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09/25/2025, 09/28/2025, 10/02/2025, 10/05/2025

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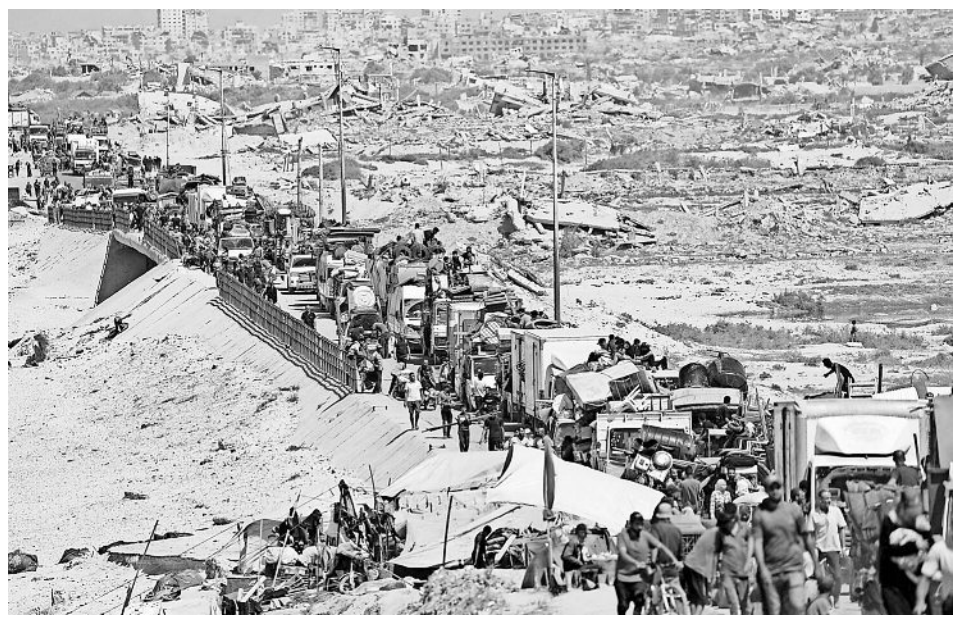
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Israeli military nears Gaza City center

At least 50 killed by strikes as tanks push in

Nidal al-Mughrabi, Angeliki Koutantou and Alvise Armellini
REUTERS



Displaced Palestinians head south on Sept. 24 after Israeli forces ordered residents of Gaza City to evacuate. DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS

CAIRO – Israeli forces pushed toward the heart of Gaza City on Sept. 24, placing at risk the lives of Palestinians who had stayed put in hopes that growing pressure on Israel for a ceasefire would mean they would not lose their homes.

President Donald Trump met leaders of Muslim countries at the United Nations in New York on Sept. 23 for talks that the Emirati state news agency said focused on a permanent ceasefire in the war as well as the release of Israeli hostages and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Trump, who earlier condemned moves by several Western countries to put pressure on Israel by recognizing a Palestinian state, said a meeting with Israel would be next.

Israel has pressed on with its military campaign on Gaza City despite repeated calls for it to pull back, urging the population to move south.

Hundreds of thousands have left the city in northern Gaza but many others have hesitated because of security risks and widespread hunger.

"We moved to the western area near the beach, but many families didn't have the time, tanks took them by surprise," said Thaer, a 35-year-old father from Tel Al-Hawa.

Israeli forces began closing in on the city of more than a million in August, with Israel saying it aimed to destroy the last stronghold of Hamas militants whose attack on Israel and seizure of hostages triggered the war nearly two years ago.

On Sept. 24, medics said at least 50 people were killed and many others wounded when Israeli air strikes hit a shelter housing displaced families near a market in the middle of the city. Two other people were killed in a house nearby, they said.

The Israeli military said that the strike had targeted two Hamas militants and that its forces tried to reduce harm to civilians in the area.

In the city's Tel Al-Hawa suburb, tanks entered populated areas, trapping people in their homes, while more tanks were seen stationed close to Al-Quds Hospital, witnesses said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said an oxygen station had been damaged.

Tanks have also advanced closer to Gaza's largest hospital, Al Shifa, witnesses and Hamas media said. The Israeli military said the group's militants had opened fire from within the hospital compound, which Hamas denied.

"We fear that these lies may be a prelude to another raid on the hospital," said Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run Gaza government media office, in reference to several previous raids by Israeli forces.

