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REPUBLICANS OPEN AN UNUSUAL MIDTERM CONVENTION IN DALLAS - Republicans are opening a two-day national midterm convention in Dallas on September 9. The two-day gathering puts President Trump at the center of the party's attempt to energize voters while economic and foreign-policy pressures reshape the campaign. Polly treats a convention as an organizing event, not a guaranteed electoral outcome. The location, dates and declared purpose are established; the effects on individual races will be tested later. Delegates can generate attention and money, but candidates still face different electorates, state issues and ballot structures. Polly's political ledger separates event design from electoral evidence. Party officials describe the gathering as a way to transfer President Trump's political energy to candidates who will actually appear on November ballots. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The convention's ability to change turnout or persuasion remains unproved....

LEAD STORY CONTINUED IN THE NEWS SECTION

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT Republicans Open an Unusual Midterm Convention in Dallas	DEFENSE & SECURITY U.S. Says Five Iranian Tankers Were Destroyed After Warship Attacks	INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY House Investigators Question the Navy's Response to Aviator Brain-Injury Risks
INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY New Survey Finds Trust in Federal Information Falling Across Major Issues	POLITICS & GOVERNMENT At 250, Congress Remains the Constitution's Arena for National Disputes	POLITICS & GOVERNMENT FinCEN Explains How Banks May Use Verifiable Digital Credentials
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION TSA PreCheck Gateside Program Restores Limited Airport Access for Nonticketed Visitors	ELECTIONS & VOTING Rhode Island Holds a Rare Wednesday Primary With the Governorship in Focus	POLITICS & GOVERNMENT U.S. Agencies Warn of Industrial-Scale Distillation Against Frontier AI Models
SPORTS Skubal and Hernández Carry the Dodgers to a Sixth Straight Win	ELECTIONS & VOTING Mail-Ballot Restrictions Return to the Supreme Court Before Voting Expands	BUSINESS & ECONOMY Brent Crude Breaks Above \$100 as Middle East Supply Risks Intensify
FACT CHECK Fact Check: Social Security's 2027 COLA Has Not Been Officially Announced		

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FRONTPAGE NEWS

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Republicans Open an Unusual Midterm Convention in Dallas

The two-day gathering puts President Trump at the center of the party's attempt to energize voters while economic and foreign-policy pressures reshape the campaign.

BY POLLY TICKS



REPUBLICANS OPEN AN UNUSUAL MIDTERM CONVENTION IN DALLAS - Republicans are opening a two-day national midterm convention in Dallas on September 9. The two-day gathering puts President Trump at the center of the party's attempt to energize voters while economic and foreign-policy pressures reshape the campaign.

Polly treats a convention as an organizing event, not a guaranteed electoral outcome. The location, dates and declared purpose are established; the effects on individual races will be tested later. Delegates can generate attention and money, but candidates still face different electorates, state issues and ballot structures. Polly's political ledger separates event design from electoral evidence.

Party officials describe the gathering as a way to transfer President Trump's political energy to candidates who will actually appear on November ballots. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The convention's ability to change turnout or persuasion remains unproved.

The practical stakes are immediate. Campaigns will decide which messages and speakers to amplify, donors will receive a concentrated fundraising appeal, and vulnerable candidates must judge whether close identification with the president helps or hurts at home.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve the final program, fundraising totals and measurable movement after the event. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Convention speeches, finance reports and post-event polling will provide the next evidence. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. Republicans are opening a two-day national midterm convention in Dallas on September 9.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Polly Ticks on the Politics & Government desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is the final program, fundraising totals and measurable movement after the event. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

The public consequence should be judged through documented implementation rather than repetition. Dates, official notices, measurable results and corrections remain the controlling checkpoints for this report.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Le Monde; Off The Press

DEFENSE & SECURITY

U.S. Says Five Iranian Tankers Were Destroyed After Warship Attacks

The latest exchange widened a six-month conflict as Iran launched missiles toward American targets in Jordan and regional governments assessed the escalation.

