

Subject: News Headlines: 2-27-24

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News Headlines: February 27, 2024

ASK ANCEL GLINK

Ancel Glink, P.C., a leading Illinois local government law firm, answers questions about local government law submitted by LocalGovNews.org readers. Responses posted weekly below the Quote of the Day. This service may constitute Advertising Material. The Question and Answer of the Week is generally written by Ancel Glink partner, Adam Simon. To submit questions, e-mail: asimon@ancelglink.com

EDUCATION

Years after pandemic closures, we're seeing their effects inside our schools; Across fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, many kids are struggling with sharing and working with others

<https://bit.ly/3uM6ScN>

The Desolation of America's Urban Schools; Austerity measures have resulted in dangerous, squalid conditions for the most vulnerable students

<https://bit.ly/3TeicYK>

Our entire education system needs a revolution; "The empires of the future are the empires of the mind"

<https://bit.ly/3lg2CFI>

Welcome to the GOP's new education agenda: Loot our public schools for private vouchers

<https://bit.ly/48xXzLx>

National Newcomer Network urges supports, policies for newly arrived students; The group's policy recommendations include money for wraparound services and building capacity for disaggregated data

<https://bit.ly/48waL3h>

Controversies within the science of reading; A growing number of researchers are criticizing an overemphasis on auditory skills

<https://bit.ly/42Wiy9i>

Should California schools stick to phonics-based reading 'science'? It's not so simple

<https://lat.ms/42TwIYS>

Sentence Stems Vs Sentence Frames; While sentence stems encourage exploration and expression of original thoughts, sentence frames focus more on accuracy and form, making them ideal for teaching specific grammatical constructs or vocabulary

<https://bit.ly/42RNNCq>

Why the Adult Education World Is Overdue In Embracing the Science of Reading; While educators bemoan the reading crisis and decry Balanced Literacy icons, the discourse has all but avoided the adult education world

<https://bit.ly/42QMLXB>

Revised Federal Edtech Plan Calls for Closing Digital Divides; But will funding gaps and inadequate development defer hopes for inclusive education?

<https://bit.ly/3wq5ugi>

While a majority of superintendents understand the importance of artificial intelligence and its potential impact on K-12 education, only a small fraction of district leaders see AI as a "very urgent" need this year

<https://bit.ly/3wFaPAr>

Pell Grant program faces a potential budget crisis, fiscal policy group says; The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimated that the federal aid program could see a shortfall as high as \$95B over the next decade

<https://bit.ly/42Sn9tg>

Policies Restricting Teaching About Race and Gender Spill Over into Other States and Localities; Findings from the 2023 State of the American Teacher Survey

<https://bit.ly/49dcR9q>

Black History Month teaching strategies change amid curriculum restrictions; The vagueness of state restrictions may prompt teachers to back away from key topics, necessitating clear guidance and support from district leaders, experts say

<https://bit.ly/3SLxZg4>

Unsurprisingly, "anti-racist" teaching methods are not helping students learn in the classroom

<https://bit.ly/42QCHOh>

Kids Get Schooled on Radical Politics; Students at a public elementary school in Brooklyn are learning revolutionary theory from a Black Lives Matter coloring book

<https://bit.ly/3OUQHAA>

Should kids learn about LGBTQ issues at school? Many teachers and teens say no, new surveys find

<https://bit.ly/3OW5ATx>

State lawmakers are getting creative in their attempts to control what young people read. Across the U.S., we're seeing legislation aimed at school materials and public libraries

<https://bit.ly/49JnPDs>

I worried that being trans meant being alone. My community showed me otherwise

<https://bit.ly/3OZ1iut>

Fears of witch hunts over Utah ban on trans athletes in girls' sports

<https://bit.ly/48tSung>

Mass shooting lockdown drills help schoolchildren feel safer, study suggests; Findings showing those already exposed to violence feel safer, contradict previous research conclusions

<https://bit.ly/49Jddo0>

School focus on grades, test scores linked to violence against teachers; Emphasizing learning is safer for educators, study suggests

<https://bit.ly/3wCHbMc>

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Controversies within the science of reading; A growing number of researchers are criticizing an overemphasis on auditory skills

<https://bit.ly/3VcGow3>

Ag education programs growing in Illinois

<https://bit.ly/4bQjobW>

Chicago Teachers Union leadership is pushing for more "sustainable community schools," despite existing community schools producing poorer student results at a higher cost.

<https://bit.ly/3UNKxpU>

Governor Pritzker's plan isn't enough to close state's education funding gap

<https://bit.ly/49JFURQ>

Chicago police will be out of schools next fall. It's up to the district to make the move work; The 39 high schools that have kept their school resource officers must come up with alternative plans

<https://bit.ly/4bLICtb>

Northwestern settles 2022 class-action lawsuit alleging it engaged in financial aid scheme

<https://bit.ly/3wy6f7j>

Indian Prairie, West Aurora school districts to hold mental health symposium for parents, students

<https://bit.ly/3TaQ1tC>

Parents, students and teachers at St. Francis of Rome School in Cicero are fighting to keep the suburban Catholic School alive

<https://bit.ly/3OXjIkE>

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees is expected to extend the contract of President Tim Killeen at its next meeting.

