



GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

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GV Wire/Jahz Tejo

THE KMJ MEASURE P DEBATE: BOTH SIDES SQUARE OFF

October 26, 2018 | GV Wire

Leading figures on both sides of the Fresno parks sales tax proposal debated their positions this week on KMJ580 in a conversation moderated by talk-show host Ray Appleton.

No on P advocate and housing developer Darius Assemi squared off with David McDonald, former CEO of Pelco and a Measure P backer. The video above highlights key arguments on both sides of the proposed 30-year tax measure.

(Darius Assemi is the publisher of GV Wire)

The [full debate](#) can be viewed on KMJ's Facebook page.

Measure P proposes to increase the local sales tax by 3/8 cent for a period of 30 years to fund park construction, maintenance and security measures. It would also fund local arts programs and job training efforts. This [graphic](#) outlines the views of the measure's supporters and those who oppose its passage. It also details the provisions of other tax measures approved by local voters in recent elections including those supporting libraries, transportation projects, and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo.

Pros of Measure P: Supporters Say

- Investing in parks helps make Fresno a desirable place to live, work and raise a family. Quality parks are proven to increase property values and reduce crime.
- Measure P provides a guaranteed, local funding source for Fresno's parks through a 3/8-cent sales tax in the City of Fresno, raising an estimated \$37.5 million per year.
- Measure P guarantees that revenue can be spent only on what is specified in the measure and includes strict accountability measures and citizen oversight.

- Measure P makes safety improvements at all city parks by adding security lighting and cameras, funding officers to patrol parks, and preventing graffiti and homeless camps. Pros and Cons

Cons of Measure P: Opponents Say

- Public safety is government's first obligation to residents. Until crime is truly under control in Fresno, a tax increase to fund parks is misguided.
- Measure P over-funds parks (close to \$2B over 30 years) and will reduce voter willingness to raise taxes in the near future to fund public safety and other critical needs.
- Measure P spending decisions will be made by an unelected body with no direct accountability to voters.
- Without proper law enforcement staffing in the city of Fresno, parks become a breeding ground for increased criminal activity and magnets for the homeless.

PROS & CONS of Measure P

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REP. JEFF DENHAM ON WATER ACTIONS, MIGRANT CARAVAN AND MARIJUANA TAXES

Photo: Roll Call

October 26, 2018 | GV Wire

Jeff Denham is confident he will be back in Washington come January. The Republican congressman is in a tight race against Democratic challenger Josh Harder in the 10th District, centered on Modesto. How tight? National election guesser like Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball and The Cook Political Report call it a toss-up.

Denham Dismisses Challenger

Denham is undeterred. "I don't think it's going to be a close election. This is the fifth time they've moved somebody from outside the district," Denham said. He said Harder, a venture capitalist, doesn't have values of the district. "Bay Area Harder is somebody that represents Nancy Pelosi and Bay Area values and not water storage and our way of life here in the Valley."

Water Victories

Denham recently sat down for a pre-election Take Five with GV Wire. He spoke about two recent actions by President Donald Trump to increase water to the Valley. "It is certainly is a one-two punch. One, to play defense to make sure we keep our water and having certainty for our farmers. Two, it is making sure we are focused on the future," Denham said. He feels that the presidential memorandum Trump issued to streamline regulations for water projects, as well as his signing of a bill titled America's Water Infrastructure Act, will guarantee money for projects like Temperance Flat dam.

Water Actions, Migrant Caravan and Marijuana Taxes

The full version of that interview is available [here](#).

COUNCILMAN EYES BORGEAS' SEAT. HE'S NOW A CANDIDATE.