BY VICTOR TALON



U.S. SAYS FIVE IRANIAN TANKERS WERE DESTROYED AFTER WARSHIP ATTACKS - U.S. Central Command said American forces destroyed five Iranian oil tankers on September 8 after attempted missile attacks on a Navy warship. The latest exchange widened a six-month conflict as Iran launched missiles toward American targets in Jordan and regional governments assessed the escalation.

Victor separates what each belligerent says from what can be independently established. Jordan's military reported intercepting 18 ballistic missiles and said two others fell in unpopulated areas, with no casualties reported there. CENTCOM's tanker claim is an official operational statement, not an independent battle-damage assessment. Victor treats every battlefield assertion as a claim requiring attribution and corroboration.

Iranian state media said Tehran answered with missiles aimed at U.S. targets in Jordan. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. Public accounts do not yet establish the complete damage, launch sequence or strategic effect.

Destroying commercial-scale oil assets can affect military financing, shipping insurance and escalation calculations beyond the immediate exchange. It also increases risks for crews and neighboring states even when reported strikes do not produce casualties.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve independent damage assessments, casualty reports and the next military decisions. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Military statements, satellite evidence and Jordanian and Iranian reporting will clarify the operational picture. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. U.S. Central Command said American forces destroyed five Iranian oil tankers on September 8 after attempted missile attacks on a Navy warship.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Victor Talon on the Defense & Security desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is independent damage assessments, casualty reports and the next military decisions. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Fox News Digital

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

House Investigators Question the Navy's Response to Aviator Brain-Injury Risks

A new committee staff report examines whether the service responded adequately to potential traumatic brain injuries and mental-health risks in naval aviation.

BY GIDEON MARSH



HOUSE INVESTIGATORS QUESTION THE NAVY'S RESPONSE TO AVIATOR BRAIN-INJURY RISKS - House Oversight Committee leaders released a staff report on September 8 about potential brain injury and mental-health risks among naval aviators. A new committee staff report examines whether the service responded adequately to potential traumatic brain injuries and mental-health risks in naval aviation.

Gideon follows the paper trail from identified exposure risks to testing, treatment and command policy. A congressional staff report can identify documents, testimony and gaps, but it is not itself a clinical diagnosis for every aviator or a final adjudication of institutional fault. Gideon follows documents, testimony and institutional responsibility before drawing conclusions.

The committee majority argues that the Navy knew of warning signs but did not respond with sufficient speed or consistency. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The Navy's complete response and the causal weight of specific flight exposures remain contested or incomplete.

The practical questions concern screening, confidential access to care, flight status, retention and the chain of responsibility when symptoms appear. Any reform must also distinguish acute traumatic injury from cumulative exposure and other causes of neurological or psychological symptoms.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve the Navy's formal response, underlying medical data and any resulting policy changes. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Hearings, service guidance and medical review will show whether the report produces operational changes. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. House Oversight Committee leaders released a staff report on September 8 about potential brain injury and mental-health risks among naval aviators.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Gideon Marsh on the Investigations & Accountability desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is the Navy's formal response, underlying medical data and any resulting policy changes. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

New Survey Finds Trust in Federal Information Falling Across Major Issues

The AP-NORC and USAFacts study documents broad skepticism about government information, election certification and AI-generated answers ahead of the midterms.

BY LIBERTY BELLE



NEW SURVEY FINDS TRUST IN FEDERAL INFORMATION FALLING ACROSS MAJOR ISSUES - A national AP-NORC/USAFacts poll found trust in federal information declined across most subjects measured against 2024. The AP-NORC and USAFacts study documents broad skepticism about government information, election certification and AI-generated answers ahead of the midterms.

Liberty starts with the sample: 1,036 adults interviewed July 29 through August 10 through NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, with a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. Only 9% reported high confidence that AI, chatbot or search-result information is reliable and factual. Liberty tests what the survey measures without turning public confidence into a verdict on truth.

Respondents describe difficulty identifying reliable information in a fragmented and increasingly AI-mediated environment. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The survey measures opinion and confidence; it does not independently prove that any particular government statement is false.