Separately, two Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank over the past 24 hours, one during a raid by Israeli troops in Anza village outside Jenin, and another was shot in al-Mughayyir village, northeast of Ramallah, by an Israeli settler, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Violence in the West Bank has become more intense during the Gaza war as Israel has stepped up raids across the territory. The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the incidents.

In Gaza's south, seven people were killed in Nuseirat and near Rafah, medics said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which insists its attacks are aimed at ending Hamas rule of the enclave.

Israel has drawn widespread condemnation over its military conduct in Gaza, where more than 65,000 Palestinians have been killed according to local health authorities, and famine has spread.

International frustration over the war in Gaza prompted some Israeli and U.S. allies to recognize a Palestinian state this week. Support for the war in Israel has also wavered, with 48 hostages, 20 of whom are believed to be alive, still held by Hamas in Gaza and 465 Israeli soldiers killed in combat.

The war began when Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Italy deploys navy ship to help Gaza aid flotilla after drone attack

An international aid flotilla trying to deliver aid to Gaza said on Sept. 24 it was attacked overnight by drones in international waters off Greece, prompting Italy to send a navy ship to come to its assistance.

The Global Sumud Flotilla is using about 50 civilian boats to try and break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza, with many lawyers and activists onboard, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

The vessels were attacked by 12 drones in international waters 30 nautical miles off the Greek island of Gavdos, said Marikaiti Stasinou, a spokesperson for March to Gaza Greece, which is part of the flotilla.

All passengers are safe after drones exploded over the vessels, she told Reuters.

GSF said the attack affected 11 vessels and blamed Israel and its allies for "explosions, unidentified drones and communications jamming," saying it would not be intimidated and would continue to sail.

Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto said in a statement the sea convoy had been targeted by "currently unidentified perpetrators." He expressed the "strongest condemnation" of the incident.

He ordered the Italian multi-purpose frigate Fasan, previously sailing north of Crete, to head toward the flotilla "for possible rescue operations," focusing primarily on Italian citizens.

The GSF called on other nations to "ensure and facilitate effective protection, including (with) maritime escort, accredited diplomatic observers, and an overt protective State presence. Italy has now taken a first step in this direction."

Israel has repeatedly criticized the flotilla, accusing its activists of complicity with Hamas.

On Sept. 24, the foreign ministry repeated an invitation for the flotilla to drop humanitarian aid in an Israeli port, leaving it to Israeli authorities to take it to Gaza, or else face consequences.

"Israel will not allow vessels to enter an active combat zone and will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade," a ministry statement said.

It made no comment on whether it was responsible for the drones.

Typhoon Ragasa bears down on southern China

Jessie Pang and David Kirton
REUTERS

HONG KONG – Typhoon Ragasa, the world's most powerful tropical cyclone this year, struck the southern Chinese city of Yangjiang on Sept. 24 after killing 17 people in Taiwan and lashing Hong Kong with ferocious winds and heavy rains.

The typhoon was tracking toward Maoming, one of China's biggest oil refining cities, in Guangdong province.

In Taiwan, 17 people were missing in the eastern Hualien county after a barrier lake overflowed and sent a wall of water into a town, while Ragasa brought Hong Kong to a standstill.

More powerful typhoons are likely to hit southern China due to climate change, said Benjamin Horton, dean of the School of Energy and Environment at the City University of Hong Kong, after a summer of record-breaking rainfall.

"The weather experienced in Hong Kong this summer is only a taste of what is to come," Horton said.

Officials in Taiwan are used to moving people out of potential danger zones swiftly as the island is frequently hit by typhoons, but many residents in the tourist town of Guangfu said they were given insufficient warning when a lake overflowed during torrential rains Sept. 23 brought by Ragasa.

In Hong Kong, where huge waves crashed over areas of the Asian financial hub's eastern and southern shoreline, some roads and residential properties were submerged.

At the Fullerton Hotel on the island's south, videos on social media showed seawater surging through glass doors. No injury has been reported, the hotel told Reuters.

China's marine authority issued its highest red wave warning for the first time this year, forecasting storm surges of up to 9 feet in parts of Guangdong province, as Ragasa headed toward the densely populated Pearl River Delta.

Ragasa formed over the Western Pacific last week. Fueled by warm seas and favorable atmospheric conditions, the tropical cyclone rapidly intensified to become a Category 5 super typhoon on Sept. 22 with winds exceeding 162 mph.

It has since weakened, but was still powerful enough to bring down trees and power lines.

"Authorities have taken lessons from Hato and Mangkhut, which both caused billions of dollars in damage in 2017 and 2018," said Chim Lee, a senior energy and climate change specialist at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

After passing around 60 miles south of Hong Kong, Ragasa made landfall along the south Chinese coast. Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan and Dongguan, the largest cities in the storm's path, are home to around 50 million people.