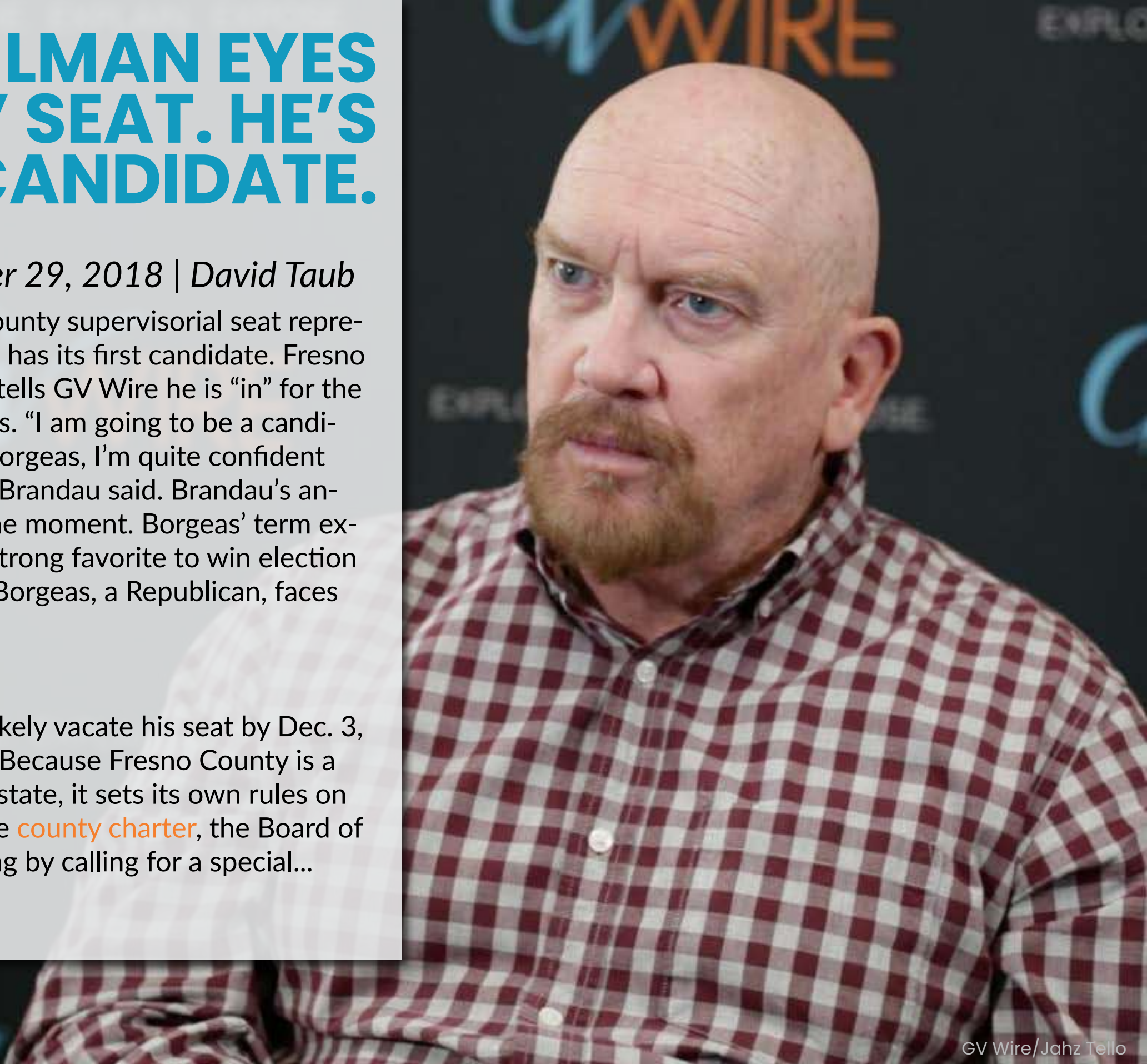
October 29, 2018 | David Taub

The potentially vacant Fresno County supervisorial seat representing north and central Fresno has its first candidate. Fresno City Councilman Steve Brandau tells GV Wire he is "in" for the position held by Andreas Borgeas. "I am going to be a candidate in that race. ... Supervisor Borgeas, I'm quite confident is going to win on November 6," Brandau said. Brandau's announcement is speculative for the moment. Borgeas' term expires in 2020. However, he is a strong favorite to win election next week for the state Senate. Borgeas, a Republican, faces Democrat Paulina Miranda.

Timeline if Borgeas Wins

And, if he wins, Borgeas would likely vacate his seat by Dec. 3, the **first day of the Senate term**. Because Fresno County is a charter county, one of 14 in the state, it sets its own rules on filling vacancies. According to the **county charter**, the Board of Supervisors would fill the opening by calling for a special...

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GV Wire/Jahz Tello

'SLOW YOUR PACE, IT'S NOT A RACE' WHEN DRIVING IN FOG

October 31, 2018 | Myles Barker

When driving in the fog this winter, Caltrans encourages you to "Slow Your Pace, It's Not a Race." "Not only is fog dangerous to drive in, but it can turn deadly when people drive too fast," said Sharri Bender Ehlert, the district director for Caltrans. "While getting to your destination on time is understandable as a priority, getting there safely is imperative."

