or remove the government's refinancing needs. Other finance ministers will weigh Washington's proposals against that fiscal backdrop, just as U.S. officials will assess the sustainability and transparency of debt carried by other G20 members.

Bessent says coordinated financial pressure can further isolate Iran. Other governments may disagree over the scope, timing or enforcement of additional sanctions, particularly when energy flows and regional security are already affecting

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prices. The targeted bank has not yet been identified in the published record, and the market response cannot be known before the action is issued. A promised sanction is a policy signal; the legal notice, named institution and compliance guidance will establish its real reach.

Warren Bullion's ledger remains open through Tuesday. The measurable outputs are the final communiqué, any bilateral commitments and Treasury's promised Iran action. Markets may move on hints, but durable policy requires official text and implementation. An access dispute over Treasury's decision to deny credentials to individual reporters is separately significant for transparency, but it does not settle the merits of the ministers' economic choices. Until documents are released, the confirmed development is the convening and Bessent's stated agenda. Growth strategy, debt coordination and the balance between sanctions and diplomacy remain subjects of negotiation rather than completed transactions.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of the Treasury; Associated Press; Associated Press

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Fact Check: What Is Known About ICE Arrests Near Danbury School Stops

DHS denies targeting parents at bus stops, while local officials and advocates document arrests near schools and one father detained after a bus departed.

BY BRUTUS PROOF



A viral claim by Sen. Chris Murphy says immigration officers targeted parents at Danbury school bus stops to terrorize children. The Department of Homeland Security calls that account false and says its operation targeted people for immigration violations, not schoolchildren. Public reporting establishes a narrower and more complicated picture: arrests occurred near schools and child-care settings, and an advocate says one father was detained shortly after walking a child to a bus stop. Those facts confirm proximity and timing, but not the entire claim about operational intent.

Associated Press reporting describes officers detaining people near an elementary school and a daycare. Danbury's mayor has spoken about broader enforcement near schools. DHS identified one detained man and said his child remained with her mother after the arrest. The available accounts therefore support that enforcement activity intersected with school routines. They do not yet supply a complete arrest log, location map, warrant set or instructions showing whether agents deliberately used bus-stop schedules to locate parents.

Brutus Proof separates three questions that social posts collapse. Where did an arrest occur? Whom were agents seeking? Why was that time and place chosen? Witnesses and local officials may answer the first question. Warrants, surveillance records and operational plans are more relevant to the second and third. An arrest minutes after a school-bus departure can understandably frighten children and families while still falling short of proof that frightening children was the government's objective. Conversely, a general DHS denial cannot erase documented proximity to schools.

Murphy's phrase "targeting parents at school bus stops" implies a deliberate method and purpose. DHS's response implies ordinary enforcement coincidentally near schools. Neither categorical version is fully established by the public record now available. The number of arrests at actual bus stops, the status of each detained person, the existence and scope of warrants and the agents' location instructions remain unknown. Any judicial findings will concern individual cases and may not describe the planning behind the broader operation.

The verdict is mixed: the claim is supported insofar as reporting documents arrests near school settings and one detention after a parent accompanied a child to a bus stop. It is unproven insofar as it asserts a systematic plan to use bus stops to terrorize children. DHS's blanket denial of targeting is an official position, not a substitute for records. Court filings, arrest documentation and fuller local or federal disclosures could sharpen the answer. Until then, readers should reject both an absolute exoneration and an absolute accusation that the evidence cannot yet carry.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Fox News Digital; U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 RESULTS - MONDAY, AUGUST 31 SCHEDULE

MLB - FINAL SCORES

MIA 6 WSH 2	COL 2 ATL 3	BOS 1 NYY 16
SEA 0 TOR 7	LAD 6 DET 1	SD 4 TB 5
KC 1 CLE 11	TEX 7 MIL 4	CWS 1 MIN 5
PIT 5 STL 4	HOU 6 NYM 3	BAL 8 ATH 5
PHI 5 LAA 2	CIN 7 CHC 5	