More than 2 million people have been evacuated across Guangdong, and the ministry for emergencies dispatched tens of thousands of tents, folding beds, lighting equipment and other rescue supplies, Chinese state media reported.

In the gambling hub of Macau, next to Hong Kong, casinos were forced to shutter their gambling areas. One user on China's Xiaohongshu app showed videos of doors being sealed at a casino resort for protection against gales and debris.

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PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS TO BE HELD IN PSC CASES 25-E-0375, 25-G-0378, 25-E-0379, 25-G-0380 – NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS CORPORATION AND ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE

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DHS to boost security at ICE offices

Dallas attack showed limitations of safeguards

Rick Jervis, Nick Penzenstadler and Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY



FBI agents stand on the roof of an immigration lawyer's office building Sept. 24 across the street from the ICE field office that was the site of a shooting in Dallas. JEFFREY MCWHORTER/REUTERS

DALLAS – Immigration attorney Vinesh Patel had been troubled by the growing security risks at Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities when the deadly attack he feared happened.

A sniper opened fire Sept. 24 on an ICE field office, killing one person who was being detained and injuring two others. It was the latest in a string of violent attacks on the nation's immigration system that are raising serious security concerns for ICE agents, attorneys, judges and migrants themselves.

Across the country, raucous protests at ICE facilities, aggressive tactics by masked agents in the field and heated political rhetoric on both sides have become a dangerous new backdrop to what for years had been the quiet, mundane work of immigration enforcement.

The day after the shooting, the Department of Homeland Security announced plans to beef up security at ICE facilities. Federal investigators said the Dallas shooter, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, intended to target ICE agents – not the migrants caught in his crosshairs.

DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin blasted the rising violence against ICE agents and said the shooting "was motivated by hatred for ICE."

In a statement, she said in light of the shooting and "other unprecedented acts of violence against ICE law enforcement, including bomb threats, cars being used as weapons, rocks and Molotov cocktails thrown at officers, and doxing online of officers' families, DHS will immediately begin increasing security at ICE facilities across the country."

Patel, the immigration attorney, had visited the Dallas ICE facility just days before the shooting to meet an ICE officer about one of his clients.

He remembered, "The thought crossed my mind: Will these spaces and courts become a scary place?"

"You worry that if people are targeting ICE, they could target immigration judges, and you worry about being caught in the crossfire," he said.

Security designed for internal threats

One of dozens like it around the country, the Dallas field office doubles as a processing center where ICE agents bring in detained migrants for fingerprints and book-in. Top local ICE brass and support staff have offices there; dozens of agents start and end their workdays there.

Patel said the building is split into a front-facing, public office meant for immigration check-ins and a rear secure area to temporarily hold people being detained. Security guards conduct basic metal detector searches at the front, and the rear doors are fenced off in an open-air parking lot.

That's what allowed the shooter to open fire on a van transporting immigrants. Investigators say the shooter, identified as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn, left handwritten messages indicating he wanted to harm ICE agents.

Joseph Rothrock, FBI Dallas special agent in charge, called the shooting a "targeted, ambush-style attack on law enforcement." The shooter wanted "to cause terror" for ICE agents across the country, and his plot was months in the making, Rothrock said during a Sept. 25 news conference.

Historically, security at ICE facilities has been about protecting agents and the people they detain from internal threats like aggression from those being detained, or gang violence, a strategy that mimics the criminal justice system, according to experts, ICE detention standards and the detainee handbook.

The agency's detention standards include dozens of pages on safety and security, including precautions specific to transportation to and from ICE facilities. The standards state: "The facility will take all reasonable precautions to protect the lives, safety, and welfare of detainees, officers, other personnel, and the general public during ground transportation" and include numerous requirements for handling and protecting detainees.

But, "the reality is that security is thought of as keeping the law enforcement agents and other detainees safe from internal harms," said Deb Fleischaker, a former ICE official who served under the Biden and first Trump administrations.

"It's not thought of as keeping detainees safe from external harm," she said. "That's not the way it's been historically understood."

Rothrock said ICE and other federal agents rushed in to protect and rescue detainees, at least two of whom were in restraints in the transport van.

Immigration enforcement front and center

Until recently, the immigration system operated under the radar, not well-known to many Americans.

ICE agents typically worked in small teams, making quiet, targeted arrests of immigrants with criminal records – often before dawn or in the early morning hours.