Imperative indeed, especially since fog leads to the most fatalities compared to any other weather phenomenon in the Central Valley, said Kris Mattarochia at a news conference Wednesday morning. In 2007, a 108 vehicle pileup killed two and injured 41 others on Highway 99 south of Fresno. Just last year, there was a 40-vehicle pileup on Highway 198 in Kings County that injured 12. "We take that very seriously," said Mattarochia, the science and operations officer for the National Weather Service in Hanford. To show how seriously, the NWS has developed what it calls the Fog Severity Index...

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Shutterstock Photo



FIRST PUBLIC POLL SHOWS TUCK WELL AHEAD OF THURMOND

October 31, 2018 | David Taub

We're in the final days before the election. And, one of the last polls shows separation among candidates for statewide offices and the U.S. Senate. The final Berkeley IGS poll indicates dominant leads in the gubernatorial, state superintendent of public instruction, and Senate races.

Also, propositions to repeal the gas tax and the law limiting rent control appear headed to defeat. For governor, Democrat Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom leads Republican businessman John Cox, 58%-40%. Both men have hyper-partisan support — 92% of Democrats favor Newsom while 93% of Republicans favor Cox.

In a battle of two Democrats, incumbent Sen. Dianne Feinstein leads challenger Kevin de León, 45%-36%.

Marshall Tuck leads Tony Thurmond by 12 percentage points for state superintendent, 48%-36%.

What do Republicans think about this match-up? A plurality, 43%, say they will sit this one out. Other GOP voters favor de León, 34%-23%. In one of the most expensive statewide races, Marshall Tuck leads Tony Thurmond by 12 percentage points for state superintendent, 48%-36%. According to EdSource's Louis Freedberg, this is the first public poll on the general election race. EdSource also reports that spending in the race has reached \$50 million, with Tuck enjoying a nearly 2-to-1 edge.

Other poll findings:

— Eleni Kounalakis leads Ed Hernandez, 45%-31%, for lieutenant governor. Both are Democrats. You can view their CALmatters video face-off at this link.

— Steve Poizner (no party preference) leads Democrat Ricardo Lara 49%-44% for insurance commissioner;

— Proposition 6, which would repeal the gas tax, trails 56%-40%. Once again, this seems to be a partisan issue. Republicans favor repeal (a "yes" vote), 80%-19% while Democrats oppose (a "no" vote), 77%-17%.

— Proposition 10, the measure that would allow local jurisdictions more leeway to set rent control, trails 60%-35%.

Likely voters were randomly selected by Political Data, Inc., and interviewed Oct. 19-25. The poll has a sampling error of plus-or-minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Full results can be seen here.

Water Moratorium

The Fresno City Council meets Thursday in a special meeting to discuss a single subject: a water fine moratorium. Councilmen Steve Brandau and Garry Bredefeld are behind the effort to put a halt on residential fines for overwatering.

The city went to an automated model of detecting usage instead of visually observing watering this past summer. The roll out caused so much confusion that the council will weigh a pause on fines. Other council members polled by GV Wire indicated the moratorium will pass.

Did de León Hurt His Fresno Vote?

Kevin de León issued a news release about an event at the "nation's best taco stand." Alas, the U.S. Senate hopeful is not stopping in Fresno, but at Ave 26 Tacos in Los Angeles.

That might be an ouch for Fresnoans, who love to brag about local tacos nearly as much they love to eat them.



FACE-OFF FOR STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF: THURMOND VS. TUCK

October 24, 2018 | GV Wire

Need last-minute prep to decide between Ed Hernandez and Eleni Kounalakis for lieutenant governor on your California ballot?

Then view [this video](#) of the candidates — both Democrats — answering questions from CALmatters on their qualifications and positions on the issues.

The video begins with this: Why are you running for lieutenant governor?

Questions Posed and Answered
Time stamps are provided below:

- Higher ed vs. healthcare as the top priority (0:25)
- Being a first-generation college graduate (0:47)
- Where should higher ed money be focused? (2:07)

- Student housing (2:52)
- California's affordable housing crisis (3:35)
- Prop. 1, the affordable housing bond (4:11)
- Prop. 10, rent control (4:24)
- California economy (4:43)
- Campaign spending (5:12)
- Qualifications for the job (5:42)

CALmatters is a public interest journalism venture committed to explaining how California's state Capitol works and why it matters. You can view the CALmatters 2018 Voter Guide at this [link](#).

CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS AREN'T ENEMIES. THEY'RE THE USA'S FUTURE.

October 28, 2018 | GV Wire

Think about the great rivalries involving California. San Francisco vs. Los Angeles. California vs. President Donald Trump. And, of course, California vs. Texas. If there wasn't a Golden State-Longhorn State rivalry before, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry created one — and got a rise out of Gov. Jerry Brown — by coming to California to woo companies to Texas in 2013.

Wrote Ross Ramsey of the Texas Tribune: "What could be more fun than a throwdown between Governor Goodhair and Governor Moonbeam? Mr. Perry recently spent a pittance — \$24,000 for a radio advertisement in a state like California has a smaller audience than a tweet from Paris Hilton — to tweak Mr. Brown's nose on jobs." Strip away the hype, and the realities are much different, as [Curbed.com points out in its spectacular web presentation](#) "The United States of Texas and California."

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INDIAN COUPLE WHO DIED IN YOSEMITE TOOK RISKS FOR PHOTOS

October 31, 2018 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — She was a self-described "adrenaline junkie," and he took "wow-worthy photos" of the couple posing at the edge of cliffs and jumping from planes that appeared on social media and a travel blog that attracted thousands of followers. In one post at the Grand Canyon this spring, 30-year-old Meenakshi Moorthy even warned daredevils who try to snap selfies from dangerous heights: "Did you know that wind gusts can be FATAL???" The caption accompanies a photo of Moorthy sitting on the edge of the canyon's North Rim.

The couple's latest trip turned out to be their last. Moorthy and her husband, Vishnu Viswanath, 29, who were Indian expats living in California, fell to their deaths in Yosemite National Park last week while taking a selfie, the man's brother said Tuesday. They set up their tripod near a ledge at a scenic overlook in the California park, Viswanath's brother, Jishnu Viswanath, told The Associated Press. Visitors saw the camera the...

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Vishnu Viswanath/Facebook via AP



TRUMP SAYS BORDER TROOPS COULD HIT 15K, SURPRISING PENTAGON

November 1, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the number of military troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexican border could reach 15,000 — roughly double the number the Pentagon said it currently plans for a mission whose dimensions are shifting daily.

The Pentagon said “more than 7,000” troops were being sent to the Southwest border to support the Customs and Border Protection agents. Officials said that number could reach a maximum of about 8,000 under present plans.

The troop numbers have been changing at a dizzying pace, with Trump drawing a hard line on immigration in the lead-up to the midterm elections. Just last week officials were indicating that about 800 to 1,000 might be sent. On Monday, officials announced that about 5,200 were being deployed. The next day, the Air Force general running the operation said more than the initially announced total were going, and he pointedly rejected a news report that it could reach 14,000, saying that was “not consistent with what’s actually being planned.”

Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, the commander of U.S. Northern Command, told reporters the number would exceed the initial contingent of 5,200, but he offered no estimate of the eventual total. Just 24 hours later, Trump thrust new uncertainty into the picture, catching the Pentagon by surprise.

Trump Rushed a Series of Immigration Declarations

With his eyes squarely on next Tuesday’s contests, Trump has rushed a series of immigration declarations, promises and actions as he tries to mobilize supporters to retain Republican control of Congress. His own

Republican campaign in 2016 concentrated on border fears, and that’s his focus in the final week of the mid-term fight. “As far as the caravan is concerned, our military is out,” Trump said. “We have about 5,800. We’ll go up to anywhere between 10,000 and 15,000 military personnel on top of Border Patrol, ICE and everybody else at the border.”

Later Wednesday, Trump told ABC News, “We have to have a wall of people.” His comments were the latest twist in a story that has pushed the Pentagon unhappily into the political space, prompting questions about whether Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was allowing the military to be leveraged as a political stunt.

“We don’t do stunts,” Mattis said Wednesday. Trump rejected the idea he was “fearmongering” or using the issue for political purposes, but his escalating rhetoric in the waning days of the campaign season calls that denial into question. Trump has railed against illegal immigration, including several caravans of migrants from Central America slowly moving toward the U.S. border. The caravan of an estimated 4,000 people is still nearly 1,000 miles from the border. Several smaller groups, estimated at a combined 1,200 people, are farther away.

