



Federal immigration officers outside a home in a Minneapolis suburb last month. The Department of Homeland Security and its various agencies, including ICE, Secretary Kristi Noem and other department leaders are named as defendants in the Maine lawsuit. (JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

## Maine ICE observers say agents threatened to put them on 'domestic terrorist' watchlist

Elinor Hilton and Colleen Fagan have filed a federal suit accusing officers of recording them while they were observing raids, violating their First Amendment rights.

By EMILY ALLEN  
Staff Writer

Elinor Hilton was afraid when the immigration agents she was filming outside of a Home Depot last month began to approach her, carrying pepper spray.

It's the moment when one of the agents began recording her, though, that she said she can't shake.

"He said 'We're putting you on a domestic terrorist watch list, and if you keep coming to things like this, we're going to come to your house later and arrest you,'" Hilton, who lives in Portland, said in a recent interview.

Hilton and Colleen Fagan, a Maine resident whose video of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent referencing a "nice little database" was shared widely across social media, filed a lawsuit against federal immigration officials on Monday, saying the alleged collection and maintenance of data about people who observe ICE activity violates the First Amendment.

"I know it is my right to film law enforcement and to film any interaction with ICE. I will not let myself be threatened or silenced for filming ICE."

COLLEEN FAGAN  
Plaintiff

The women were among many who watched and documented activity by ICE agents during the

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### TODAY'S ALMANAC

February 24, 2026

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2026. There are 310 days left in the year.

**Today in history:**  
On Feb. 24, 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate by a single vote.

**Also on this date:**  
In 1803, in its landmark Marbury v. Madison decision, the U.S. Supreme Court established the foundational principle of judicial review of the constitutionality of laws and statutes.

In 2020, Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault in New York and was led off to prison in handcuffs in a pivotal moment for the #MeToo movement.

**Today's birthdays:**  
Nike co-founder Phil Knight is 88. Musician George Thorogood is 76. Actor Billy Zane is 60. Boxing Hall of Famer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 49. Actor Daniel Kaluuya is 37. Singer-songwriter Domenic Innarella is 15.

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A pedestrian crosses the street at the Eastern Prom in Portland. Weather service data as of Monday afternoon recorded the highest wind gust in Portland at 56 mph, 45 mph in Augusta and 41 mph in Lewiston. (BRIANNA SOUKUP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

## Blizzard blisters Maine's coastline

Snow and wind gusts of over 50 mph created whiteout conditions for many.

By DREW JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Snow flew in just about every direction Monday as Maine's coastline felt the blast of a blizzard that rocked much of the Northeast, bringing wind gusts of over 50 mph in some areas.

Maine dodged the brunt of the storm, which dropped more than 2 feet of snow on Massachusetts and New York, but the fraction of the nor'easter that reached northern New England was enough to shutter schools, town offices and businesses in many of the state's most

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## BOMB CYCLONE BATTERS THE NORTHEAST



By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, CLAIRE RUSH,  
JULIE WALKER and ADAM GELLER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A massive snowstorm pummeled the northeastern United States from Maryland to Maine on Monday, forcing millions of people to stay home amid strong wind and blizzard warnings, transportation shutdowns, and school and business closures.

Meteorologists said the storm is the

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Hannah and Astrid Grimskog play in Times Square on Monday in New York City. Central Park got 20 inches but parts of Long Island approached 30. (SETH WENIG/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

## Property taxes too high? Maine mulling 10 fixes

By DANIEL KOOL  
Staff Writer

Rising property values and years of inflation have pushed property taxes up in recent years — straining household budgets in all 16 counties. But untangling the factors driving up costs, and working to limit them, has long challenged Maine officials.

To cope, the Legislature last year convened a group of 13 people, including lawmakers, citizens and various experts to issue guidance on how best to lower property tax burdens.

After meeting six times in 2025, the state's Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force has released a range of suggestions.

In its interim report, the task force



Portland's North Deering neighborhood in May 2024. A legislative task force has issued 10 recommendations for lowering the burden of high property taxes. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

outlined 10 ideas. They include changes to current tax credits and exemptions, adjustments to how Mainers pay their taxes and calls for further review of

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## In legislative races, recruiting the right candidate is crucial

With less than a month left to qualify for a primary ballot, Republicans and Democrats are still trying to find people to run for dozens of seats.

By RANDY BILLINGS  
Staff Writer

In dozens of races that will determine Maine's future, Democrats and Republicans are scrambling to make the most important strategic decision they'll make all cycle — finding the right candidate.

The races for Maine House and Senate — a total of 186 contests — are being overshadowed by high-profile races for U.S.

Senate, Maine's 2nd Congressional District and governor. But their importance cannot be overstated. Control of the Legislature will determine what does — or does not — get accomplished over the next two years.

Partisan control in Augusta hangs on a knife's edge. Democrats have a five-seat majority in the

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