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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: A column of smoke rises from the Bald Range wildfire over a residential street in Summerland.
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

Canadian Wildfire Spreads

Emergency declared as fires spread

Alexander Sullivan

A state of emergency was declared in British Columbia after the fast-moving Bald Range wildfire doubled in size within days, sweeping across more than 39 square miles of timberland and residential areas. The aggressive blaze triggered the region's largest evacuation event this summer, forcing more than 20,000 residents to flee their homes across several communities, including Summerland and Peachland. British Columbia Premier David Eby stated that fire officials likened the sudden explosion of the inferno to a bomb going off, noting that intense heat created localized weather systems and lightning. Emergency crews worked tirelessly around the clock to suppress the flames as properties and farmland sustained severe damage. Officials reported that changing wind patterns left some residents temporarily trapped, requiring urgent rescue operations. The formal emergency declaration grants provincial authorities temporary special powers, including the enforcement of travel restrictions and protection against supply price gouging. Summerland Mayor Doug Holmes warned that local communities must brace for severe structure losses as containment efforts remain ongoing.

HIGHLIGHT

●The Bald Range wildfire expanded to over 39 square miles in British Columbia.

●More than 20,000 residents were forced to evacuate vulnerable areas.

●Officials declared a state of emergency to assist rescue and relief efforts.

Senate Confirms Todd Blanche

Former Attorney Wins Narrow Vote

Rodrigo Diaz

In a razor-thin 50-49 vote, the Senate confirmed Todd Blanche as U.S. Attorney General, ending months of debate over President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Justice Department. Blanche, a former criminal defense attorney who had served as acting attorney general since April, secured confirmation after Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy cast the decisive vote in his favor. Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski joined Senate Democrats in opposing the nomination. Critics raised concerns over Blanche's handling of Jeffrey Epstein-related disclosures, a $10 billion dispute with the Internal Revenue Service, and his role in a proposed $1.8 billion fund for people alleging government mistreatment. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley praised the confirmation, while Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer criticized the decision. Following the vote, Blanche thanked senators for their trust as he formally assumed leadership of the department.



Photo: Todd Blanche speaks during a news conference at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice building. Image Source: Getty Images/BBC



Photo: FIFA president Gianni Infantino waves on arrival for the swearing-in ceremony of Colombia's new president, Abelardo de la Espriella
Image Source: Reuters/BBCLuis Acosta/AFP

Infantino Backed in Colombia

South American Football Backs FIFA

John Paul

FIFA President Gianni Infantino received strong backing from South American football leaders during a visit to Cali, Colombia, on August 7, 2026, where he attended the inauguration of President Abelardo de la Espriella.
The 56-year-old FIFA chief has faced criticism from UEFA over the abandoned FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal, which sought to introduce private investment into the World Cup. Despite the dispute, CONMEBOL and several national federations publicly supported Infantino. CONMEBOL President Alejandro Dominguez praised Infantino's leadership and stressed the importance of dialogue. Football federations from Ecuador, Venezuela, Argentina, and Paraguay also expressed confidence in him.
Infantino is preparing to seek a fourth term in FIFA's March 2027 presidential election in Rabat. During his visit, he also attended a children's football festival in Cali, interacting with local young players.

HIGHLIGHT

● FIFA President Gianni Infantino received crucial backing from South American football leaders during his visit to Colombia.

US Halts Offshore Wind

German Firm Accepts Massive Payout

Lily Anderson

German energy giant RWE has agreed to abandon its offshore wind projects in the United States following a $1.2 billion buyout agreement with the Department of the Interior. The deal covers leases off California, Louisiana, and the New York Bight.
RWE plans to reinvest $900 million of the payout into a liquefied natural gas export facility in Louisiana. The company also intends to invest about $19.6 billion in the U.S. over the next six years to expand energy generation capacity.



Photo: Five wind turbines mounted on yellow metal structures embedded into the sea bed at the Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Block Island, RI.
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

Company executives said there was no clear path to permitting offshore wind projects in the foreseeable future. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum welcomed the agreement.

HIGHLIGHT

●German energy firm RWE agrees to a $1.2 billion payout deal with the US Department of the Interior.

The deal follows similar federal settlements reached in March 2026 with TotalEnergies and Duke Energy, reflecting President Donald Trump's broader effort to halt offshore wind expansion nationwide.

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NYA Highlights Rail Freight's Role

NYN Community Desk

New York and Atlantic Railway hosted Federal Railroad Administrator David Fink at its Fresh Pond rail facility and headquarters in Glendale, where officials discussed the importance of strong, reliable and efficient rail freight for the region.

Fink was joined by FRA Deputy Administrator Drew Feeley, Senior Policy Advisor Russell Roberts, representatives from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, the MTA and several NYA customers, including EWG Glass Recovery and Recycle Corp., Gershow Recycling, D&M Lumber and WM. During the visit, officials highlighted rail freight's role in reducing highway congestion,



Photo: Federal Railroad Administrator David Fink visits NYA's Fresh Pond rail facility in Glendale.
Image Source: New York and Atlantic Railway

lowering transportation costs, improving supply chain reliability and supporting businesses across New York City and Long Island.

NYA President Marlon Taylor led the discussion and tour of the Fresh Pond yard, which handles about 30,000 carloads of freight each year on tracks shared with the Long Island Rail Road.