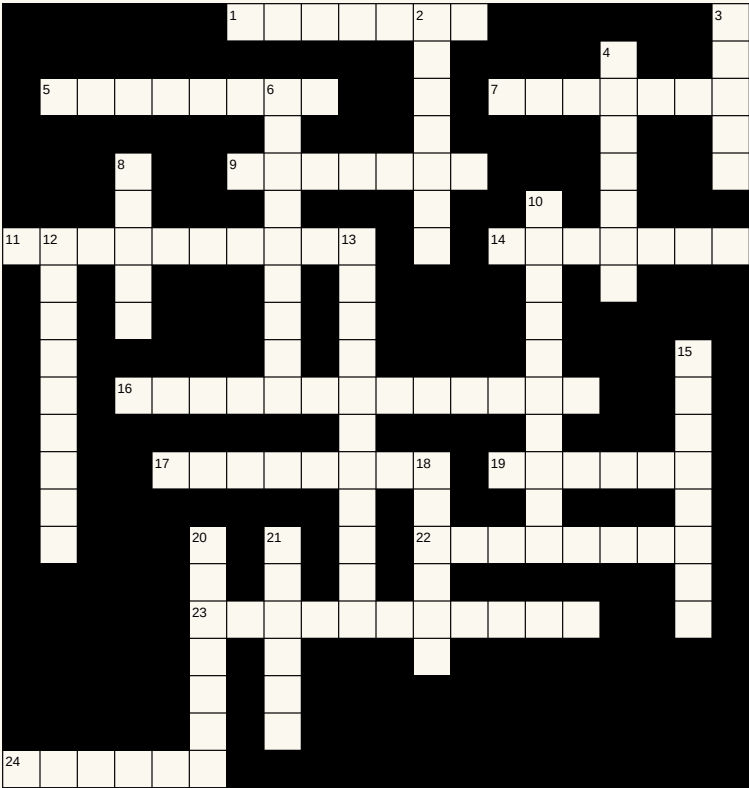
TODAY'S MLB SCHEDULE

Giants at Braves 6:05 ET	Mets at Rays 6:40 ET	Padres at Reds 6:40 ET
Marlins at Nationals 6:45 ET	Mariners at Red Sox 6:45 ET	Brewers at Cubs 7:40 ET
Tigers at Twins 7:40 ET	Athletics at Rangers 8:05 ET	White Sox at Astros 8:10 ET
Orioles at Rockies 8:40 ET	Yankees at Angels 9:38 ET	Phillies at Diamondbacks 9:40 ET

College football: Florida State's Week Zero result appears in today's Parker Fields report.

DAILY LEDGER CROSSWORD

24 CLUES - FRESH CONNECTED GRID - ACROSS THEN DOWN



ACROSS

- 1. Jury decision (7)
- 5. Federal legislature (8)
- 7. Recovered missed shot (7)
- 9. Unfinished maintenance load (7)
- 11. Unwelcome conduct (10)
- 14. Return through atmosphere (7)
- 16. Insider reporting misconduct (13)
- 17. Technical professional (8)
- 19. Official documentation (6)
- 22. Defense headquarters (8)
- 23. Imitation sold as genuine (11)
- 24. Voter selection form (6)

DOWN

- 2. Border import authority (7)
- 3. Formal records review (5)
- 4. Residential shelter (7)
- 6. Launch facility (9)
- 8. Deception for gain (5)
- 10. Civil resolution (10)
- 12. Stepwise computing method (9)
- 13. Protected business know-how (11)
- 15. Proof in the record (8)
- 18. News account (6)
- 20. Lottery top prize (7)
- 21. Rocket departure (6)

TODAY'S ANSWERS

1 A: VERDICT 2 D: CUSTOMS 3 D: AUDIT 4 D: HOUSING 5 A: CONGRESS 6 D: SPACEPORT 7 A: REBOUND 8 D: FRAUD 9 A: BACKLOG 10 D: SETTLEMENT 11 A: HARASSMENT 12 D: ALGORITHM 13 D: TRADESECRET 14 A: REENTRY 15 D: EVIDENCE 16 A: WHISTLEBLOWER 17 A: ENGINEER 18 D: REPORT 19 A: RECORD 20 D: JACKPOT 21 D: LAUNCH 22 A: PENTAGON 23 A: COUNTERFEIT 24 A: BALLOT