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NEWS IN BRIEF 4

October 24th – November 6th 2026

THE GUARDIAN

King Charles is visiting the Caribbean archipelago, for which he is still the head of state, for the first time in more than 50 years.
Some have described the king's nine-day tour of the Bahamas, Antigua and Guyana amid growing calls for slavery reparations as a significant risk that may accelerate his removal as head of state from the six remaining Caribbean Commonwealth countries in which he still serves.
King Charles is to travel Antigua for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM). As the summit gets under way, the prime minister, Andy Burnham, will begin talks about a formal apology with countries affected by Britain's role in transatlantic enslavement.

THE INDEPENDENT

Andy Burnham is set to back a bill that will make new exploration for oil and gas in the North Sea illegal.
The Energy Independence Bill, which was introduced by Miatta Fahnbulleh, would remove the North Sea Transition Authority's ability to grant new oil and gas licences.
It seeks to permanently protect the moratorium on new oil and gas drilling projects, which was introduced by Ed Miliband when he was energy secretary, but could be overturned by future governments.
The proposed law would make it harder for the North Sea to be reopened in the future, as it would require a parliamentary majority to be repealed. It would not affect drilling at the Jackdaw gas field, which the government approved last month, or at the Rosebank oil field, which already has an existing licence.

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AXIOS

Women candidates won enough races Tuesday to set a new record for Democratic women's representation in the U.S. House — among other historic firsts in Congress and governor's races nationwide.
The spike for Democratic Women's Caucus members in the House alone marks an increase of more than 60% since 2016. At least 100 Democratic women and 16 Republican women have won House seats as of Wednesday morning, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, making women's representation near about 28%. Besides, in 2027, a record-breaking one in three states will now be led by a woman governor. There were also historic firsts for Republican women: Republican Julia Letlow is Louisiana's first Republican woman elected to the Senate. Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) will be Tennessee's first woman governor.

NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump announced that the Agriculture Department would provide $8 billion in economic aid to farmers hurt by high diesel prices. The plan is known as the Harvest Fuel Relief Program.
It was the second time in two years that the president authorized billions of dollars in bailout money for farmers harmed by his administration's policies, and came a few days before a midterm election in which unhappy farmers and ranchers could be the deciding votes in close races across the country.
Zippy Duvall, the president of the Farm Bureau, a farm lobbying group, said he appreciated that the government recognized that "higher diesel prices have squeezed farmers' bottom lines," and called for Congress to pass this year's farm bill as well as farm labor legislation.

CNN

Hackers steal over 6 billion dollars in biggest crypto heist ever

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/75JdhEsT21E

BBC NEWS

Will Burnham bring back freedom of movement with the EU?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4piyMrxhbw

CBS NEWS

Texas turned blue. Here's what the data says about who voted for Talarico

https://youtube.com/shorts/y6sATj2dR2Q?si=4Nx9C3FOCzt3MTS8

Donald Trump's leadership has become a colossal wreck

Freddy Gray The Spectator November 5th, 2026

'I'm going to become a Political Pundit, both good and bad, on the reasons these Candidates won and lost!' So concluded Donald Trump, nonsensically, as his party's disastrous midterm results came crashing in. Trump, now 80, is becoming less and less coherent. In a speech on Monday, he claimed: 'I've actually kept far more promises than I made.' (…) And now, as the colossal wreck of his leadership emerges, he's taken to fantasising madly about alternative careers. 'If people in the United States get fed up with me,' he said this week, 'I'll move to Israel and become prime minister.'

The Middle East is on his mind. On Saturday, he had by most accounts a 'tough' telephone call with Benjamin Netanyahu, the man who persuaded him to launch the war in Iran, which even Trump now acknowledges played a part in his party's loss of both houses of Congress. As America went to the polls on Tuesday, Trump announced that he had decided to end US military aid to Israel by the end of the year. 'It's a bad talking point,' he said, as he contemplated the rise of the fiercely anti-Israel Michigan Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, who has now been elected as America's first Muslim senator.

But the conflict in Iran is far from over. In the coming days, the President will decide whether to order another massive bombing campaign – or allow his Vice President to keep suing for a very difficult peace. Poor J.D. Vance. Now that the midterms are over, he – or whoever else takes Trump's place as the Republican presidential nominee in 2028 – will face an almighty mess. The victorious coalition of 2024 has shattered and can probably never be put back together. 'America is done with Trump,' is how one Republican operative put it. But Trump isn't done with America. He has more than two years left in the White House. And the worry for his would-be successors is he may cause more carnage in the coming months.

On Tuesday, the Republicans lost not just in typical swing states such as Michigan and Ohio. They were routed in historically 'deep red' states such as Kansas, Texas and South Carolina, too. Latino, young and black voters swung back towards the Democrats in huge numbers. Even more alarmingly for Grand Old Party strategists, non-college educated whites – that core Trumpist demographic – have begun to desert the party. Citizens of all ethnicities are appalled by the war, angry about the impact that conflict has had on 'gas' and food prices. In one exit poll, a staggering 90 per cent of voters said 'corruption' was a crucial or major factor in their vote. Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have not yet been embroiled in any Trump stories involving cryptocurrencies or shady foreign investments. But they are tied to an administration that is failing on any number of fronts.

Team Trump's closeness to the overlords of Big Tech also seems to be a major problem. In Texas, where data centres are a pressing concern, Elon Musk spent more than $150 million trying to make the witless Ken Paxton a senator. But Paxton lost to the Democrat James Talarico. The extent to which fears about AI played a part in these elections is a matter of debate. But the results in Texas, and Ohio, suggest that voters do not reward the party most closely aligned with Silicon Valley's interests.

The only well-known Republican who enjoyed a good night on Tuesday was the man Trump brushed aside for the party's nomination in 2024: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. He was not up for re-election but his state proved to be the one bright red spot, as Ashley Moody defeated the Democrat Angie Nixon with relative ease. The result was hardly surprising, given Nixon's association with the Democratic Socialists of America. But it's already being interpreted as a validation of DeSantis's political strategy, which has been to keep his distance from the White House. This week, with impeccable timing, DeSantis appeared on the '*Straight Shooter*' podcast and shot straight. 'We've just got to be honest,' he said. 'Gas is higher. It hurts people, working-class people, and it's higher because of the [Iran] conflict. That's just a fact. If you can't admit that to voters, then you're gaslighting them.'

But it would be rash to write off Maga after one bad set of election results – and naive to think that politics-as-used-to-be-normal must resume because the sun is setting on the Trump era. (…) America may be sick of such sordidness. But nastiness still thrives on the national stage. After Trump, expect another deluge.

a wreck [rɛk] = a violent and destructive crash

The Spectator is a weekly British political and cultural news magazine. It is politically conservative but its writers' opinions range from left to right.

a pundit = an expert **to shatter** = to destroy **to be done with** = to be finished with

a swing state is a U.S. state in which Republican and Democratic candidates have similar levels of support and which is considered to play a key role in the outcome of presidential and midterm elections

to be routed ['raʊtɪd] = to be defeated decisively **a red state** = a Republican-led state

to swing (**swung**, swung): pivoter, virer

The Grand Old Party (GOP [ʤi: əʊ pi:] = The Republican Party

witless = foolish, stupid **to gaslight sb** = to psychologically manipulate sb **to resume** = to start again