

Another payout coming in Facebook settlement

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USA TODAY

A Facebook class-action settlement will send some users a bonus second payout after an initial wave of checks went out last year.

In May, a California court approved a second round of payments in a \$725 million settlement over claims that Facebook misused user data, according to the settlement website and court filings.

Although payments were initially sent out late last year, there is still about \$100 million remaining in the fund, according to court filings.

The settlement, which was finalized in 2023, stemmed from several lawsuits against Facebook that alleged that the company made user data accessible to third parties without their permission.

Meta, Facebook's parent company, denied wrongdoing but agreed to a settlement to avoid going to trial, according to the settlement website.

Only people who received a first payment and cashed it are eligible for a second payment in the settlement, according to the settlement website.

Anyone in the United States who used Facebook between May 24, 2007, and Dec. 22, 2022, was eligible to be included in the settlement. Eligible users needed to file a claim in the lawsuit by Aug. 25, 2023, to receive a payment.

Users who were eligible and did not file by the deadline did not receive a payment in the first wave and therefore will not get a payout in the second wave.

The settlement administrator will send out the bonus payments beginning June 9 through the next four weeks, ac-

ording to the website. Those who are eligible for a second payment will be notified by email three to four days before the payment is issued.

According to court filings, the settlement administrator estimates that more than 15 million people will receive a second payment. After taking administrative costs out of the remaining \$100 million pot, there will be about \$95 million left for the bonus payments.

The total amount each eligible claimant will get in the second bonus payment will vary based on what filings call "allocation points," but the administrator estimates they will range from \$4.67 to \$7.32 each.

"Allocation points" are the number of months a user was on Facebook during the eligibility period. Meaning, a person who used Facebook for two years, or 24 months, between May 24, 2007, and

Dec. 22, 2022, will have 24 "allocation points."

The lawsuits that led to the settlement were brought in the aftermath of the 2018 Cambridge Analytica scandal. The since-shuttered marketing firm was accused of improperly obtaining and sharing information on Facebook users to target voters in the 2016 presidential election.

Specifically, the lawsuits alleged Facebook shared user data without consent to third parties such as app developers, business partners, advertisers and data brokers, then failed to monitor use of the data.

The lawsuits were consolidated into one filing in 2018, and years of proceedings followed. In December 2022, Facebook parent company Meta and the plaintiffs agreed to settle the lawsuit.

Screwworm

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sterile insect technique, where radiation is used to sterilize male flies that are released into the wild where they mate with females and produce unfertilized eggs.

The U.S. has since worked to maintain a biological barrier in Central America that contains the pest to South America, but that barrier broke down in recent years.

Kansas has two members of Congress on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, which had a hearing with USDA secretary Brooke Rollins on June 4.

U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann, R-Kansas, told Rollins he appreciates "all the work that you've been doing to fight New World screwworm. We all know this is a all hands on deck moment, and appreciate your great leadership."

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, D-Kansas, noted that "cattle is a \$15 billion industry in Kansas" and an outbreak would be costly to producers. The screwworm "can devastate livestock herds," which would "threaten ranchers' livelihoods."

"This is absolutely a significant threat to the American cattle industry and has the potential to further raise beef prices at the grocery store," Davids said.

Davids asked Rollins, "Why should

Kansas ranchers and consumers facing high beef prices have confidence that the USDA has this under control?"

"This is a problem that our country faced in the '50s and '60s — and we beat it," Rollins said.

She said after the biological barrier in Panama was breached and the fly reached Mexico, "The models predicted that it would be on our side of the border, nothing could stop it, by last summer."

The USDA has been building sterile fly production facilities — "that's how we beat it in the '50s and '60s; that's how we'll beat it again" — because existing production capacity was only about 100 million flies a week when 400-500 million is needed.

"We had gotten to the point because no one thought it was going to be a threat again," Rollins said of the existing production capacity.

Rollins said the "real threat" is in south Texas.

"We do not believe this will be an infestation," Rollins said.

"We'll be able to isolate each case. We've had a year to prepare because we pushed it off a bit, and we've got the teams on the ground ready to go."

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Anthropic

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until the department's dispute with the company is resolved, he said.

"Anytime the government signals that it's washing its hands of a company, that's a major problem for that company," Turner said.

One big sign of a thaw was symbolic but important. The White House invited Amodeli to Trump's planned May 21 signing of an executive order on artificial intelligence, according to two sources familiar with the matter, though the event was later canceled because of Trump's dislike of some of the order's provisions.

Trump signed the order on June 2; Anthropic in a statement posted on X said it looked forward to "collaborating" with the White House on implementing the order.

A White House spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment about the administration's relationship with Anthropic. Anthropic's press team declined to comment.

Anthropic has held discussions with National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross about Mythos, its most advanced AI system, and how to protect critical infrastructure from AI-enabled cyberattacks, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Critical infrastructure refers to vital U.S. economic sectors deserving of spe-

cial protection from attacks, such as banks, emergency services and hospitals.

Anthropic's relationship with the Trump administration is warming as it gears up for a stock market debut that could value it at \$1 trillion. CEOs of large corporations have tried to bolster relationships with the White House to avoid Trump's anger.

Stronger ties could help bolster investor confidence in the short term, said Harrison Rolfes, a senior research analyst at PitchBook who covers AI companies. It's a "near-term bruise," Rolfes said, referring to the dispute.