“As far as the caravan is concerned, our military is out. We have about 5,800. We’ll go up to anywhere between 10,000 and 15,000 military personnel on top of Border Patrol, ICE and everybody else at the border.” — President Donald Trump

The Media Is Underestimating the Caravans

Trump insisted the media is underestimating the caravans. “You have caravans coming up that look a lot larger than it’s reported actually. I’m pretty good at...

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DAYS AFTER SYNAGOGUE MASSACRE, ONLINE HATE IS THRIVING

November 1, 2018 | AP News

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A website popular with racists that was used by the man charged in the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre was shut down within hours of the slaughter, but it hardly mattered: Anti-Semites and racists who hang out in such havens just moved to other online forums.

On Wednesday, four days after 11 people were fatally shot in the [deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history](#), anonymous posters on another website popular with white supremacists, Stormfront, claimed the bloodshed at Tree of Life synagogue was an elaborate fake staged by actors. The site's operator, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, said traffic has increased about 45 percent since the shooting. The anti-Semitic rhetoric was just as bad on another site popular with white supremacists, The Daily Stormer, where a headline said: "Just go, Jews. You're not welcome." Trying to stop the online vitriol that opponents say fuels real-world bloodshed is a constant battle for groups that monitor hate, and victories are hard to come

by. Shut down one platform like Gab, where the shooting suspect posted a message shortly before the attack, and another one remains or a new one opens.

The Vastness of the Online World Is a Big Problem
The problem dates back to the dawn of the internet, when users connected their computers to each other by dialing telephone numbers. A report issued by the New York-based Anti-Defamation League in 1985 found there were two online "networks of hate" in the United States, both run by neo-Nazis who spread anti-Semitic, racist propaganda.

Today, [the vastness of the online world is a big part of the problem](#), said Oren Segal, director of the ADL's Center for Extremism. Determining how many hate sites exist is nearly impossible, he said. "It's really difficult to put an actual number on it, but I would say this: There are thousands of hate sites and there are dozens and dozens of platforms in...

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AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis

AMID GLOBAL UPROAR, SOME US COLLEGES RETHINK SAUDI TIES

October 30, 2018 | AP News

BOSTON — U.S. colleges and universities have received more than \$350 million from the Saudi government this decade, yet some are rethinking their arrangements in the wake of the killing of a journalist that has ignited a global uproar against the oil-rich nation.

The Associated Press analyzed federal data and found that at least \$354 million from the Saudi government or institutions it controls has flowed to 37 American schools since 2011. Much of the money was provided through a scholarship program that covers tuition for Saudis studying in the U.S., but at least \$62 million came through contracts or gifts from the kingdom's nationally owned companies and research institutes, the AP found. Those benefiting the most from Saudi contracts include Northwestern University, which has received \$14 million from a top Saudi research center since 2011, and the University of California, Los Angeles, which...

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HOUSE DEMOCRATS PROMISE ACTION ON LGBTQ RIGHTS BILL

October 29, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Just days ahead of a midterm election they hope will deliver them a majority, House Democrats are promising to prioritize anti-discrimination legislation that would for the first time establish widespread equal rights protections for LGBTQ individuals. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi recently said she would introduce the Equality Act as one of her first orders of business if Democrats retake the House in November.

Pelosi made the announcement at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, telling the crowd the issue of equal rights for the LGBTQ community is "personal." The 1964 Civil Rights Act already bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. The Equality Act, if passed, would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the law and expand those protections beyond the workplace. It would outlaw gender discrimination...

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AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File



DHA via AP

TURKISH PROSECUTOR SAYS SAUDI WRITER STRANGLER, DISMEMBERED

October 31, 2018 | AP News

ISTANBUL — Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul as part of a premeditated killing, and his body was dismembered before it was removed, a top Turkish prosecutor said Wednesday. Chief Istanbul prosecutor Irfan Fidan's office also said in a statement that discussions with Saudi chief prosecutor Saud al-Mojeb yielded "no concrete result" despite Turkey's "good-intentioned efforts to reveal the truth."

The statement was the first public confirmation by a Turkish official that Khashoggi was strangled and mutilated after he entered the Saudi Consulate on Oct. 2.