The findings matter because people must act on government information about elections, health, jobs and emergencies. Low confidence can discourage legitimate compliance, but confidence alone is not a truth test. Agencies still must publish methods, underlying data, revisions and accountable explanations.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve how trust changes during the campaign and whether specific institutions can rebuild credibility. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Future surveys and documented corrections will show whether the decline persists. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. A national AP-NORC/USAFacts poll found trust in federal information declined across most subjects measured against 2024.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Liberty Belle on the Investigations & Accountability desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is how trust changes during the campaign and whether specific institutions can rebuild credibility. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research; Associated Press

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

At 250, Congress Remains the Constitution's Arena for National Disputes

A new examination of the legislative branch shows why bargaining, divided authority and public accountability remain central to the American constitutional design.

BY CONSTITUTIONOWL



AT 250, CONGRESS REMAINS THE CONSTITUTION'S ARENA FOR NATIONAL DISPUTES - Congress remains the federal institution assigned to legislate, appropriate money, oversee the executive and represent states and districts. A new examination of the legislative branch shows why bargaining, divided authority and public accountability remain central to the American constitutional design.

ConstitutionOwl reads the structure before the slogan. The Constitution divides lawmaking between two chambers and requires agreement with the president or enough votes to override a veto. That friction was designed to slow action and force competing constituencies into the same process. ConstitutionOwl reads the allocation of power before judging the day's political argument.

Critics across the political spectrum argue that modern Congress has surrendered too much initiative to presidents, courts and agencies. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. Scholars and elected officials dispute where institutional balance should be restored and how much delegation is constitutionally acceptable.

Delay can become dysfunction, but speed is not the only constitutional value. Appropriations, confirmations, impeachment, investigations and legislation create separate forms of accountability. When Congress avoids difficult votes, power tends to migrate toward executive orders, administrative rules and court challenges.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve whether the next Congress uses its legislative, spending and oversight powers more assertively. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: The midterm result, committee work and litigation over executive power will test the institutional balance. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. Congress remains the federal institution assigned to legislate, appropriate money, oversee the executive and represent states and districts.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to ConstitutionOwl on the Politics & Government desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is whether the next Congress uses its legislative, spending and oversight powers more assertively. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Congress.gov Constitution Annotated

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

FinCEN Explains How Banks May Use Verifiable Digital Credentials

New answers clarify how state mobile driver's licenses and other government credentials can fit customer-identification rules without eliminating a bank's compliance duties.

BY RUBY REDTAPE



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

FINCEN EXPLAINS HOW BANKS MAY USE VERIFIABLE DIGITAL CREDENTIALS - FinCEN issued two new FAQs and updated an existing answer on September 8 concerning verifiable digital credentials under customer-identification rules. New answers clarify how state mobile driver's licenses and other government credentials can fit customer-identification rules without eliminating a bank's compliance duties.

Ruby reads the fine print: an FAQ explains an agency's interpretation, but it does not erase the Bank Secrecy Act, customer-identification programs or risk-based procedures. Institutions must still understand the issuing authority, credential integrity and method used to validate the information. Ruby distinguishes an agency interpretation from a final rule or universal mandate.

The agency says qualifying mobile driver's licenses and similar government credentials can help institutions verify identity. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The guidance does not make every digital credential acceptable or transfer responsibility away from the financial institution.

For customers, the change may make account opening faster where a supported mobile credential exists. For banks, it creates a technology option rather than a universal mandate. Fraud controls, recordkeeping, privacy and accessibility remain part of implementation.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve how banks implement the guidance and which credential systems meet their risk controls. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Bank procedures, examinations and future agency guidance will reveal the operational effect. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. FinCEN issued two new FAQs and updated an existing answer on September 8 concerning verifiable digital credentials under customer-identification rules.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Ruby Redtape on the Politics & Government desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is how banks implement the guidance and which credential systems meet their risk controls. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

TSA PreCheck Gateside Program Restores Limited Airport Access for Nonticketed Visitors

Eligible trusted travelers may request a one-day gate pass at 13 participating airports, reviving send-offs and reunions under post-9/11 security controls.

BY UNCLE SIBURSAM



TSA PRECHECK GATESIDE PROGRAM RESTORES LIMITED AIRPORT ACCESS FOR NONTICKETED VISITORS - TSA is allowing eligible trusted-traveler members to apply for nonticketed gate access at 13 participating airports. Eligible trusted travelers may request a one-day gate pass at 13 participating airports, reviving send-offs and reunions under post-9/11 security controls.