Most Americans knew little about the ICE processing centers tucked into nondescript office buildings, where agents book-in detained migrants. Or about the immigration courtrooms hidden inside federal buildings around the country.

That changed this year as President Donald Trump rolled out a flashy, high-speed effort to massively deport immigrants living in the country illegally – and the resistance that has followed.

Masked federal agents in riot gear have pulled up on restaurants to arrest kitchen workers. They've hidden inside a Penske moving van to ambush immigrants in a Home Depot parking lot. They've ridden into a city park on horseback, searching for undocumented immigrants.

Americans angry about the enforcement tactics have in some cases responded aggressively.

Some Los Angeles activists violently protested ICE enforcement earlier in 2025. Others are tracking the movements of ICE agents on social media or in a controversial app.

And in July – not far from the Dallas field office, at an ICE detention center in Alvarado, Texas – attackers used fireworks to draw out ICE agents and ambush them.

Contributing: Eduardo Cuevas, USA TODAY

FCC may halt school bus Wi-Fi, library hot spot rule

Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

It could soon be harder for students to access the internet on school buses and for the public to borrow mobile internet hot spots from libraries.

In a Sept. 23 letter, a coalition of school and library advocacy groups urged the Federal Communications Commission to protect the programs that have allowed schools and libraries to lend out hot spot devices.

"One in five households in our country still do not have access to reliable home broadband. Hotspots are not a permanent fix, but they'll make sure students, jobseekers, veterans and seniors don't get left behind," American Library Association President Sam Helmick said in a statement provided to USA TODAY.

The FCC is scheduled to vote on Sept. 30 to undo a 2024 rule change made by the Biden administration that allowed schools and libraries to lend out hot spots and provide Wi-Fi on buses as part of the existing E-Rate program, which allows schools and libraries to obtain affordable broadband.

When schools and businesses were closed during the pandemic, Congress allocated $123 million to the FCC to purchase hot spots for schools and libraries. The Biden FCC vote in 2024 came after authority to spend that money ended.

Schools and libraries in every state have already had contracts approved and money has already been spent. In fiscal year 2025, which ends Sept. 30, schools and districts requested a total of $27.5 million for Wi-Fi hot spots.

According to a Sept. 3 FCC news release, the company that runs E-Rate would be ordered to "deny pending funding year 2025 requests for E-Rate funding for the off-premises use of Wi-Fi hot spots and Wi-Fi on school buses as these services will be determined to be ineligible."

An FCC spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr said in a statement that the FCC's authority to fund the Wi-Fi initiatives had ended by the time the Biden FCC voted. He said E-Rate wasn't meant to provide children with unsupervised access to the internet.

"The FCC also failed to demonstrate that these funding decisions would advance legitimate classroom or library purposes," Carr said.

Republicans in the Senate and House introduced measures to overturn the Biden rule earlier this year, also calling it partisan overreach because federal law states that the E-Rate program is meant to provide discounts for broadband services only to "school classrooms" and libraries.

In May, the Senate voted 50-38 along party lines to overturn the 2024 expansion. A similar bill introduced in the House in February has not been considered.

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, the American Library Association, EdLiNC and the Homework Gap Coalition signed onto the joint letter to the FCC.

The letter provides examples of school districts in rural areas with lengthy bus commutes, such as Farmington Municipal Schools in New Mexico, that have put Wi-Fi on buses so students can complete homework on their up to two-hour ride home.

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The Journal News
Sunday, September 28, 2025

What Adams' absence means in NYC

Mayor leaves race while Mamdani leads Cuomo

Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

New York City Mayor Eric Adams' Sept. 28 announcement that he is dropping his bid for reelection raised hopes among conservatives that Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, a socialist state Assembly member, can be stopped by former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is running as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani.

Adams, a centrist Democrat like Cuomo, was also making an independent bid after a federal indictment on corruption charges that were dropped by the Justice Department after President Donald Trump took office.

But it remains unlikely that Cuomo can surmount Mamdani's commanding lead in recent polls if Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa remains in the race.

Basel Smikle, a professor at Columbia University and former director of the New York state Democratic Party, said Adams' decision to leave the race a little under four weeks before early voting begins makes it harder for Cuomo to use the narrowed field to his advantage. In fact, Adams' name will still appear on the ballot as it's too late to be removed.

Smikle pointed to Mamdani's June primary upset, consistently high polling and, more recently, a wave of high-profile endorsements such as former Vice President Kamala Harris, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and leading community organizations. The top two Democrats in Congress, both from New York City – House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer – have not endorsed.