"In accordance with plans made in advance, the victim, Jamal Khashoggi, was strangled and killed immediately after entering the Consulate General of Saudi Arabia." — prosecutor's office

It also pointed to a lack of cooperation from Saudi officials in the investigation of the slaying. "In accordance with plans made in advance, the victim, Jamal Khashoggi, was strangled and killed immediately after entering the Consulate General of Saudi Arabia," the prosecutor's office said. "The victim Jamal Khashoggi's body was dismembered and destroyed following his death by suffocation again, in line with the advance plans," the two-page statement read.

Seeking the Extradition of 18 Suspects

Turkey is seeking the extradition of 18 suspects in the journalist's slaying who were detained in Saudi Arabia. It also is pressing Saudi Arabia for information about who ordered Khashoggi's killing and the location of his remains. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on Riyadh to disclose the identity of an alleged local collaborator said to have been involved in getting rid of Khashoggi's body. Saudi chief prosecutor al-Mojeb met with Fidan twice and also visited the Turkish intelligence agency's Istanbul headquarters this week before leaving for Riyadh on a private jet Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia has not commented directly on the prosecutor's visit and al-Mojeb did not respond to journalists' questions at the airport as he departed. Fidan's office said the Saudi delegation submitted a written statement and invited the Turkish delegation to come to Saudi Arabia bringing "evidence obtained during the course of the investigation."

A Joint Interrogation

The Saudi representatives said the whereabouts of Khashoggi's remains and whether the killing was premeditated or not would only come to light through a joint interrogation by Turkish and Saudi investigators, according to the statement. The statement said Turkey renewed its request for the 18 suspects to be extradited. It did not say if Turkish officials would travel to Saudi Arabia. Khashoggi, a 59-year-old columnist for The Washington Post, vanished after entering the consulate in Istanbul to pick up paperwork he needed for his upcoming marriage.

His Turkish fiancée was waiting for him outside. A critic of the Saudi crown prince, Khashoggi had been living in exile in the United States. Turkey alleges a Saudi hit squad from Saudi Arabia — including a member of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's entourage during a trip to the United States— went to Istanbul to kill the journalist and then tried to cover it up.

Saudi Arabia Changed Its Narrative Several Times

Under mounting pressure, Saudi Arabia changed its narrative about Khashoggi's killing several times, eventually admitting Khashoggi died inside the consulate. Saudi Arabia only recently acknowledged Turkish evidence showed the slaying was premeditated. Hurriyet newspaper columnist Abdulkadir Selvi, who is known to be close to the Turkish government, said the Saudi prosecutor revealed nothing new to Turkish investigators during his three-day visit and left with several...

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US CALLS FOR YEMEN CEASE-FIRE, POLITICAL TALKS

October 31, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — At an apparent turning point in one of its hardest foreign policy challenges, the Trump administration is demanding a cease-fire and the launch of U.N.-led political talks to end the Saudi-Iran proxy war in Yemen. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called for a halt to hostilities within 30 days.

The New York Times reports Britain has also called on Saudi Arabia to end the fighting. The renewed diplomatic drive reflects a convergence of political pressures: international outrage over the slaying of a U.S.-based Saudi journalist and a

Yemeni humanitarian crisis fueled by the dual threats of war and hunger in the Arab world’s poorest country.

Yemenis on Brink of Starvation

“The time is now for a cessation of hostilities,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a written statement late Tuesday. His plea came shortly after Mattis spoke in unusual detail about diplomacy to end a crisis that has put vast numbers of Yemenis on the brink of starvation. The administration’s new push comes amid mounting fears of a fresh Arab coalition assault on the Red Sea port of Hodeida, the entry point for...