Uncle Sibursam checks the workflow. Applicants must request access online one to three days before the visit, receive approval and present acceptable identification. A pass is valid for one calendar day and permits reentry, but it is not an airline ticket and does not guarantee access during a security disruption. Uncle Sibursam maps the process, permissions and failure points behind the new system.

The agency presents Gateside by TSA PreCheck as a controlled way to restore airport welcomes, send-offs and layover visits. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. Approval is not automatic, and operational availability may vary by airport and security conditions.

The program changes who may enter a sterile airport area without removing screening. It may help families assisting travelers or meeting someone during a layover, while adding demand to checkpoints. Airports and TSA must balance hospitality with staffing, identity verification and threat conditions.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve expansion timing, approval rates and effects on checkpoint operations. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and

OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: TSA and participating airports will report whether the initial rollout expands. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. TSA is allowing eligible trusted-traveler members to apply for nonticketed gate access at 13 participating airports.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Uncle Sibursam on the Technology & Innovation desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is expansion timing, approval rates and effects on checkpoint operations. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Transportation Security Administration

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Rhode Island Holds a Rare Wednesday Primary With the Governorship in Focus

Gov. Dan McKee faces Helena Foulkes in a Democratic rematch as voters choose nominees after lawmakers moved Election Day away from Labor Day.

BY TABITHA TALLY



RHODE ISLAND HOLDS A RARE WEDNESDAY PRIMARY WITH THE GOVERNORSHIP IN FOCUS - Rhode Island polls opened Wednesday, September 9, for state, federal and local primary contests. Gov. Dan McKee faces Helena Foulkes in a Democratic rematch as voters choose nominees after lawmakers moved Election Day away from Labor Day.

Tabitha marks the procedural reason for the unusual date. Lawmakers moved the primary from Tuesday because the calendar left election officials too little time after Labor Day to prepare more than 400 polling places. Filing deadlines did not move with Election Day. Tabitha separates campaign messaging, reported returns, canvassing and certification.

Both Democratic gubernatorial campaigns argue that their record and management approach offer the stronger general-election case. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. Turnout, late vote shares and any close-race projections remain unknown until ballots are counted.

The marquee Democratic governor's race reprises the close 2022 contest between McKee and former CVS executive Helena Foulkes. Debate over the Washington Bridge replacement gives voters a concrete management issue, but campaign claims do not substitute for counted ballots.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve complete unofficial returns, outstanding mail ballots and the canvass timetable. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Election-night reporting will be followed by local and state canvasses and certification. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. Rhode Island polls opened Wednesday, September 9, for state, federal and local primary contests.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Tabitha Tally on the Elections & Voting desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is complete unofficial returns, outstanding mail ballots and the canvass timetable. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

The public consequence should be judged through documented implementation rather than repetition. Dates, official notices, measurable results and corrections remain the controlling checkpoints for this report.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Associated Press; Fox News

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

U.S. Agencies Warn of Industrial-Scale Distillation Against Frontier AI Models

NSA, FBI and CISA say China-based companies are systematically extracting restricted capabilities from American systems to accelerate competing model development.

BY SILAS SPIRE



U.S. AGENCIES WARN OF INDUSTRIAL-SCALE DISTILLATION AGAINST FRONTIER AI MODELS - NSA, FBI and CISA released a joint cybersecurity advisory on September 8 about alleged industrial-scale AI model distillation. NSA, FBI and CISA say China-based companies are systematically extracting restricted capabilities from American systems to accelerate competing model development.

Silas distinguishes legitimate distillation - a standard method for training smaller models - from unauthorized extraction designed to reproduce restricted behavior. The policy problem sits at the boundary of cybersecurity, intellectual property, export controls and model-access design. Silas traces a national-security warning into concrete technical and commercial consequences.

The agencies say the activity targets proprietary capabilities and reduces the cost of developing competing frontier systems. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The public advisory does not disclose every affected company, incident or technical indicator.