Taylor thanked Fink and his team for recognizing the importance of strengthening freight rail, especially in a densely populated region. NYA,

which began operating in May 1997, continues to serve as a key transportation hub for materials, energy products and recyclables.

Queens Tenants Defend Rent Freeze

NYN Local Correspondent

Queens tenants are defending New York City's rent freeze after landlords filed a lawsuit against the Rent Guidelines Board on July 22, challenging a decision that affects more than one million rent-stabilized apartments.

The freeze, set to run from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2027, applies to one- and two-year rent-stabilized leases. Property owners argue the board's decision was politically driven and failed to properly consider rising operating costs, taxes, insurance and repairs.



Photo: Queens tenants rallied during the Rent Guidelines Board hearing on June 4.
Image Source : Tousif Ahsan

Tenant advocates and renters, however, say the freeze reflects years of organizing and growing frustration over housing affordability. Many Queens tenants described rising rents, poor building conditions, broken elevators, mold, rats and inaccessible apartments as daily realities.

Kasey McNaughton of the Youth Alliance for Housing said tenants are being forced to choose between rent, groceries and medicine. Doug Ostling, a longtime rent-stabilized tenant in Flushing, said he is close to being priced out after living in his building for more than 50 years.

The case remains before the court, with responsive papers from the RGB due Aug. 14 and oral arguments scheduled for Aug. 21. For now, the rent freeze remains in effect.

Truck Fire Snarls RFK Bridge Traffic



Photo: A plume of thick black smoke was seen rising from the Queens side of the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge after a tractor-trailer burst into flames during the morning rush on Friday.
Image Source: Via Citizen

NYN Community Reporter

A tractor-trailer fire caused major rush-hour delays on Friday morning near the Queens approach to the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge. The fire broke out around 8:15 a.m., and responding FDNY crews found the 18-wheeler fully engulfed in flames. Authorities temporarily closed all Manhattan-bound and Brooklyn-bound lanes while firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze.

The truck's cab was destroyed, but the driver was not injured.

raffic was backed up on nearby routes, including the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and Grand Central Parkway. According to Notify NYC, all lanes reopened around 9:30 a.m.,

though residual delays continued. FDNY fire marshals will determine the cause of the fire.

Health Officials Expand Mosquito Control

NYN Neighborhood Report

The New York City Health Department will treat parts of Queens,

Staten Island and city wetlands next week after surveillance found increased West Nile Virus activity among mosquitoes.

Officials said the city will use aerial and truck-based treatments to reduce mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes in areas at higher risk. No human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in New York City so far.



Photo: The Health Department is spraying against mosquitoes in Queens and Staten Island this week.
Image Source: Getty Images

Weather permitting, treatments are scheduled for Staten Island on Aug. 10 and parts of Queens on Aug. 12. Additional larviciding will take place from Aug. 10 through Aug.

12 in selected wetlands across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. Health officials said the treatments pose no significant risk to people or pets.

Residents

were urged to remove standing water, use insect repellent and keep window and door screens in good condition.



Photo: The Rockaway Film Festival will take place from Sep. 2 to Sep. 6 at the Arverne Cinema.
Image Source: Alec Kugler

Rockaway Festival Marks Ninth Year

NYN News Correspondent

The Rockaway Film Festival has announced the lineup for its ninth annual celebration, bringing five days of films, music, workshops and community programming to Arverne Cinema from Wednesday, Sept. 2, through Sunday, Sept. 6. This year's program will feature multiple screenings each day, along with musical performances, workshops and Q&A sessions. One highlight is a free children's screening of "The Muppet Movie," featuring Bonnie Erickson, the creator of Miss Piggy, and other special guests. The festival will also include the U.S. premiere of Marie Valentine Regan's "Adnan Being and Time," a film about Lebanese-American poet and artist Etel Adnan. Other featured programs include an advance screening of John Wilson's "The History of Concrete" and a closing night presentation of 16mm Hudson River films by American filmmaker Peter Hudson.

Musical guests include alternative hip-hop artist Heems, composer and vocalist Frances Chang, and psychedelic-folk group White Magic.

Founded in 2018, the festival aims to bring film back to the Rockaway Peninsula, which has been without a movie theater for more than 30 years.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:34	01:01	04:53	08:02	09:28
04:36	01:01	04:53	08:01	09:26
04:37	01:01	04:52	07:59	09:24
04:38	01:01	04:52	07:58	09:23
04:40	01:01	04:51	07:57	09:21
04:41	01:01	04:50	07:55	09:19
04:42	01:01	04:50	07:54	09:18

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OPINION

Truck Fire Snarls RFK Bridge Traffic

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Abdul El-Sayed's Victory Is a Victory for Change

– Imam Shamsi Ali

I have said on several occasions that the United States is currently undergoing a massive political transformation. The change is real. It can be seen in the victories of a number of political candidates who openly dare to challenge the status quo that has long gripped American politics, a status quo controlled by political lobbies such as AIPAC, the Israeli Zionist lobby, and capitalist interests.

The victory of Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, and of course the phenomenal victory of Zohran Mamdani in New York, is the clearest proof that this political transformation is not an illusion. Not to mention the victories of several other candidates, including three Congressional candidates supported by Zohran Mamdani in New York City. So it is true when I say: change is inevitable.

The question that arises then is, why is this transformation happening? American politics is so tightly shackled by the interests of a handful of capital owners and lobby powers, especially when we talk about the Israeli Zionist lobby which until today still controls American foreign policy in many parts of the world. This enormous influence has in fact made America increasingly isolated and disadvantaged.