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AP Photo/Khalil Hamra

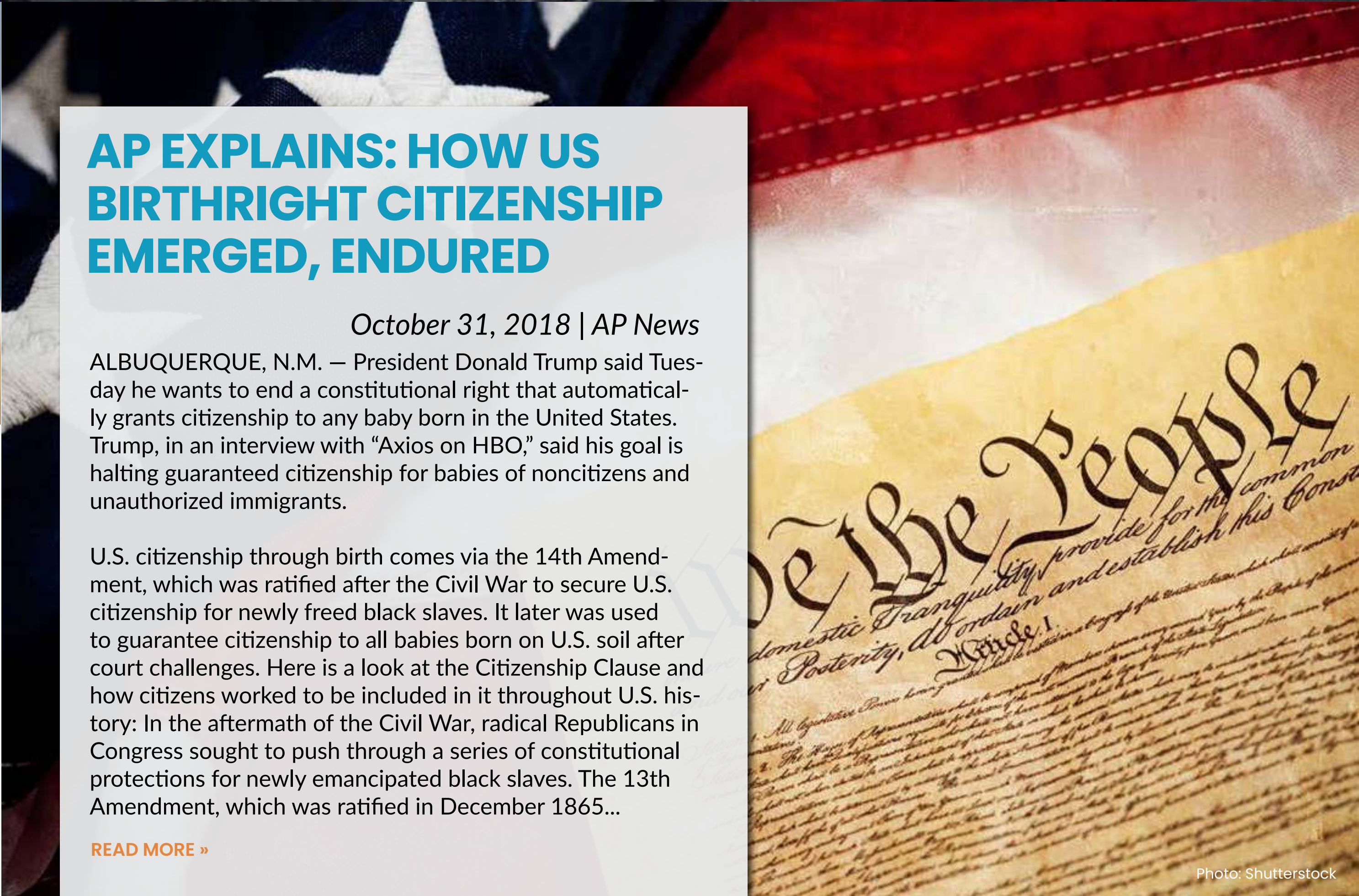
AFTER GAZA STRIKES, ISRAEL THREATENS IRANIAN FORCES IN SYRIA

October 28, 2018 | AP News

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian militants ceased rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and relative calm prevailed Saturday afternoon after a night-long exchange of fire that prompted Israeli threats against Iranian forces in Syria. The Islamic Jihad group, a militant faction operating in the Hamas-ruled Gaza but that has close ties to Iran and Syria, said they agreed to Egyptian mediation efforts and halted the rocket fire, the heaviest to emanate from Gaza in months.

“The Egyptian efforts led to understandings to restore calm to Gaza Strip. We appreciate the Egyptian endeavor and hope for all kinds of (Israeli) aggression to stop,” said Khaled al-Batsh, an Islamic Jihad official. Hamas, the larger militant group that controls Gaza, accused Israel of resorting to military escalation “to evade obligations” of a comprehensive cease-fire that Hamas has long sought. Hamas wants the...