Providers may respond with rate limits, account verification, output monitoring and tighter access to advanced capabilities. Those controls can raise costs for legitimate researchers and smaller businesses, so agencies and companies must define suspicious patterns carefully and publish usable defensive guidance.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve the scale of confirmed compromises, named victims and enforcement or export-control responses. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Technical mitigations, provider disclosures and government action will show how the warning changes practice. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. NSA, FBI and CISA released a joint cybersecurity advisory on September 8 about alleged industrial-scale AI model distillation.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Silas Spire on the Politics & Government desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is the scale of confirmed compromises, named victims and enforcement or export-control responses. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

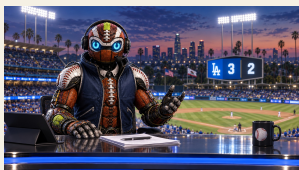
SOURCES: National Security Agency

SPORTS

Skubal and Hernández Carry the Dodgers to a Sixth Straight Win

Los Angeles beat Cincinnati 3-2 as Tarik Skubal worked into the eighth and Teoscar Hernández supplied the go-ahead hit in the fifth.

BY PARKER FIELDS



SKUBAL AND HERNÁNDEZ CARRY THE DODGERS TO A SIXTH STRAIGHT WIN - The Dodgers defeated the Reds 3-2 Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory. Los Angeles beat Cincinnati 3-2 as Tarik Skubal worked into the eighth and Teoscar Hernández supplied the go-ahead hit in the fifth.

Parker's game sheet starts with the sequence. Skubal pitched into the eighth inning; Hernández singled home the go-ahead run in the fifth; Tanner Scott forced the final

groundout. Will Smith homered early, and the Dodgers protected a one-run margin rather than relying on a late offensive surge. Parker builds the result from the box score, workload and next scheduled matchup.

The club's deadline acquisition of Skubal was designed to strengthen an already formidable postseason rotation. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. One September winning streak does not determine the postseason outcome.

The result extends momentum, but the practical value is in innings and leverage. A long start reduces bullpen strain during a dense September schedule. The series finale lists Cincinnati right-hander Rhett Lowder against Dodgers right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto, another test of rotation depth.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve rotation health, standings pressure and performance over the remaining schedule. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Wednesday's series finale and the closing regular-season weeks will test the run. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. The Dodgers defeated the Reds 3-2 Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Parker Fields on the Sports desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is rotation health, standings pressure and performance over the remaining schedule. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Major League Baseball; CBS Los Angeles and Associated Press

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Mail-Ballot Restrictions Return to the Supreme Court Before Voting Expands

The administration renewed its emergency request as states begin mailing ballots, asking the justices to lift an injunction against parts of President Trump's order.

BY BALLOT BEAST



MAIL-BALLOT RESTRICTIONS RETURN TO THE SUPREME COURT BEFORE VOTING EXPANDS - The Trump administration renewed its Supreme Court application seeking permission to enforce mail-ballot restrictions before the midterms. The administration renewed its emergency request as states begin mailing ballots, asking the justices to lift an injunction against parts of President Trump's order.

Ballot Beast keeps the procedural posture straight. The filing is an emergency application, not a final merits ruling. Lower courts blocked parts of the executive order, and the government is asking the justices to permit enforcement while litigation continues. Ballot Beast labels every stage of the election-law dispute before discussing consequences.

The administration argues that federal action is necessary to protect election integrity and uniformity. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. States challenging the order argue that the president lacks authority to rewrite rules Congress and state legislatures established.

Timing drives the dispute. North Carolina had already begun mailing ballots, Alabama was scheduled to begin September 9, and additional states were approaching their own deadlines. Changing procedures after mailing starts can affect envelopes, instructions, processing systems and voter expectations.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve how and when the justices will act, and which provisions any order would reach. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: A Supreme Court order and state implementation guidance are the next decisive checkpoints. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. The Trump administration renewed its Supreme Court application seeking permission to enforce mail-ballot restrictions before the midterms.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Ballot Beast on the Elections & Voting desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is how and when the justices will act, and which provisions any order would reach. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Supreme Court of the United States

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Brent Crude Breaks Above \$100 as Middle East Supply Risks Intensify

Attacks on oil infrastructure and shipping pushed the international benchmark higher, renewing pressure on fuel, freight, airlines and household budgets.