<https://bit.ly/3SV459b>

Learning English through Dungeons and Dragons: How students role play slaying beasts to master a new language

<https://bit.ly/4bTpEiW>

Indian Prairie, West Aurora school districts to hold mental health symposium for parents, students

<https://bit.ly/48yjNwT>

Former teacher sentenced to s. offender probation for abusing students at Elgin preschool

<https://bit.ly/4bOCP4X>

Learning the habits of the "Mind"; Core curriculum course stretches UChicago undergraduates' brains in new ways

<https://bit.ly/3las3Zc>

Touching base with Superintendent about Technical Education Center at Rich East Site

<https://bit.ly/49kzokN>

NIU determines bomb and shooter threat at Barsema Hall 'not credible'

<https://bit.ly/3uDjgHr>

EIU AFSCME union ratifies new contract

<https://bit.ly/42PXK3z>

Kids from Northmoor petition for strawberry milk to return

<https://bit.ly/4bSxmtH>

Heartland receives \$73K grant to support VR instruction

<https://bit.ly/4bQTpRw>

Organization files federal civil rights complaint against WIU, alleging discriminatory scholarships

<https://bit.ly/3landex>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What recession? Professional forecasters raise expectations for US economy in 2024; The economy looks set to grow 2.2% this year after adjusting for inflation, according to the National Association for Business Economics

<https://bit.ly/48B6RpL>

Construction starts flat-line even as manufacturing accelerates; Expected interest rate cuts in the second half of 2024 should spur more starts as the year progresses

<https://bit.ly/3UTXgrd>

Berkshire Hathaway shareholder letter; Warren Buffett's annual investor letter is out

<http://tinyurl.com/mr3389ha>

Experts worry that lower- and middle-income Americans who tend to be renters are falling behind on their debts and could face further deterioration of their financial health in the year ahead

<https://bit.ly/3UUmUw2>

Income Inequality Rightly Understood; Clearly there's a big difference between wealth that derives from corporate welfare and rent-seeking, and wealth derived from entrepreneurial innovation that consumers

willingly reward because it benefits them

<https://bit.ly/3uMKvnz>

Rekindling the Hope of Black Homeownership; A group of American cities are working to reverse practices that have held down Black homeownership - and the generational wealth it brings - for nearly a century

<https://bit.ly/3P22FbN>

Not All Policy Is Industrial Policy; Just say no to empowering government actors to put their thumbs on the scale on behalf of certain sectors

<https://bit.ly/3lc0WwT>

China's slowing economy, Xi's government tactics leave American investors wary; More money is leaving China for the first time in 40 years than is coming in from American, Japanese, European, Korean investors

<https://cbsn.ws/4bJGO2y>

The FTC and 9 states sue to block the Kroger-Albertsons supermarket merger; The deal would combine the country's two largest grocery store chains. The companies say they have to merge to compete with Walmart

<https://n.pr/3T8SSDf>

FTC sues to block Kroger, Albertsons merger, arguing the agreement would raise grocery prices and hurt workers

<https://cnb.cx/3OSjLsr>

Federal Trade Commission Sues To Stop Kroger-Albertsons Merger

<https://bit.ly/3SRvTex>

The Auto Workers Go All In; By devoting \$40M to its campaign to organize non-union auto plants, the UAW is challenging not just corporate America but also labor's status quo

<https://bit.ly/48rv3uJ>

How State Occupational Licenses Affect Jobs and Salaries

<https://bit.ly/3wzKaW0>

States are waking up to the high costs that occupational-licensing laws impose on their workers and economies; More than 20 states have already passed some form of universal licensing reform

<https://bit.ly/48AwBCK>

Older Americans are working longer. Some want to; others have to

<https://bit.ly/3TfrTGI>

9 charts that show US factory farming is even bigger than you realize; Factory farms are now so big that we need a new word for them

<https://bit.ly/48rEOsR>

Why tech companies are laying off thousands of workers; While the U.S. job market remains remarkably strong on the whole, tech companies have cut nearly 40,000 jobs in the first two months of 2024

<https://bit.ly/3OYZVvl>

The Department of Energy agreed to temporarily suspend its emergency survey of energy use by cryptocurrency miners following a lawsuit; Lawsuit called data demand 'contrived'; U.S. seeking data to assess grid reliability risks

<http://tinyurl.com/mr2r2j33>

The total, all-time dollar amount invested into crypto and blockchain-related companies exceeded \$90B this month

<https://bit.ly/3SQRxj3>

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Governor Pritzker sounds skeptical about the prospect of using state taxpayer funds to help bankroll a potential new White Sox ballpark on the South Loop parcel known as "The 78"

<https://bit.ly/49Raatz>

White Sox subsidies critic questions economic impact of possible deal

<https://bit.ly/3wp1wEI>

Chase renovating its longtime Loop office tower; The curving 60-story skyscraper towering over a full block in the heart of the Loop will be "transformed" into a modern collaborative workspace for more than 7,000 Chicago-area employees

<https://bit.ly/4bPbL5A>

US sues to block merger of grocery giants Kroger and Albertsons; The Federal Trade Commission was joined in the suit by the attorneys general of eight states, including Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