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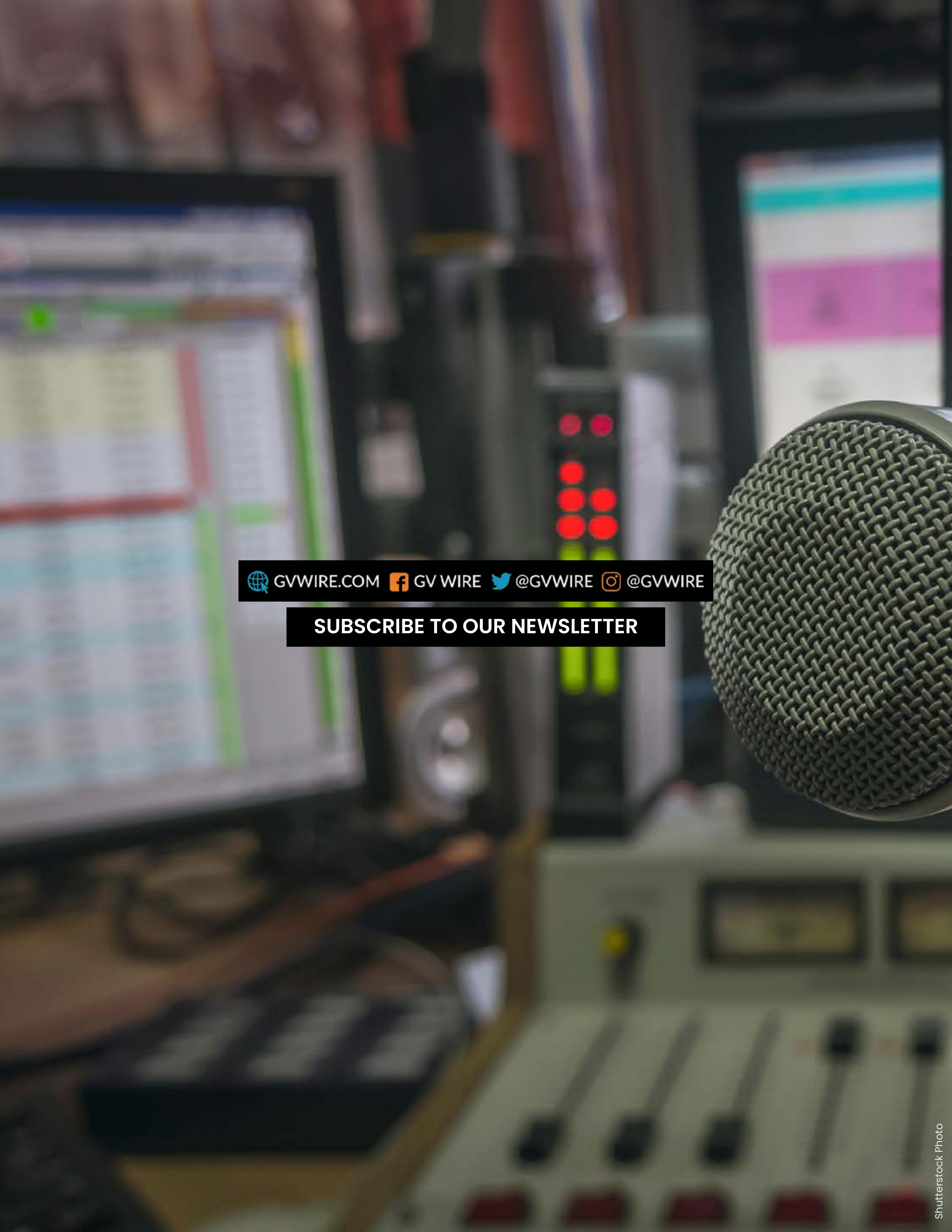
AP EXPLAINS: HOW US BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP EMERGED, ENDURED





October 31, 2018 | AP News

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — President Donald Trump said Tuesday he wants to end a constitutional right that automatically grants citizenship to any baby born in the United States. Trump, in an interview with “Axios on HBO,” said his goal is halting guaranteed citizenship for babies of noncitizens and unauthorized immigrants.

U.S. citizenship through birth comes via the 14th Amendment, which was ratified after the Civil War to secure U.S. citizenship for newly freed black slaves. It later was used to guarantee citizenship to all babies born on U.S. soil after court challenges. Here is a look at the Citizenship Clause and how citizens worked to be included in it throughout U.S. history: In the aftermath of the Civil War, radical Republicans in Congress sought to push through a series of constitutional protections for newly emancipated black slaves. The 13th Amendment, which was ratified in December 1865...

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