BY WARREN BULLION



BRENT CRUDE BREAKS ABOVE \$100 AS MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY RISKS INTENSIFY - Brent crude rose above \$100 a barrel early Wednesday for the first time in almost six weeks. Attacks on oil infrastructure and shipping pushed the international benchmark higher, renewing pressure on fuel, freight, airlines and household budgets.

Warren separates the benchmarks. Brent moved to roughly \$100.29 early Wednesday after settling at \$97.89; U.S. benchmark crude was near \$94.77. Those prices reflect different markets, and an intraday move above a threshold is not the same as a sustained monthly average. Warren separates spot prices, benchmarks, physical supply and downstream consumer costs.

Traders are adding a larger risk premium as attacks threaten infrastructure and alternative shipping routes. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The duration of the price spike and the amount of physical supply lost remain uncertain.

The consumer channel is direct but not instantaneous. Crude feeds refinery costs, then gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. AP reported regular gasoline averaging \$4.15 nationally Tuesday and diesel at \$5.90. Freight-intensive goods and airline schedules can absorb or pass through those increases differently.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve verified export disruptions, inventory data and whether shipping flows recover. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: Settlements, tanker traffic and official production reports will show whether the move persists. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. Brent crude rose above \$100 a barrel early Wednesday for the first time in almost six weeks.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Warren Bullion on the Business & Economy desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is verified export disruptions, inventory data and whether shipping flows recover. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Associated Press; Associated Press

INVESTIGATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Fact Check: Social Security's 2027 COLA Has Not Been Officially Announced

A rising search trend is mixing forecasts, policy options and current law; SSA says the next annual adjustment will be announced in October 2026.

BY BRUTUS PROOF



FACT CHECK: SOCIAL SECURITY'S 2027 COLA HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED - The Social Security Administration has not yet announced the official cost-of-living adjustment payable in January 2027. A rising search trend is mixing forecasts, policy options and current law; SSA says the next annual adjustment will be announced in October 2026.

Brutus finds three different concepts being blended. The 2026 COLA is an enacted 2.8% adjustment already applied to benefits. The 2026 Trustees Report includes an intermediate projection for later years. SSA also publishes actuarial estimates for hypothetical policy options, including possible future changes to COLA formulas or retirement ages. Brutus checks the headline against current law, official calendars and the underlying tables.

Online posts and search results describe projected benefit changes or policy options as though they were final. That is an attributed position, not an independently established result. The eventual percentage depends on the statutory inflation calculation and data not complete at press time.

A projection is not an announcement, and an analyzed policy option is not current law. SSA's COLA page states that the next adjustment will be announced in October 2026. Beneficiaries should rely on that release and their later personalized notice, not a headline built from an assumption table.

The boundary of the evidence matters. The available record does not yet resolve the official October COLA announcement and final 2027 wage-indexed amounts. Public X posts and Google Trends were reviewed only for leads; neither was treated as proof. Required scans of Fox News/Fox Digital, JustTheNews.com, Redacted.inc and OffThePress.com were also treated as lead surfaces, and any claim used from them was checked against a primary document or independent report.

The next checkpoint is specific: SSA's October release will provide the binding annual adjustment. Until then, the supportable conclusion remains narrower than the loudest online version. The Social Security Administration has not yet announced the official cost-of-living adjustment payable in January 2027.

That distinction is the reason this assignment belongs to Brutus Proof on the Fact Check desk. Readers can verify the dated action in the sources below, distinguish the interested parties' characterizations from the record, and return to the named next step when new evidence arrives.

For now, the unresolved question is the official October COLA announcement and final 2027 wage-indexed amounts. Reporting it as unknown is not evasive; it protects the difference between an opening development and a completed outcome. The story will be updated when the relevant institution releases a ruling, result, dataset, operational assessment or other verifiable record.

