

# Man who died in ICE custody in Texas was lawful permanent resident

BY THAO NGUYEN  
USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect

A man who died while in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody in South Texas over the weekend was a lawful permanent resident who had lived in the state for decades, according to federal authorities and family members. Emiliano Andrade-Covarrubias, a 56-year-old from Mexico, was found unresponsive in his bed at the Rio Grande Processing Center in

Laredo, Texas, on Oct. 17. Security personnel “declared a medical emergency and immediately began lifesaving measures,” ICE said in a statement released on Oct. 20. Paramedics with the Laredo Fire Department responded, but Andrade-Covarrubias was pronounced dead at 10:10 a.m. local time, according to ICE. The agency said he had documented medical conditions including diabetes, hypertension and anxiety and received medical care while in custody.

The cause of death remains unknown pending an autopsy, ICE said. The Texas Tribune first reported Andrade-Covarrubias’ death on Oct. 18, citing confirmation from his daughter and Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar. ICE said Andrade-Covarrubias had been in custody since late June. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers detained him at the Juárez-Lincoln International Bridge, a port of entry in Laredo, as he was returning from Mexico. “Andrade, a lawful permanent resident, was

determined to have obtained status through fraudulent means by failing to disclose his previous arrest during the review process,” the agency said in the statement. “He was processed and transferred to ICE custody pending removal proceedings before an immigration judge. He was receiving due process.”

**TEXAS LAWMAKER SEEKS ANSWERS FROM ICE**  
Cuellar, whose district represents Laredo, said he inspected the Rio

Grande Processing Center on Oct. 18 and spoke with staff about medical procedures at the facility. Because the death of Andrade-Covarrubias remains under investigation, facility personnel were unable to provide details specific to his case, he said. Following the visit, Cuellar said he submitted seven written questions to ICE seeking additional information. Among other issues, he asked whether Andrade-Covarrubias requested medical attention during the 72 hours before his death, what

treatment and medications he received while in custody, and whether detention staff followed medical and emergency response protocols. Cuellar also requested information about medical staffing levels at the facility, detention standards and Andrade-Covarrubias’ immigration status, including whether he was a lawful permanent resident of the United States. The congressman said he plans to continue following up with the agency as the investigation proceeds. “My condolences go out to the family of Emiliano Andrade-Covarrubias,” Cuellar said in a statement on social media on Oct. 19. “Any death in federal custody is a serious matter, and we need to know what happened.”

# Fed will raise rates again in Dec., economists say in poll

BY INDRADIP GHOSH  
Reuters

The Federal Reserve will skip raising interest rates this month and deliver a hike in December, according to nearly all economists polled by Reuters, as policymakers signal patience even as stubborn inflation argues for a tougher response.

Despite reports showing a strong economy with hotter-than-expected inflation, Fed officials have recently suggested they prefer a slower, more deliberate path for rates. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh, who has made clear he is not keen on giving guidance, has kept mum.

An overwhelming majority of economists, 94 of 100, in the October 16-20 Reuters poll expect the central bank to hold the federal funds rate in a 3.75%-4.00% range at its October 27-28 meeting, in line with market pricing. That meeting is just days before the November midterm elections.

But all 100 respondents expect a rate hike in December, a sharp reversal from less than half saying so in last month’s poll. The Federal Open Market Committee unanimously raised rates by 25 basis points in September. “You have a strong economy and you have inflation. There’s really no reason for you to worry so much about getting interest rates higher, this is like the easiest choice,” said Alex Pelle, senior US economist at Mizuho Securities. “Unfortunately, the Fed is really not getting more on top of the issue, they’re just tread-



SAUL LOEB AFP via Getty Images

A majority of economists, 94 of 100, in an Oct. 16-20 Reuters poll expect Chairman Kevin Warsh and the Federal Reserve to hold the federal funds rate in a 3.75%-4.00% range, in line with market pricing.

ing water and perhaps even getting a little behind.” For now, markets and economists are following the messaging, not the data. Conflicting signals from the central bank recently have ridden roughshod over bond markets. Longer-dated Treasury yields surged to multi-decade highs on October 7 on higher inflation and near-term rate expectations before retreating nearly 25 basis points as the likelihood of an October hike slipped away. Rate-sensitive two-year Treasury note yields have also been whipsawed higher than sharply lower. “Them not going in October is the wrong call from a policy point of view,” said Pelle. “They’ll go 25 in December, but the risk is greater they end up going 50 than they don’t go at all.” Nearly 60% of forecasters polled see the policy rate peaking at a 4.00%-4.25% range. But the rest, 38 of 92, predict at least two further rate increases, up from just one-fifth in the September

survey. “The risks are in the direction of a Fed that ultimately needs to hike rates more than we expect,” said Michael Gapen, chief US economist at Morgan Stanley. “If there are risks around the path for the economy and inflation, they do appear tilted to the upside.” Inflation has been above the Fed’s 2% target for nearly six years. The Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, the Fed’s preferred inflation gauge, will remain more than 100 basis points above 2% over coming quarters and not return to target until at least 2028, poll medians showed. The rising cost of living, driven by higher energy costs as a result of President Donald Trump’s war with Iran, as well as new tariffs charged on imported goods, is a key political vulnerability for Republicans ahead of the midterm elections. Oil prices are holding above \$100 as the war shows no signs of easing.