Anthropic employees met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent this spring to talk about Mythos and potential presidential actions on AI, according to a U.S. official. The discussions helped Trump's team develop June 2's executive order, according to the official, where Trump asked leading developers to hand over their most advanced models for cybersecurity testing.

The tensions with the Pentagon have not faded entirely. Both sides were still arguing over the supply-chain risk designation as of June 4, when they submitted briefs to the court.

At the same time, Anthropic employees were not part of an April 27 Army-run AI simulation on cyberattacks, according to Army spokesperson Sean Minton.

Voting

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bach and Secretary of State Scott Schwab, a pair of Republicans who held a press conference in Topeka on Nov. 5.

"Noncitizen voting is a real problem," Kobach said, claiming, "It is something that happens fairly frequently."

Schwab said Kobach should "be prepared to be busy" as Kansas uses the SAVE system to help identify cases of noncitizen voters. Kobach told reporters he expected there to be "a very large number."

"I thought when we would do this we might find three or four, and it's going to be closer to hundreds," Schwab said.

But Kobach said, "It's going to be more likely in the thousands."

Since then, the two state officials have publicly identified three total criminal cases charged in court — though a handful of others may remain under investigation.

Ex-mayor is one of three noncitizen voting cases charged in Kansas

Schwab testified before a congressional committee in April, including about running Kansas voter rolls through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system, or SAVE.

"To date," Schwab told Congress on April 16, "the attorney general has brought two criminal indictments and my office has referred seven more suspected noncitizens to the attorney general."

The only specific case he identified was that of Ceballos.

After an event in Topeka on May 19, *The Capital-Journal* asked Schwab how many cases in addition to that of Ceballos had been filed.

"We've turned three or four over to the attorney general that SAVE has flagged," Schwab said. "They don't share with us where they're at in the investigation."

Meanwhile, Kobach has publicly identified three cases of alleged noncitizen voting that his office is prosecuting.

The first is Ceballos, whose charges



Secretary of State Scott Schwab told reporters that his office had turned over three or four cases on potential noncitizen voting to Attorney General Kris Kobach. EVERT NELSON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

in Comanche County were announced at the November press conference. After *The Capital-Journal* obtained the affidavit in that case, Ceballos' attorney said his client didn't realize he wasn't allowed to vote as a permanent resident.

A plea deal in April reduced Ceballos' charges from six felony election crimes to three misdemeanors, and the state judge sentenced him to probation and \$2,000 in total fines. Federal officials subsequently ordered Ceballos to report to immigration detention.

The second is Jose Luis Gomez Sr. He was charged in Reno County in December.

Court records indicate there has yet to be a hearing in the case — and it is unclear if there ever will be. When Kobach publicly announced the case in January, he said Gomez "is currently in custody in Oklahoma pending deportation, following federal immigration proceedings."

The third is Edwin Francisco Ramirez-Guerra. He was charged in Sedgewick County in December. While Kobach didn't issue a press release announcing the case, he did identify it in a footnote of an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in March. The Ramirez case doesn't appear to have been previously reported by Kansas media.

The affidavit in the case, made public after a request from *The Wichita Eagle*,

written by an investigator for Kobach's office alleged Ramirez voted in 2024 after becoming a permanent resident. The criminal case remains ongoing with a preliminary hearing scheduled for June 18.

A spokesperson for Kobach's office didn't respond to a request for comment, including questions on whether there have been any cases beyond those three and why the number of cases isn't in the hundreds or thousands.

Schwab says SAVE system wasn't used in Ceballos case

President Donald Trump's administration has taken steps to provide state election officials with data from Social Security and the SAVE system. Schwab has said the Social Security data will help identify deceased voters in registration databases while the SAVE data will help remove noncitizens.

SAVE is a federal program intended to help government agencies confirm citizenship and immigration status. It is administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Schwab told Congress that SAVE is "one of the most important tools states have to verify voter information" on citizenship.

When the Ceballos case was first announced, Schwab and Kobach refused

to say whether the SAVE system was used because it was part of the investigation.

But that didn't stop the two state officials and the Trump administration from using the Ceballos case to tout the SAVE program. Schwab and Kobach talked at length about SAVE.

Matthew Tragesser, the then-spokesperson for USCIS, said in a November statement on the Ceballos case, "This is just the beginning — SAVE is exposing bad actors and safeguarding the integrity of our elections like never before."

A second press release that month quoted the DHS's then-assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin praising the SAVE program as "a critical tool for state and local governments to safeguard the integrity of elections across the country."

After Ceballos was convicted in April, acting assistant secretary Lauren Bis also praised the SAVE system. DHS touted that SAVE had identified more than 24,000 cases of "potential" noncitizen voting.

In a written submission to Congress from January, Schwab referenced the Ceballos case and said, "His name was flagged by both the SAVE program and the state's temporary driver's license report."

But speaking to reporters in Topeka on May 19, Schwab said the SAVE system wasn't actually used in the Ceballos case.

"No, in that one, it was not used in that one," Schwab said in response to a question from *The Capital-Journal*. "What happened is he was going through immigration process to become a U.S. citizen. When you do that, they always ask you, 'Have you ever voted?' He goes, 'Yeah, as a matter of fact I'm a mayor.'"

"The reason why he was on the voter rolls was because he registered before HAVA, and so we didn't even ask for tax ID numbers or anything. If you wanted to register, you just registered. So he's basically grandfathered."

Schwab indicated the SAVE system has been used to identify other Kansas cases.

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