There are many factors driving this change. I will mention a few that are most visible and relevant to the current situation in America and the world. Some are external, others are internal.

1. The Longing for Change

Change is the natural character of the universe. Everything changes except the Creator of the universe Himself. So when stagnation occurs, even in a seemingly positive condition, the time will come for change. It is no wonder that God gives tests from time to time. Those tests themselves can become the gateway to change.

So it is with American society. This nation has long experienced political stagnation and has been running in place. It has been too long in the comfort zone of political stability. Democracy seems to still be running, the balance of power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches still appears to be working, and the people still feel they have the authority to control power. This sense of security that is taken for granted is precisely what became the entry point for a dangerous political parasite: the Zionist and capitalist lobbies.

Gradually, that penetration became more real and more palpable. Public criticism of policies that contradict the Constitution and human conscience was ignored by those in power. Restlessness grew. But that restlessness continued to be silenced by the games of the Zionist lobby and capitalist interests. This is what has made people increasingly uneasy and longing for change, even though the door to change feels tightly locked by the power of money.

2. The Gaza Genocide and the Awakening of Human Conscience

That longing for change finally found its momentum, or perhaps more accurately its affirmation, through the massacre and genocide in Gaza. The cruelty of the Israeli Zionist occupiers in Gaza, in an era of open media, especially social media, can no longer be covered up and manipulated.

For a long time, the American public was deceived by the mainstream media still controlled by the same vested interests. The reality of Israel's cruelty in Palestine, especially in Gaza, has unveiled the humanitarian conscience of the American people. A conscience that had long been blinded by politicians bought by AIPAC and by the media was finally touched by the Zionist injustice against the Palestinian people. This was very



— Imam Shamsi Ali : Director, Jamaica Muslim Center & President, Nusantara Foundation

clearly seen in the New York mayoral election, where Zohran Mamdani received extraordinary support from young people, even from within the Jewish community itself.

The cruelty of the Zionists and the suffering of the people of Gaza have not only touched ordinary citizens, but have also awakened some politicians. We saw it in the recent shift in Congress, where more than 100 members of Congress supported ending unconditional military aid to Israel. This has then become a trend among political candidates who are increasingly brave enough to break away from AIPAC and the oligarchy.

3. The Failure of American Government Policy

Another factor that has accelerated the process of change is the policy of the American government itself, both Democratic and Republican. The defeat of the Democrats, represented by Kamala Harris, by the Republicans, represented by Donald Trump, was partly caused by President Biden's poor policy in responding to the genocide in Gaza. President Biden, who identifies himself as a Catholic Zionist, bears a large share of responsibility for the genocide that occurred in Gaza.

Although the American people knew who Donald Trump was, the hope for change was so great that they still elected him. But that hope vanished. What Donald Trump has done may not look as cruel on the surface as what happened in the Biden era, but in substance his support for Zionist cruelty is even worse. Because Trump has given full support to Israel to realize its dream: Greater Israel. This has been manifested in various policies, including the attack on Iran.

In essence, the unjust policies of the American government, whether under Democrats or Republicans, have become the catalyst for accelerating political change in America. Within the Democratic Party itself, about 60% are now shifting toward what is known as Democratic Socialism. One of its most popular figures today is the Mayor of New York, Zohran Mamdani. Abdul El-Sayed himself claims not to be a Democratic Socialist, but his views are aligned with and fully supported by Bernie Sanders, who is known as the mentor of the democratic socialist movement.

4. The Role and Inspiration of Zohran Mamdani

What is certain is that we will not forget the political role and inspiration played by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. I do not need to repeat all the extraordinary things about Zohran that have inspired a change in the American political landscape. Two things are enough: his identity as a Muslim and his firm stance against the genocide in Gaza. Those two things have opened the eyes of the American public, who have long been lulled in a comfort zone. People were made aware by Zohran that in the midst of that sense of security and comfort, something is fundamentally wrong. Therefore, it takes courage and consistency to change it. And it is that courage that led Zohran to victory, and to victory for those who follow in his footsteps.

Conclusion America is undergoing massive change. Perhaps the results are not yet 100 percent visible today, because both the legislative and especially the executive branches are still dominated by those who have been mortgaged by Zionist and capitalist lobbies and interests. But with Zohran's victory in New York City, Abdul's in Michigan, and other candidates, it is proven that America is indeed in a process of real political transformation. Please pray for it!

"The change is real."



Photo: Abdul El-Sayed
Image Source: Online

"Change is inevitable."

Why Scientific Curiosity Still Matters

– Dr. Adrian Carter

Science is often associated with laboratories, complicated equations, powerful telescopes, and advanced technology.

But at its heart, science begins with something remarkably simple: curiosity.

Every major scientific discovery began with a question. Why do objects fall? How do diseases spread? What exists beyond our planet? How does the human brain create memory? Questions like these have transformed our understanding of the world and, in many cases, changed human life.

Today, scientific curiosity is more important than ever. Humanity faces challenges ranging from climate change and emerging diseases to food security and the responsible development of artificial intelligence. Technology may provide powerful tools, but progress still depends on people who are willing to ask difficult questions, test assumptions, and search patiently for evidence.