"I think the overall narrative is going to stay the same," he said. "You have a young candidate in Zohran (Mamdani) who has energized the race, versus (Cuomo) as a more establishment candidate."

Adams has trailed the two front-runners in polling for months, while Sliwa – already at a disadvantage in a famously blue city – has yet to net competitive figures.



New York City Mayor Eric Adams, left, dropped out of the mayoral race but his name cannot be removed from ballots at this point. JEENAH MOON/REUTERS

Now with Adams gone from the race, his vote share could fall to Cuomo.

But Adams' support is smaller than Mamdani's lead. In the three most recent major polls released within the past two weeks, Mamdani has held double-digit leads over Cuomo, ranging from 21 to 18 percentage points ahead. The polls showed Adams with a 7-9% support and Sliwa with a wider range between the three surveys, with 9%, 11% and 17%.

In Quinnipiac University's early September survey of likely voters, pollsters ran the numbers of a hypothetical three-way race should Adams step out of the running. They found Cuomo would net the biggest boon, with a 6-point boost, while Mamdani would get 1 point and Sliwa's percentage of support would remain the same. That would leave Mamdani with 46% support among likely voters, Cuomo with 30% of support and Sliwa at 17%.

A Sept. 9 New York Times poll and analysis estimated a similar outcome, with Adams supporters li[illegible]y to throw their weight behind Cuom[illegible]he analysis modeled a prospec[illegible]way race between Cuomo and Ma[illegible]should Sliwa drop out – which the R[illegible]ican candidate has not signaled since Adams' announcement. That two-way model showed a highly competitive race, with 48% supporting Mamdani and 44% supporting Cuomo.

Adams has not endorsed Cuomo

On Sept. 5, news outlets reported the Trump administration was considering Adams to serve as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Adams initially said he hadn't received a formal offer and had always wanted to be New York City's mayor, before declaring his decision to leave the race on Sept. 28 in a nearly 9-minute-long video address posted to X.

"Who would have thought that a kid from South Jamaica, Queens, growing up with learning disabilities, would one day become the mayor of the greatest city in the world," Adams said in the address, sitting beside a picture of his late mother.

Adams touted his administration's policies on housing, crime, education and social services, before blaming the media and an independent city agency that administers the city's campaign finance system, for "undermining" his campaign. He also claimed he was "wrongfully charged because I fought for this city," referencing now-dismissed federal charges in 2024 that accused the mayor of accepting free travel and political donations from Turkish officials to take actions that benefited their country.

Notably, Trump hasn't backed fellow Republican Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels anti-crime patrol group.

A 65-year-old Democratic mayor elected in 2021, Adams had been facing calls to drop out of the race for months, with his administration plagued by resignations and corruption allegations.

The race's three remaining candidates were quick to release statements reacting to Adams' news on Sept. 28.

Mamdani, whose campaign has focused on the high cost of living in the city, released a video statement slamming the mayor's record.

"A city that was already hard has become nearly impossible for those who call it home," he said, referring to Adams' tenure. "But a new day is coming. Over the past year, tens of thousands of you have built the biggest grassroots campaign our city has ever seen. You have knocked on millions of doors, all to make the city affordable. In just over five weeks, we will turn the page on the politics of big money and small ideas and deliver a government every New Yorker can be proud of."

Daniel Kurzyna, a spokesperson for Sliwa's campaign, didn't mention Adams at all in response to the news, instead focusing squarely on the race's front-runner, Mamdani.

"Curtis Sliwa is the only candidate who can defeat Mamdani," Kurzyna said. "Our team, our resources, and our funding are unmatched. Most importantly, we have the best solutions to help working people afford to stay in New York City and feel safe."

In a statement, Cuomo struck a different tone, saying he believes Adams was "putting the well-being of New York City ahead of personal ambition" in dropping out. Cuomo also referred to unnamed "destructive extremist forces" he says could devastate New York City, adding that it is "not too late to stop them" but did not go into further detail.