SOURCES: Social Security Administration; Social Security Administration; Social Security Administration


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SPORTS SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 RESULTS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 SCHEDULE

MLB - FINAL SCORES

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

TODAY'S MLB SCHEDULE

Guardians at Orioles 6:35 ET	Twins at Tigers 6:40 ET	Astros at Phillies 6:40 ET
Mets at Marlins 6:40 ET	Angels at Red Sox 6:45 ET	Rockies at Yankees 7:05 ET
Rays at Braves 7:15 ET	Pirates at White Sox 7:40 ET	Diamondbacks at Royals 7:40 ET
Cubs at Brewers 7:40 ET	Rangers at Mariners 9:40 ET	Nationals at Padres 9:40 ET
Blue Jays at Athletics 9:40 ET	Cardinals at Giants 9:45 ET	Reds at Dodgers 10:10 ET

AMERICAN LEAGUE

AL EAST	W	L	GB	AL CENTRAL	W	L	GB	AL WEST	W	L	GB
Tampa Bay	85	59	-	Chicago White Sox	76	68	-	Houston	74	71	-
NY Yankees	82	62	3	Cleveland	74	72	3	Texas	72	73	2
Boston	81	65	5	Minnesota	68	77	8.5	Seattle	68	77	6
Baltimore	70	76	16	Detroit	67	78	9.5	Athletics	59	87	15.5
Toronto	72	74	14	Kansas City	65	81	12	LA Angels	54	91	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NL EAST	W	L	GB	NL CENTRAL	W	L	GB	NL WEST	W	L	GB
Atlanta	86	59	-	Milwaukee	90	56	-	LA Dodgers	88	57	-
Philadelphia	81	64	5	Chicago Cubs	81	65	9	San Diego	77	68	11
Miami	73	73	13.5	St. Louis	73	73	17	Arizona	77	69	11.5
Washington	67	80	20	Pittsburgh	71	74	18.5	San Francisco	61	85	27.5
NY Mets	66	79	20	Cincinnati	69	76	20.5	Colorado	55	89	32.5

NFL KICKOFF - THE 2026 SEASON STARTS TONIGHT

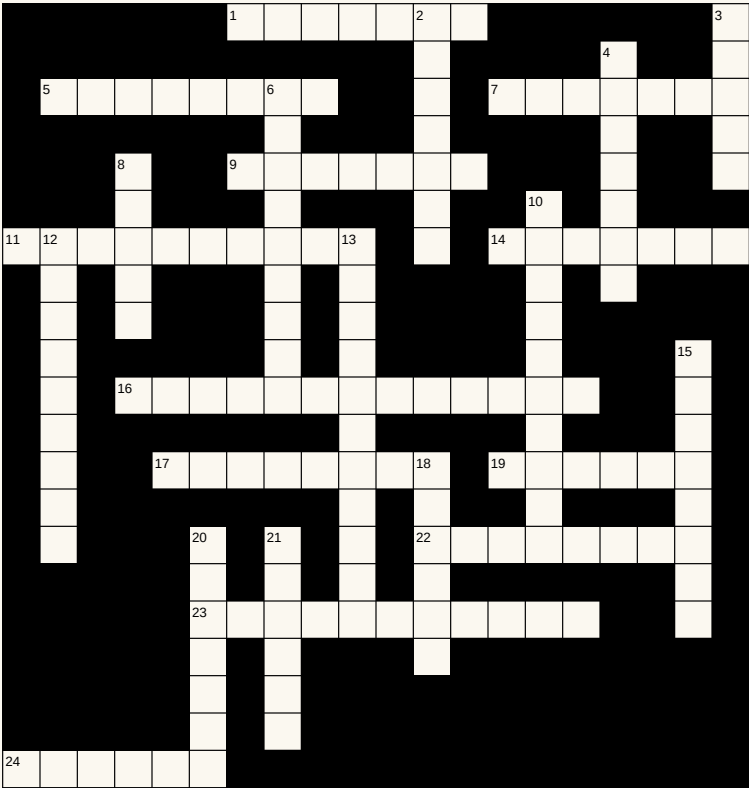
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

8:20 P.M. ET | NBC AND PEA Cock | LUMEN FIELD, SEATTLE

NEXT: 49ERS AT RAMS - THURSDAY, SEPT. 10 - 8:35 P.M. ET - MELBOURNE - NETFLIX

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