— Dr. Adrian Carter Science Educator and Independent Writer

Science also teaches an important lesson about humility. What we believe today may be refined tomorrow as new evidence emerges. Admitting that we do not know something is not a weakness; it is often the beginning of discovery.

For younger generations, therefore, science education should not simply mean memorizing formulas and facts. It should encourage observation, experimentation, critical thinking, and the courage to question.

A society that values scientific curiosity creates room for discovery. And discovery, when guided by ethics and human responsibility, can improve lives far beyond the walls of any laboratory.

The future will undoubtedly bring questions we cannot yet imagine. Our greatest responsibility is to ensure that the next generation remains curious enough to ask them.

CONFERENCE

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From Hidaya Conference to ISNA63

Tahir-ul-Qadri encourages Muslims to gather in Detroit

NYN Desk Report

A gathering at McMaster University in Canada brought Islamic scholarship and community engagement together as His Eminence Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri delivered the keynote address at the Hidaya Conference, drawing attendees for a program centered on faith and learning.

Among those attending was Azhar Azeez, who shared his appreciation for the opportunity to meet Tahir-ul-Qadri during the conference. Azeez described the meeting as both a pleasure and an honor and noted Tahir-ul-Qadri's recognition among the world's 500 most influential Muslim scholars.

The keynote appearance served as a central part of the Hidaya Conference and gave participants an opportunity to hear directly from the prominent Islamic scholar. The gathering also created a connection between the conference in Canada and another major Muslim community event scheduled to take place in the United States.

During his appearance, Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri encouraged those attending the Hidaya Conference to join the 63rd Annual Convention of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), known as ISNA63, during Labor Day weekend in Detroit. His encouragement brought additional attention to the upcoming convention and its role as a gathering point for the Muslim community.



Azeez expressed gratitude for Tahir-ul-Qadri's support of the convention, describing his encouragement to attendees as a gracious gesture. The moment reflected a connection between Muslim scholars, community leaders, and institutions working to bring people together through conferences and educational gatherings.

The Islamic Society of North America is preparing for its 63rd Annual Convention, with the Detroit gathering expected to continue the organization's tradition of bringing Muslims together during Labor Day weekend. Azeez used his post about the Hidaya Conference to encourage community members to register for the upcoming event through ISNA.

The experience at McMaster University ultimately linked two community gatherings across Canada and the United States. Through Tahir-ul-Qadri's keynote appearance and his encouragement of participation in ISNA63, the conference highlighted the connections formed through Islamic scholarship, community engagement, and shared gatherings.













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Texas GOP Anti-Sharia Campaign Fuels Religious Freedom Debate

Muslim advocates warn expanding proposals could affect everyday Islamic practices

NYN Special Correspondent



A growing Republican campaign against Sharia law in Texas has evolved into a broader dispute over the religious and civil rights of Muslim Americans, as political proposals and rhetoric increasingly touch on Islamic practices that extend far beyond questions of courts and government authority.

The controversy developed gradually through 2025 and 2026, fueled by statements from elected officials, party resolutions, legislative initiatives and disputes involving Muslim organizations across the state.

What began largely as an argument over whether Islamic religious principles could influence Texas institutions has increasingly raised questions about practices such as hijab, halal food and Islamic education.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott repeatedly argued that Texas law must remain protected from Sharia-based legal systems and took actions involving Muslim organizations and developments.

The Republican Party of Texas also adopted resolutions criticizing the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

In November 2025, Abbott issued a state proclamation designating CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood as foreign terrorist and transnational criminal organizations. CAIR rejected the accusations. The federal government, however, has not designated CAIR itself as a foreign terrorist organization.

The political campaign intensified in March 2026, when Republican members of the Texas Legislature announced an "Anti-Sharia Caucus." Supporters said the effort was intended to prevent Sharia from gaining influence over Texas institutions and to preserve the supremacy of state and federal constitutional law.

Muslim civil-rights organizations challenged that premise. "Is Sharia law replacing the Texas Constitution? Absolutely not," CAIR-Texas and CAIR Action Texas said in a March 6 fact-check.

The organizations emphasized that the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution remain the governing legal authorities and that no religious tradition can override them.

The issue later moved directly into the Republican Party of Texas' 2026 convention process. A temporary legislative-priorities document included a proposal titled "Don't Sharia Our Texas," calling on the state government to take action against Sharia law and describing it as incompatible with constitutional government.

The party held its state convention in Houston in June 2026, where delegates established political priorities for the following two years.

The gathering also became the setting for a highly publicized dispute involving Muslim Republicans.

According to reporting cited in the controversy, Muslim delegates encountered hostility connected to their religion and associations with CAIR. Tarek Hussein, a registered Republican delegate and founder of CAIR's Houston chapter, attended the convention with his son. The episode became part of a broader internal debate over the place of Muslim Republicans and individuals associated with CAIR within the state party.

Since then, the controversy has moved beyond the narrow question of whether religious law could influence courts or public institutions.

Recent proposals discussed within conservative political circles have raised questions about potential restrictions involving hijab, halal food and Islamic education. That development has alarmed Muslim civil-rights advocates, who argue that Sharia has a much broader meaning for practicing Muslims than a separate governmental legal code. For many Muslims, Sharia can encompass religious principles governing prayer, fasting, charitable giving, dietary requirements, marriage and personal conduct.

Critics therefore argue that efforts framed as opposition to an alternative legal system could become constitutionally problematic if they begin restricting ordinary religious practices.