Contributing: Eduardo Cuevas, USA TODAY

Advertiser: Smith Marketing Service
Agency: N/A
Section-Page-Zone(s): A-9-All
Description: NYSEG/RG&E Public No

Ad Number: 11684432
Insertion Number: N/A
Size: 3 Col x 10 in
Color Type: N/A

The Journal News
Thursday, October 2, 2025

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: The Journal News	2. Publication Number: 0 1 7 - 0 0 9	3. Filing Date: 10/1/2025
4. Issue Frequency: Daily, except Saturdays and major holidays	5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 307	6. Annual Subscription Price: $1,116.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 2 Westchester Park Dr, Ste B, White Plains, Westchester, NY 10604		Contact Person: Customer Service Telephone (Include area code): 1-888-426-6388

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 2 Westchester Park Dr, Ste B, White Plains, NY 10604

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Kristin Roberts, 1675 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10019

Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Michael Anastasi, 1675 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10019

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): N/A

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Gannett Co., Inc.	1675 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10019

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☐ None

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12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: The Journal News	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: July 25, 2025	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Daily, except Saturdays and major holidays		
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	10,900	9,209
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	11	5
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	8,379	7,533
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	8,390	7,538
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	444	439
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	444	439
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	8,834	7,977
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	2,066	1,232
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	10,900	9,209
i. Percent Paid	95.0%	94.5%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	2,871	1,781
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	11,261	9,319
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	11,705	9,758
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	96.2%	95.5%

☒ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 02, 2025 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Date
Rick Voegele - Sr. Manager, AAM & Audit Reporting	10/1/2025

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PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS TO BE HELD IN PSC CASES 25-E-0375, 25-G-0378, 25-E-0379, 25-G-0380 – NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS CORPORATION AND ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE

Public comment is invited concerning the proposed changes in the electric and gas delivery rates and practices of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) (together, the Companies). In addition, members of the public and parties to these proceedings are invited to comment on the proposed closure of certain walk-in office locations operated by the Companies.

NYSEG and RG&E filed amendments to their electric and gas tariff schedules on June 30, 2025, proposing to increase their annual electric and gas delivery revenues for the 12-month period ending April 30, 2027. NYSEG proposes to increase its electric delivery revenues by approximately $464.4 million (an 18.4 percent increase in total revenues or 35.0 percent increase in base delivery revenues), and its natural gas delivery revenues by approximately $93 million (a 22.1 percent increase in total revenues or 39.4 percent increase in base delivery revenues). RG&E proposes to increase its electric delivery revenues by approximately $220.2 million (a 19.8 percent increase in total revenues or 36.0 percent increase in base delivery revenues), and its natural gas delivery revenues by approximately $72.9 million (a 17.1 percent increase in total revenues or 32.0 percent increase in base delivery revenues). The actual bill impacts of these proposed changes on any particular customer class will vary based upon revenue allocation and rate design.

As part of the Companies' rate filings, they propose to close the following walk-in offices:

- NYSEG's Auburn office located at 73 Wright Circle, Auburn, NY 13021
- NYSEG's Ithaca office located at 1387 Dryden Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
- NYSEG's Oneonta office located at 65 Country Club Road, Oneonta, NY 13820
- RG&E's Sodus office located at 14 State Street, Sodus, NY 14551
- RG&E's Rochester office located at 3 City Center, 180 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that **public statement hearings** will be held before Administrative Law Judges on:

DATE: Tuesday, September 30, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Sodus Community Library, 17 Maple Avenue, Sodus, NY 14551

DATE: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Binghamton City Hall, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

DATE: Tuesday, September 30, 2025
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Cayuga Community College, 197 Franklin Street, Auburn, NY 13021

DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Ithaca Town Hall, 215 N. Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

DATE: Tuesday, September 30, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Rochester City Hall, City Council Chambers, Room 302-A, 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY 14614

DATE: Thursday, October 16, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: SUNY – Oneonta, Morris Conference Center, 108 Ravine Parkway, Oneonta, NY 13820

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that **virtual** public statement hearings will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 2025
TIME: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Registration is required for the virtual hearings.

A more comprehensive notice that contains further information, including how to register for a virtual hearing, is available at **https://dps.ny.gov/calendar**, where you should click on the "View DPS Calendar Listings" button, locate and click on the NYSEG and RG&E public statement hearings scheduled on the dates indicated above, and click on the "READ THE NOTICE" button.

