

Story 1: *Industry News* Kraken Expands Into U.S. Stock & ETFs

- Kraken has launched commission-free trading for over 11,000 U.S.-listed stocks and ETFs, marking its first expansion beyond crypto.
- The service, initially available to select U.S. clients, will soon be accessible nationwide, enabling users to trade stocks, crypto, cash, and stablecoins on a single platform.
- Powered by Kraken Securities LLC, Kraken plans to expand this offering to the U.K., Europe, and Australia, aiming to integrate traditional and digital asset markets seamlessly.

Story 3: *State News* New York & Blockchain in Elections

- New York Assemblymember Clyde Vanel has again proposed studying blockchain for securing voter records and election results, though similar bills since 2017 have stalled.
- Skepticism remains, experts point to unclear benefits, cybersecurity risks, and the key role of paper ballots as the official record.
- U.S. counties, like Screven County,, have piloted blockchain for timestamping election data, but critics say it may divert attention from more effective election security improvements.

Story 2: *Agency News* SEC vs. Ripple Settlement Talks

- A U.S. appellate court has granted a 60-day pause in the SEC's case against Ripple Labs, allowing both parties to pursue settlement negotiations, a status update due by June 15.
- The pause follows the SEC's dropping its appeal against Ripple, during SEC leadership changes, as Paul Atkins replaces acting chair Mark Uyeda.
- Ripple may receive a \$75 million refund from a previous judgment if settlement terms are reached, but further outcomes remain uncertain as negotiations continue.

Story 4: *International News* China Crypto Reserve Debate

- Chinese authorities are considering a national policy for seized crypto due to a tenfold surge in crypto-related crime, totaling \$59B in 2023.
- Inconsistent handling of seized crypto across regions due to inconsistent regulations have sparked misuse concerns as local entities profit from liquidations.
- Some policymakers and industry leaders suggest a centralized crypto reserve, similar to U.S. proposals, to manage seized assets strategically instead of immediate sales.

Sources

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Story 2: Cointelegraph. (2025, April 16). Court grants 60-day pause of SEC, Ripple appeals case. Cointelegraph.

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/court-pause-sec-ripple-appeals-case>

Source 3: StateScoop. (2025, April 17). Blockchain for election integrity bill resurfaces in New York.

<https://statescoop.com/new-york-blockchain-election-results-voting/>

Source 4: CryptoSlate. (2025, April 16). China debates crypto policy shift amid \$59 billion crime surge.

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