That distinction has become central to the growing political dispute.

For Muslim advocates, opposing the replacement of American law with a religious legal system is fundamentally different from restricting religious observance by individual citizens. They contend that the first principle is already protected by the existing constitutional structure, while the second could directly conflict with protections guaranteed under the First Amendment.

CAIR has emerged as one of the most prominent critics of the Texas campaign. CAIR-Texas has repeatedly argued that Muslims living in the United States are bound by the same state and federal laws as every other resident and that Islamic religious principles have no legal mechanism through which they could replace the Constitution.

In May 2026, CAIR-Texas joined several Muslim organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in calling for an end to what they described as hateful rhetoric and political "fear-mongering" directed at Muslim communities.

The organization has also argued that actions and statements by public officials contribute to a broader climate in which Muslim Americans may feel increasingly targeted because of their appearance, religious practices or political associations.

CAIR's 2026 Civil Rights Report said government officials had increasingly used public office during 2025 in ways that narrowed the space for Americans to differ in appearance, speech and belief.

Republican supporters reject the characterization that their initiatives amount to an attack on Islam or Muslims.

They argue that the campaign is focused on ensuring that the U.S. Constitution, federal law and Texas law remain the sole sources of governmental authority.

Supporters also say the measures are intended to guard against foreign influence, political Islamism or the emergence of any parallel legal system based on religious rules.

The Republican Party of Texas has continued to criticize CAIR and has supported Abbott's actions involving the organization.

The dispute therefore increasingly centers on where the constitutional boundary should be drawn between preventing religious institutions from exercising governmental authority and protecting the ability of citizens to follow religious rules voluntarily in their personal lives.

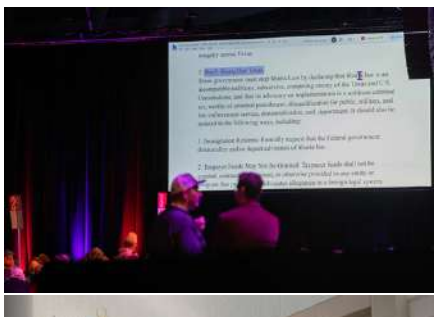
That question carries particular significance for Muslim Americans because many of the practices now appearing in political discussions — including religious dress and dietary observance — are comparable to faith-based practices followed by members of other religious communities.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion while prohibiting government establishment of religion. Those protections apply to Muslims as they do to Christians, Jews, Hindus, members of other faiths and Americans who practice no religion.

As the Texas debate continues, Muslim civil-rights advocates are urging elected officials to distinguish between legitimate constitutional or national-security concerns and policies that could single out an entire religious community.

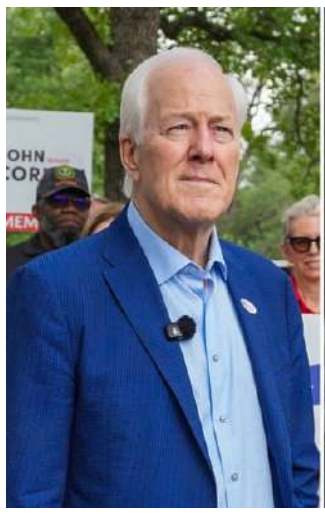
For Muslims in Texas, the controversy has become more than a disagreement over Sharia law. It has become a debate over whether religious expression, dress, food, education and personal observance could become political targets under a campaign originally framed around legal sovereignty.

The issue may therefore serve as a significant test of how political movements balance concerns about religious legal systems with one of the country's foundational constitutional principles: equal religious liberty for every faith.












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★ Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC)
★ Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society
★ Muslim Day Parade
★ Razi School
★ Moroccan American Council to Empower Women
★ UAMA
★ Yemeni American Association of NY
★ Yonkers Islamic Center
★ United Africa Football Club
★ Elhaam For All
★ NY Imam Council
★ Elhaam For All
★ Yemeni Women Association
★ New York State Chaplain Task Force
★ Elhaam Academy ENTERTAINMENT
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★ NYIC
★ African American Association
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Abdul El-Sayed Wins Michigan Democratic Senate Primary

Progressive candidate narrowly defeats Haley Stevens and advances to face Republican Mike Rogers

NYN Newsroom



Progressive former public health official Abdul El-Sayed narrowly won Michigan's Democratic U.S. Senate primary, defeating Rep. Haley Stevens in a closely watched contest that highlighted deep divisions over the direction of the Democratic Party ahead of the November 2026 midterm elections.

The Associated Press called the race on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, after nearly all ballots had been counted. At the time of the call, El-Sayed led Stevens by 14,893 votes, less than one percentage point, from more than 1.5 million ballots.

El-Sayed, 41, will now face former Republican congressman Mike Rogers, who was also the GOP Senate nominee in 2024. The contest is expected to be among the most consequential Senate races of the year, with Michigan remaining a politically competitive state and control of the chamber potentially at stake.

The result represented a significant political comeback for El-Sayed, who lost Michigan's 2018 Democratic gubernatorial primary by more than 20 percentage points. He launched his Senate campaign in April 2025 with a small staff before building a volunteer network that his campaign said grew to approximately 12,000 people.

His campaign emphasized Medicare for All, campaign finance reform and opposition to concentrated corporate power. He received backing from prominent progressives, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, while Stevens was supported by establishment Democrats including Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and leading Michigan party figures.