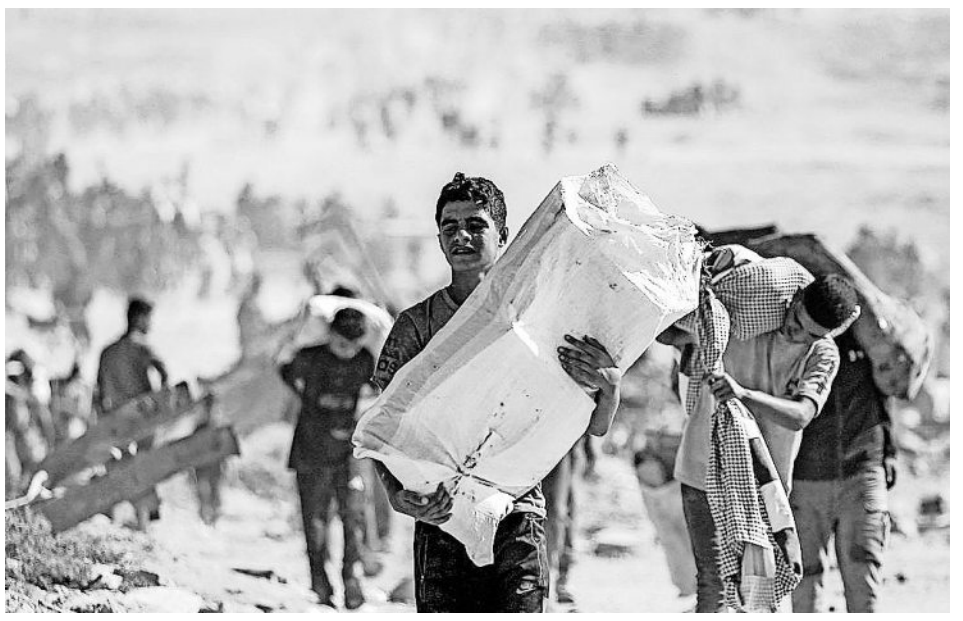
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Each public statement hearing will be held open until everyone who has registered to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements to submit comments have been made.

Some worry U.N. aid will be replaced

Private process in Gaza upends best practices

Emma Batha
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



A boy walks with aid packages received from a Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution center in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip, on Sept. 30. GHF is run by United States and Israel and has worried advocates who say the organization doesn't follow standard aid practices. EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

LONDON – Fifteen-year-old Palestinian Mahmoud Jamal Al-Attar set out to collect food from an Israeli-controlled distribution site in the southern Gaza Strip one day in August, but like many others he never made it back; he died after being shot in the chest.

The teenager is among hundreds of Gazans killed near aid hubs run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a private Israeli and U.S.-backed outfit set up in May that bypasses the United Nations coordinated system that has long supported the enclave.

The shootings have been widely blamed on Israeli forces outside the aid sites. A GHF spokesman said its armed contractors had not used lethal force.

However, the emergence of GHF has fueled a growing debate over the privatization and militarization of aid, and the future of the United Nations-led humanitarian aid system in the face of massive funding cuts.

"What's happening in Gaza sets an incredibly dangerous precedent for humanitarian crises globally," Alexandra Saieh, Save the Children's global policy lead, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We all know that what happens in Gaza never stays in Gaza," she said. "If this is tolerated in Gaza, it could be tolerated in South Sudan, Sudan, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) or elsewhere, and that's what we are worried is going to happen."

Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, which has worked in Gaza since 2009, said GHF was a "political and strategic tool" that flew in the face of the fundamental humanitarian principles underpinning international relief work.

These require aid agencies to be neutral, provide assistance based solely on need, and remain independent of political, economic, or military objectives.

"In Gaza, people have to run for boxes of food delivered in some kind of Hunger Games, that favors the strongest and fittest," Egeland told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "This is in no way the kind of work we should perform."

But it is not just in Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian system is being severely tested.

From Sudan to Myanmar, Venezuela and Russian occupied areas of Ukraine, Egeland said aid agencies were being denied access to civilians affected by conflict on an unprecedented scale.

As the Middle East marks two years of conflict, the enclave is in ruins and facing catastrophic hunger and famine in the north.

More than 550 aid workers have also been killed, according to the Aid Worker Security Database, the highest toll of any conflict it has recorded.

GHF, a U.S.-registered nonprofit that uses private U.S. security and logistics firms, began operating at the end of May following an 11-week Israeli blockade on all supplies into Gaza.

Israel said another system was needed because Hamas was stealing aid. Hamas denies this.

Rights groups accuse Israel of weaponizing aid to further its war aims in Gaza, and say GHF operates with little oversight.

GHF denies it acts for Israel and says it provides a practical solution to delivering aid in a crisis where the U.N. system is broken.

Chris Newton, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group think tank, said GHF was likely "a sign of things to come," adding that the Trump administration's closure of the USAID development agency and changes to foreign aid policy suggested it would be keen to support similar initiatives.

"That level of control over distribution in service of military and political goals is highly desirable for any number of actors if they can get away with it," he said.

Newton also anticipated the emergence of more companies like Fogbow, a new private entity run by former U.S. soldiers and officials that has delivered aid in Gaza, Sudan and South Sudan.