# Lawmakers: Briefing showed Russia targeting Democrats with misinformation

BY JONATHAN LANDAY  
Reuters

WASHINGTON  
The top Democratic lawmakers on the congressional intelligence committees on Wednesday said they received an intelligence briefing that Russia has been waging a misinformation campaign against Democrats running in next month’s midterm elections. The comments by Senator Mark Warner and Representative Jim Himes come as Republican President Donald Trump has in recent weeks eased economic sanctions on Russia and increased pressure on Ukraine to end its fight against Russian forces. Warner and Himes told reporters they were limited in revealing what they had learned in an election security briefing that they had requested from Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton because it was classified. But, they said, Russia was waging the same kind of online misinformation campaign that the US intelligence community had tracked in US elections in 2016, 2020, and 2024. “And the state of play, I

would argue, is that, you know, Russia, similar to prior occasions, is going after Democrats,” Warner said. He noted news reports that Democrat James Talarico, who is running for the US Senate in Texas, and Senator Jon Ossoff, who is seeking re-election in Georgia, “in particular are being dinged” by fake advertisements created with AI. The White House and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Russian embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Moscow in the past has denied meddling in US elections. Himes said the pair could not provide details of the misinformation spread by Russia because the material was classified. But he added that Moscow’s conduct has been “the same old, same old.” “The Russians are kind of throwing everything out there,” said Himes. “Chaos, you know, don’t trust your voting machines.” He added there was “no reason to believe” that China has not been con-

ducting “extremely targeted” efforts as it has done in the past to influence voters. Beijing has previously denied interfering in US elections and the Chinese Embassy in Washington on Wednesday described Himes’ comment as “a false allegation and serious smear that has long been proved to be unfounded.” Recent Reuters/Ipsos polling has shown Democrats leading Republicans on the generic congressional ballot by high single digits to low double digits nationally, bolstering Democratic hopes of regaining control of the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate. The lawmakers said they were concerned that Trump could pursue efforts to contest election results, including by claiming foreign hacking of voting infrastructure. Himes emphasized that there was no evidence that any country could penetrate US election systems and change results. “Nothing out there suggests that there is even the capability or the intent to do interference, whereas there is a pretty robust influence environment,” said Himes.

# Trump administration says it has revoked over 300,000 visas

BY KANISHKA SINGH  
Reuters

WASHINGTON  
President Donald Trump’s administration has revoked over 300,000 US visas during his second term, the State Department said on Tuesday as the federal government continues its sweeping immigration crackdown. The number showed an acceleration in the pace of visa revocations in recent weeks. In an update issued on August 10, the State Department had put the number of visa revocations since Trump’s current term began in January 2025 at over 175,000.

Trump says his immigration crackdown and deportation drive aim to improve domestic security. Rights advocates say the crackdown has violated due process and free speech rights and has created an unsafe environment, particularly for ethnic minorities, who have raised concerns about racial profiling. In announcing the latest number on X, State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said the Trump administration “has revoked more visas at a faster pace than any administration in history.” Pigott said the administration had “zero tolerance for foreigners here on visas who break the law, commit fraud, or undermine our national

security.” Among visa revocations particularly condemned by rights advocates are those of pro-Palestinian foreign protesters demonstrating against US ally Israel’s attacks on Gaza and of foreigners over their social media comments about conservative commentator Charlie Kirk’s assassination. In addition to attempts to deport foreign protesters, the Trump administration has enforced tightened social media screening of immigrants and visa applicants. Rights advocates say the government has deployed national security reasons to target critics and used isolated cases of fraud to broadly target immigrant communities such as the Somali American community in Minnesota. While Trump campaigned in 2024 on stopping illegal immigration, his administration has also made legal immigration more difficult - for example by imposing expensive fees for certain work visas.

BY RACHEL BARBER  
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Black Americans’ unemployment rate rose in September, historically a warning sign for the U.S. labor market, but economists are not panicking yet. The unemployment rate for Black Americans hit 7% last month, up from 6% in August, according to the Labor Department’s most recent jobs report. The 1% jump marked the largest monthly increase since March to April 2020, when it skyrocketed from 7% to 16.9% at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Excluding the pandemic, last month’s increase was the largest since 2012. At 7%, Black unemployment was 2.8% higher than the national rate, which ticked up from 4.1% in August to 4.2% in September. “It’s definitely cause for concern,” Kevin Hassett, the White House’s National Economic Council director, told reporters after the report’s release. “We’re going to watch closely.” The unemployment rate for Black women 20 years and older experienced an even larger jump, rising from 5.6% in August to

6.8% in September. For Black men of the same age, the unemployment rate rose from 5.6% in August to 6% in September. While those jumps can be red flags, alarm bells aren’t going off yet for Gbenga Ajilore, chief economist at the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. “There are certain times when the Black unemployment rate jumps up before overall unemployment goes up,” he said. “One month does not make a trend, but it’s one of those things where I’m really interested to see what next month is going to show.” Over the year, the Black unemployment rate fell from 7.6%. In September 2025, the unemployment rate was 7.5% for Black women 20 and older, and 6.7% for Black men of the same age. Still, the unemployment rate among Black Americans remains high when compared to that of other races. Last month, the unemployment rate declined to 2.9% for Asian Americans, 3.6% for White Americans, and 4.7% for Hispanic or Latino Americans. “Black people just are always going to have a

harder time finding a job than other groups for historical reasons,” Ajilore added. “If there’s a recession, Black people are going to be the first fired, and actually we saw that in 2020, with the COVID pandemic.” Why the Black unemployment spiked is a question the Trump administration is weighing. “We’re going to study closely what the cause of it was,” Hassett said. “It’s highly likely related to seasonal factors and the race of people who do this kind of job as opposed to that kind of job.” According to Kory Kantenga, LinkedIn’s head of economics for the Americas, the September spike may be most easily explained by a rise in the number of Black Americans looking for work who didn’t immediately find it. “Labor force participation, specifically among Black women, was depressed over the summer,” Kantenga said, adding about 300,000 Black women were “missing” from the labor force in June, July, and August, compared to the spring. “What we saw in September’s data is that those women were now back in the labor force.”