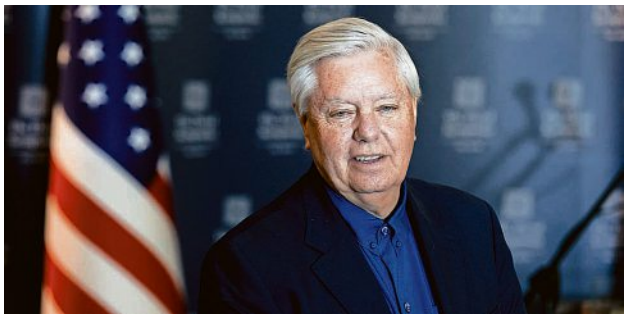




SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM, TRUMP ALLY, DIES AT 71

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Kitsap Sun

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026 | KITSAPSUN.COM

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FLY, FLY AWAY



▲ Eight-year-old Aero Jones, of Gig Harbor, swoops his model jet through the air while looking at the planes on the runway for the Bremerton Airshow on July 10. The show at Bremerton National Airport was July 11 and 12. See more photos from the event in a gallery at www.kitsapsun.com.

◀ A T28 Trojan takes off from the Bremerton National Airport runway.

▼ T28 Trojan vintage aircraft cruises through the sky in formation above the Bremerton National Airport. PHOTOS BY MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN



Judge: ICE facility subject to inspections by the state

Jake Goldstein-Street
WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

The private company that runs a Tacoma immigrant detention center must allow state inspectors inside after years of refusing, a federal judge ruled Thursday, July 9.

But U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin Settle ruled the Florida-based operator of the Northwest ICE Processing Center, The GEO Group, doesn't need to admit officials from the state Department of Health to administrative and medical areas run by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Settle's order takes effect in two weeks, giving GEO Group time to appeal.

The judge ruled the state should be able to enforce its laws at the facility, which holds immigrant detainees before their release back into the United States or deportation.

"The State raises compelling concerns for the health and safety of the detainees held at GEO's Tacoma facility," Settle wrote Thursday. "Although they are detained, their welfare remains within the State's purview."

Attorney General Nick Brown called the ruling a "resounding win to protect the people held at the detention center."

"The state has the right to inspect private detention facilities like the one run by GEO and investigate complaints of unsafe and unsanitary conditions," he added.

Spokespeople for GEO and ICE didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Inspectors from the Department of Health had been trying for months to examine the conditions of the controversial for-profit facility amid thousands of complaints. But GEO repeatedly denied them entry, despite a federal appeals court upholding a state law seeking to establish more oversight of the detention center.

The judge's decision comes after the state in late April urged Settle to force the company's hand.

"The law is clear, yet the owner of this facility, The GEO Group, has continued to obstruct our efforts to ensure they are following state law," Gov. Bob Ferguson, a Democrat, said in April. "The GEO Group is not above the law."

Settle had previously blocked the law in response

See ICE, Page 2A

White House sought to sidestep election agency

Erin Banco and Bo Erickson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The White House spent months looking for ways to bypass a federal election agency and use emergency powers to force changes to voting machines before President Donald Trump ousted its leaders on July 9, four people familiar with the matter said.

Some officials were frustrated with what they saw as the Election Assistance Commission's slowness in

updating guidelines for states on voting machines, the sources said, while some also wanted it to add a proof-of-citizenship requirement to its national mail voter registration form and address other election-related priorities of the administration.

Democratic lawmakers criticized the firings as an attempt to increase its control over elections, which are the purview of the states, and as undermining election integrity ahead of November's midterm elections, when control of Congress will be at stake.

Trump fired the bipartisan federal agency's two

Democratic commissioners and allowed its lone Republican commissioner to resign, Reuters reported on July 9. The agency's fourth commissioner departed in April.

It was not immediately clear why Trump decided to force the commissioners out at this time or if they will be replaced. The agency remains operational, but without a quorum it cannot take up any new business, such as implementing changes to voting

See ELECTION AGENCY, Page 2A

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