Fogbow officials say it is a logistics provider, not a humanitarian organization, but that they try to align their projects with humanitarian principles.

However, critics have raised questions over Fogbow's operation in South Sudan where it was working on behalf of the government, a party to an active conflict.

Sacks of aid airdropped into areas devastated by fighting between the military and local militiamen were marked "South Sudan Humanitarian Relief." Some people refused the food because they did not trust the government.

Fogbow's president Mick Mulroy told Reuters in June that the company had five project requests in conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, and attributed rising demand to aid cuts.

Aid veterans are alarmed. They say private companies lack transparency or accountability and blur the lines between the military and humanitarian sector, potentially jeopardizing assistance and the safety of aid workers.

In Gaza, GHF says it has distributed about 180 million meals from its four hubs in the south. Its Twitter feed contrasts photos of staff handing out boxes to smiling Palestinians with reports of U.N. delivery trucks being plundered.

U.N. agencies and international aid organizations have refused repeated requests from GHF to collaborate. They strongly refute suggestions the U.N.-led humanitarian system has failed, saying it has been prevented from functioning.

In a letter in August, more than 100 organizations called for an end to Israel's weaponization of aid.

Although U.N. agencies are trucking in supplies, most international aid groups have been unable to do so since March, leaving millions of dollars' worth of food, medicine, water, and shelters stuck in warehouses.

Many say Israel has told them they cannot bring in aid until they reregister and provide Palestinian staff lists, which they say is unsafe and unlawful under data protection laws.

The requirement comes under new regulations for international aid groups.

Oxfam policy lead Bushra Khalidi said aid agencies feared the rules could be used to stop them speaking out.

"If governments are using aid to displace or control people we need to say that loudly," she said. "Being neutral doesn't mean staying silent."

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters.

Pope's Trump critique ends honeymoon with conservative Catholics

Joshua McElwee
REUTERS

VATICAN CITY – Pope Leo XVI initially impressed conservative Catholics after his election in May as he embraced traditions shunned by his predecessor, Pope Francis, and steered clear of hot button social issues that divided the 1.4 billion-member Church. But his honeymoon with conservatives appears over after he unexpectedly took aim at President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies, questioning whether they were in line with the Church's pro-life teachings.



Leo

"Someone who says I am against abortion but I am in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States, I don't know if that's pro-life," Leo, the first pope elected from the United States, told reporters Sept. 30.

Some critics, who had praised the pope for his early reserve, expressed shock that Leo criticized the current champion of global conservatives. Former Texas Bishop Joseph Strickland, a fierce Francis critic who was relieved from duty by Francis but has praised Leo, criticized the new pope on social media for causing "much confusion" regarding the sanctity of human life and the moral clarity of the Church's teaching."

"So tired of papal interviews. He should return to his previous silence," said the Rorate Caeli blog, which had previously criticized Francis and praised Leo.

The Trump administration, which was sharply critical of Francis but has rarely commented about Leo, also pushed back.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said she rejected the characterization of inhumane treatment of immigrants.

Vatican officials and papal associates said Leo cares especially deeply about the treatment of immigrants and is unlikely to be deterred by criticism. But it could detract from his mission, expressed during his inaugural papal mass, to work for unity across a global Church that has become more divided and polarized in recent decades.

While the naturally cautious Leo will look to avoid repeated clashes with conservatives that could harden opposition to his agenda, he will not renounce his own set of values. "Is he going to ruffle the feathers of American conservatives at some points? Yes," said Elise Allen, author of a biography of Leo for Penguin Peru and the only journalist to interview the pope since his election.

"They shouldn't be surprised that he does that," she told Reuters.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, a senior adviser to both Francis and Leo, said the new pope was following an instruction given by St. Paul, a 1st-century leader of Christianity: "Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season."

"(Leo) encourages and challenges each local Church and each Christian, faced with complex and urgent issues, to live the Gospel," the cardinal told Reuters. Leo was a relative unknown on the global stage before his election in May. He spent most of his career as a missionary in Peru, where Allen said he developed a desire to care for immigrants and speak up for social causes.

"He understands the priority of the abortion issue, but he's not going to be somebody that says that's far more important than immigration," she said.

Leo earned conservative praise in the hours after his election by wearing a traditional red papal garment called a mozzetta, which Francis never wore, in his first public appearance.

David Gibson, an academic who follows the papacy, said conservative Catholics had grasped at Leo's attempts to foster unity as if he were endorsing their entire agenda.

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The Journal News
Sunday, October 5, 2025