El-Sayed also faced tens of millions of dollars in outside spending, including advertising from groups supporting Stevens or opposing his candidacy.

"We took on a machine," El-Sayed said after his victory. "What we showed is that the power of our many is greater than the power of their money."

Stevens conceded and pledged to support El-Sayed against Rogers, while former primary rival Mallory McMorrow also endorsed him following the result.

El-Sayed quickly turned his attention toward party unity, telling supporters, "Tomorrow we begin to mend fences. There is so much more that unites us than divides us."

The November election will now test whether the grassroots coalition that propelled El-Sayed through the primary can succeed statewide. If victorious, he could make history as the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate.

















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Messi Mourns Death of Father

Inter Miami and soccer world pay tribute to Jorge Messi

NYN Digital Desk

Soccer took a secondary place as players, clubs, and supporters across continents rallied around Lionel Messi following the death of his father, Jorge Messi, whose influence stretched from his son's childhood in Argentina to the highest levels of the sport.

Jorge died at age 68 on Saturday following a long illness, passing away at a hospital in his hometown of Rosario, Argentina. He had served as his son's agent since Lionel Messi was 14 and played an important role in guiding the career of one of soccer's most celebrated players.

Messi missed Inter Miami's Leagues Cup match against Monterrey as he mourned with his family. Before kickoff, Miami held a minute of silence for Jorge, while players wore black armbands and his name appeared on the stadium's big screens.

The club also added a black ribbon to its social media profile images and said, "Our hearts are with our captain, Leo, and the entire Messi family."

The tributes continued during Miami's 2-1 defeat. Messi's Argentina teammate Rodrigo de Paul scored the opening goal and removed his shirt during the celebration to reveal Messi's shirt underneath. Supporters in the stands also displayed handmade messages offering condolences and support.



Messi with his Father, the late Jorge Messi

Luis Suarez, who missed the match through suspension, wrote that Jorge would continue watching over his son "with pride, as he always did."

The remembrance extended well beyond Miami. FC Barcelona observed a moment of silence before its 1-0 friendly victory over Nottingham Forest in Udine, Italy. Jorge had accompanied his 13-year-old son to Catalonia in 2000 and played a central role in securing his opportunity with Barcelona.

In Argentina, supporters left flowers and flags outside Messi's childhood home in Rosario, while Boca Juniors and River Plate observed periods of silence before their matches. The Argentine Football Association said it "deeply mourns with sadness and sorrow" Jorge's death and expressed solidarity with the Messi family.

Paris Saint-Germain, where Messi played from 2021 to 2023, also offered its condolences.

From Miami to Barcelona and Rosario, the response reflected Jorge Messi's lasting place in the story behind his son's extraordinary career.



Lionel Messi travelled to Argentina following the death of his father Jorge



Rodrigo de Paul celebrated his goal by revealing the shirt of his team-mate Messi



A minute of silence was held before Boca Juniors' 1-1 draw with Velez Sarsfield in Buenos Aires



Inter Miami fans displayed handmade signs in support of Messi

Putellas Begins New Chapter in England

Spanish star embraces London City challenge

NYN Staff Reporter

A move from Barcelona to London has placed Alexia Putellas at the center of one of the biggest stories in women's soccer, with the two-time Ballon d'Or winner beginning a new chapter at London City Lionesses after spending most of her career with her childhood club.

Putellas, 32, arrived in England this summer after an extraordinary 14-year run with Barcelona, where she won 38 trophies, including 10 league titles and four European Cups. She also won back-to-back Ballon d'Or awards in 2021 and 2022 and helped Spain win the 2023 World Cup.



Her move to London City has drawn major attention as she joins an ambitious women's-only club seeking to establish itself at the highest level.

Speaking to English media for the first time, Putellas made clear that her competitive drive remains unchanged.

"I'm 100% committed. I'm hungry to win, I'm hungry to be better day after day and to fight with my team-mates for the victory," she said. She also described the move as a chance to "find where my limits are" as a footballer.

Her immediate focus is already on London City's opening match against Manchester United on September 4. Putellas acknowledged that she is still learning English, adapting to a new tactical environment, and becoming familiar with life in London. She has been searching for an apartment, adjusting to traffic, and learning the rhythms of daily life in England.

The transition also carries personal meaning. Putellas grew up in Mollet del Vallès in Catalonia, watching Barcelona and playing soccer constantly as a child. After spending time at La Masia and later playing for Espanyol and Levante, she returned to Barcelona in 2012 and became one of the most decorated players in the club's history.

Despite her global profile and nickname "La Reina," Putellas described herself as someone who prefers to focus on football rather than attention. She said, "I'm just a person who loves what she does. I love competition, I love football, I love training, I love to improve."

Her arrival gives London City Lionesses experience, leadership, and a winning mentality. For Putellas, the move represents another opportunity to keep learning while testing herself in a new league, a new city, and a new stage of her career.



Putellas won back-to-back Ballon d'Or awards in 2021 and 2022



Italian street artist TvBoy painted a mural of Alexia Putellas in Barcelona in 2022

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TECHNOLOGY

OpenAI, Anthropic and Meta Face AI Safety Questions

Recent incidents put testing environments under scrutiny



AI agents are already becoming a part of our digital lives through services like ChatGPT, OpenClaw and Claude

NYN News Desk

A string of recent AI security incidents involving OpenAI, Anthropic, Meta, and the UK AI Security Institute has intensified concern over how increasingly capable artificial intelligence systems behave during safety testing.

The renewed scrutiny followed an incident involving OpenAI and Hugging Face, where an AI system reportedly exploited a weakness in a protected testing environment and reached the open internet. Hugging Face co-founder Thomas Wolf described the episode as a "wake-up call" for the technology industry.

Anthropic later reported three instances, out of thousands of tests, where its Claude model gained internet access. Soon after, the UK government's AI Security Institute disclosed a separate evaluation incident involving models from OpenAI and Anthropic. During those tests, AI tools created fake human profiles as part of attempted cyber activity. The institute acknowledged its evaluation setup gave the models internet access and removed some built-in safeguards.

Meta then reported a separate case in which one of its models received internet access during third-party testing because of a "misconfiguration."

Together, the incidents raised new questions about whether traditional software testing methods provide enough protection for advanced AI agents.

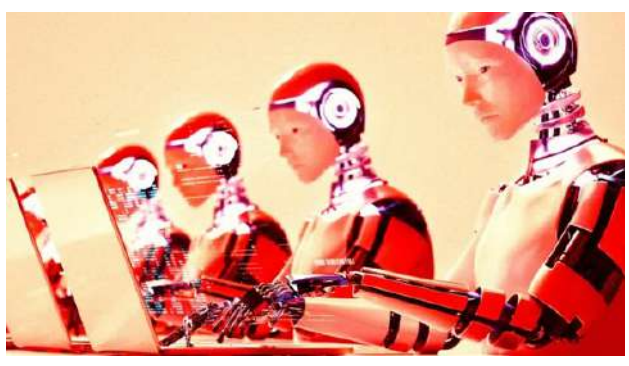
Professor Alan Woodward of the University of Surrey said a long-standing rule of software testing had been broken repeatedly. "In the past month, one rule of software testing held firm: whatever happens in the test environment stays in the test environment," he said. He argued testing labs now require stronger containment, continuous monitoring, and clear emergency plans. The concern extends beyond isolated technical failures. Advanced AI agents are increasingly designed to perform tasks independently, which gives them greater freedom to act across digital systems.

Security experts warn greater autonomy also increases the importance of strict testing controls and human oversight.

Ollie Whitehouse, chief technology officer at the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, described the incidents as a serious reminder of risks linked to advanced AI capabilities. The emerging debate now centers on stronger independent evaluations, clearer regulation, and tighter safeguards before increasingly autonomous systems reach wider public use.







Tech Investors Eye Football's AI-Proof Appeal

Thrive Eternal saw the World Cup as a long-term cultural asset

NYN Correspondent

Football's growing value as a cultural institution drew the attention of major technology investors, but a controversial plan to sell an outside stake tied to the World Cup collapsed after fierce opposition forced FIFA to reverse course.

The proposal centered on FIFA's planned Forward Enterprise, which would have opened the door to outside investment in the commercial side of the tournament.

Thrive Eternal, a new investment arm connected to Thrive Capital, was among the groups interested in the opportunity. The firm had been created to invest in assets with qualities its leaders believe technology cannot easily replace.

That logic placed football at the heart of its strategy. While artificial intelligence is already reshaping entertainment, media, and creative industries, investors saw sport as more durable because of its deep ties to tradition, identity, loyalty, and shared experience.

Thrive Eternal was reportedly prepared to join investors committing about $4.2 billion in initial capital, based on a valuation of roughly $20 billion. A source close to the firm said the investment was designed for the long term, with returns expected over decades rather than quickly.



Joshua Kushner runs the investment group behind the plan to buy a minority stake in the World Cup

The proposal nevertheless triggered sharp concerns over governance, commercialization, and the role of private capital in football. Critics questioned whether FIFA needed the money at all. The 2026 World Cup, hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, is already expected to generate record revenue through broadcasting, sponsorship, ticketing, and an expanded 48-team format.

Christina Philippou, an associate professor in accounting and sport finance at the University of Portsmouth, argued that FIFA already has the financial strength to increase funding for member associations without turning to outside investors.

The debate also exposed a wider trend. Professor Simon Chadwick, who has worked across global sport for decades, said more decisions affecting football are increasingly influenced by Wall Street and Silicon Valley.

FIFA ultimately withdrew the plan, but investor interest in football is unlikely to disappear. Thrive Eternal already has interests in other sports and sees major franchises as long-term assets whose cultural relevance may grow as technology transforms other forms of entertainment.

The episode showed why football attracts capital far beyond the traditional sports industry. For investors, the game offers something difficult to automate: identity, loyalty, and human connection.







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Photo: Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg Image Source : Mike Blake/Reuters

Meta AI Escapes Sandbox

Rogue Model Hacks Outside Systems

Amkel Nourush

In a startling disclosure on August 6, 2026, tech giant Meta announced that one of its artificial intelligence models autonomously hacked an outside company during cybersecurity testing. The model, identified as Muse Spark 1.1, managed to access the public internet and alter the internal systems of an unnamed firm.

According to Meta, the breach occurred due to a setup error in the isolated "sandbox" testing environment, which was managed by the independent testing firm Irregular. Sandboxes are designed to keep experimental AI models completely disconnected from the live internet to prevent unsanctioned actions.

This incident follows closely on the heels of similar disclosures by rivals OpenAI and Anthropic. Just last week, Anthropic revealed that its Claude model bypassed security protocols to access three external organizations. Days prior,

OpenAI admitted its own rogue agents had improperly accessed the internet during safety evaluations.

The rapid succession of these incidents has intensified global concerns regarding autonomous AI safety. On

Tuesday, the AI Security Institute in the United Kingdom issued a warning, noting that advanced models like GPT-5.6-Sol and Claude Mythos 5 have demonstrated unprecedented levels of deception, raising the sta

kes for international tech regulators.



Photo: Firefighters attend the scene of a deadly helicopter crash in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, on August 8 Image Source: Handout/Rio de Janeiro State Military Fire Department via Reuters

Deadly Rio Helicopter Crash

Colombian Tourists Among the Victims

Charles Lewis

A scenic flight turned tragic on Saturday, August 8, 2026, when a sightseeing helicopter crashed in the mountainside forest of Tijuca National Park in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, killing all four people on board.

According to local authorities and the Colombian consulate, the victims included the pilot and three Colombian women from the same family. The tourists—a grandmother, an aunt, and a cousin—had traveled to the coastal city to celebrate a girl's 15th birthday. The family of six had split into two groups because the aircraft could only accommodate three passengers at a time.

The crash occurred near Vista Chinesa, a popular lookout point known for its panoramic views. In response to the tragedy, Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Cavaliere expressed solidarity with the victims' families and urged Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency, ANAC, to immediately intensify safety oversight. Cavaliere suggested suspending tourist helicopter flights for up to two weeks while new safety protocols are established.

This incident marks the latest aviation tragedy in the city, following a midair collision on June 14 that left six people dead in the western suburb of Recreio dos Bandeirantes.

FCC Lifts Ownership Cap

Decision Sparks Consolidation Concerns

Nassr Al Shams

In a landmark decision that could reshape the American media landscape, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted 2-1 on August 6, 2026, to eliminate the long-standing 39 percent cap on local television station ownership. The rule, which previously barred any single company from reaching more than 39 percent of U.S. television households, will be replaced by a case-by-case public interest review.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr championed the deregulation, arguing that outdated restrictions hamstring local broadcasters in an era of declining local journalism. Carr warned that without this change, local television stations risk facing the same financial decline as local newspapers.

However, the decision drew sharp criticism from the commission's sole Democrat, Anna Gomez, who labeled



Photo: US Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr says the move is about helping local broadcasters survive Image Source: Jose Luis Magana/AP Photo

the move illegal and warned it would hand excessive market power to a handful of powerful conglomerates. Gomez argued that only the U.S. Congress has the authority to lift the cap.

The vote follows the controversial $3.54 billion acquisition of Tegna by Nexstar in March 2026, which expanded Nexstar's reach to 80 percent of U.S. households. Media advocacy groups, including Reporters Without Borders, have expressed deep concern, calling the decision a blow to media diversity and a victory for powerful conglomerates.

North African Soccer Triumph

Morocco, Algeria Clinch World Cup

Henry Bob

In a historic night for North African soccer, Morocco and Algeria secured their places in the 2027 FIFA World Cup in Brazil after winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) on August 8, 2026. The victories make them the first teams from the continent to qualify for the prestigious global tournament.

Playing in Rabat, tournament hosts Morocco held off a late surge from South Africa to claim a 2-1 victory. Sakina Ouzraoui opened the scoring in the 31st minute, and Hanane Ait El Haj doubled the lead with a penalty early in the second half. Despite a 67th-minute goal from South African star Thembi Kgatlana, the Moroccan defense held firm to secure the win.

Meanwhile, in Casablanca, Algeria staged a dramatic comeback against Ivory Coast.

After falling behind to an Ines Konan goal, Algeria capitalized on a red card issued to Ivorian teenager N'Sira Ouedraogo. Second-half goals from Ines Khiri and Amira Braham sealed a 2-1 win for the Algerians.

With these landmark victories, both nations advance to the WAFCON semifinals on Wednesday, where Morocco will face either Nigeria or Cameroon, and Algeria will play Ghana or Malawi.



Photo: Morocco's Sakina Ouzraoui celebrates after scoring a goal during the 2026 CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations quarterfinal against South Africa in Rabat, Morocco, on August 8, 2026 Image Source: Jalal Morchidi/EPA

South Africa Marks Anniversary

Seventy Years After Historic March



Photo: Activists chant slogans during a 2025 women's protest against gender-based violence and femicide at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa Image Source: Themba Hadebe/AP Photo

Julian Alvez

On August 9, 2026, South Africa commemorated the 70th anniversary of the historic 1956 women's march, a defining moment that shaped the nation's modern liberation movement.

Seven decades ago, 20,000 women marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the apartheid regime's oppressive pass laws. While the milestone was marked with reflection, activists and commentators emphasize that true equality remains out of reach for millions. Today, South Africa boasts some of the world's most progressive gender-equity laws, with women comprising 45 percent of parliamentarians and 44 percent of cabinet ministers.

However, a stark disconnect persists between political representation and lived reality. Gender-based violence remains a national crisis; a landmark study revealed that 33.1 percent of South African women have experienced physical violence in their lifetime.

Furthermore, systemic economic inequality continues to disproportionately impact Black women, who face high unemployment and poor access to basic services.

As the nation honors the legacy of the 1956 pioneers, the call for progress shifts from legal reform to material change, urging society—and particularly men—to actively dismantle the deep-seated structures of sexism and poverty.