<https://bit.ly/3lyziKN>

Illinois has three of the 'hottest' US housing markets

<https://bit.ly/3TaoeJM>

Metra CEO gets another raise as \$270M shortfall looms; Approved to receive a nearly 4% pay raise, which will give the agency head a more than \$11,000 pay bump to earn \$325,825 annually

<https://bit.ly/3SVqLWH>

Aurora City Council set to approve 14 Historic Preservation Grants

<https://bit.ly/4315S1e>

Mercedes-Benz Dealership In Romeoville Slated For Late 2024 Opening; Ground broke on the two-story, 40,000-square-foot building in July 2023. Located on 23 acres

<https://bit.ly/3If7GdI>

Auto repair reform has strengthened Illinois' economy; The "Multiplier Act" ended the two-tiered compensation system in auto repair, requiring out-of-state and foreign auto companies to pay the same market rate for warranty repairs as everyday consumers would pay for non-warranty repairs

<https://bit.ly/42QFsiB>

Spring Hill Mall closing date set for March 22

<https://bit.ly/48wpJGo>

Batavia residents get look at proposed plan to guide development downtown

<https://bit.ly/3lePi4c>

The Central Tri-State Tollway is getting smarter with addition of digital messaging

<https://bit.ly/3wnOF5F>

Outback Steakhouse closes Mount Prospect location

<https://bit.ly/4bOPPHL>

Nonprofit plans to take therapeutic scuba deeper with \$300M proposal

<https://bit.ly/3uPJOtO>

World Cup champs Argentina to play Ecuador at Soldier Field in June

<https://bit.ly/42XqZl4>

Illinois Designates 'Puerto Rico Town', Nine Other Sites as State Cultural Districts to Boost Heritage Preservation

<https://bit.ly/49v2vSt>

Skokie denies recruiting VW dealership

<https://bit.ly/4bUuXyl>

Grant Street developer's manufacturing arm in bankruptcy, factory for sale

<https://bit.ly/49P47Gt>

In Evanston's 7th Ward, plan for small homes causes big uproar

<https://bit.ly/3TcEBFy>

Bernard Financial Group (BFG) has arranged a \$7.8M acquisition loan for a 124,005-square-foot shopping center in Downers Grove.

<https://bit.ly/3STx7WH>

Grundy Economic Development Commission shares results of Grundy Moves survey

<https://bit.ly/3uDjmyN>

Champaign, Springfield areas designated as cultural districts

<https://bit.ly/3wweX65>

Champaign's Neil St. Plaza to expand with more seating, possible stage

<https://bit.ly/3UVbFTV>

Relief grant announced for businesses hurt by COVID-19 unemployment insurance

<https://bit.ly/3wucYip>

Rivian's map to profitability

<https://bit.ly/42YaAN1>

Under the Ground, Zeta Coffee close as new spots crop up in a thriving Bloomington-Normal restaurant

scene

<https://bit.ly/49rWPsa>

Galesburg toy company takes \$20,000 top prize in 'Shark Tank'-like competition

<https://bit.ly/3UNOoTU>

Illinois' best companies to work for in the US, according to Forbes

<https://bit.ly/48vRE9t>

BMO says going cashless brought about greater efficiency

<https://bit.ly/48AQ06y>

Ameresco EVP Says "Let's Use What's Already in the Air" for the Natural Gas we Need

<https://bit.ly/3lyD9rf>

Is Sustainable Aviation Fuel the Future of Ethanol?

<https://bit.ly/48zezRg>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Researchers find exercise to be twice as effective as antidepressants at treating depression; Workouts need not be intensive to be beneficial

<https://bit.ly/49Mqnk9>

Is the 100-year old TB vaccine a new weapon against Alzheimer's? Studies suggest the BCG jab discovered a century ago could provide a cheap and effective way of boosting the immune system to protect people from developing the condition

<http://tinyurl.com/56yua89w>

When is forgetting normal - and when is it worrisome? A neuroscientist weighs in

<https://n.pr/3lcRPMb>

This Just In: Scientists Discover That Men's and Women's Brains Work Differently; We have come to credit truths only if told in the form of an analyzed data set

<https://bit.ly/3OYOmEP>

More women may be psychopaths than previously thought, says expert; Assessment skews towards obvious male traits but female psychopathy is more subtle

<http://tinyurl.com/4y6ex7fu>

Man feels hot and cold again with prosthetic hand breakthrough

<https://bit.ly/3uBYWeg>

Here's what we're getting wrong about prostate cancer; Does screening more men for prostate cancer actually save lives?

<http://tinyurl.com/43td4rez>

What a Major Solar Storm Could Do to Our Planet; Disturbances on the sun may have the potential to devastate our power grid and communication systems. When the next big storm arrives, will we be prepared for it?

<https://bit.ly/48wlSbv>

As Telecommunications Outages Abound, Congress Must Act; The Emergency Alert System and National Public Warning System are multi-tiered able to transmit emergency information via television, radio, cell, and Internet. However, when disaster strikes, citizens often lose power, and cell service becomes overloaded and goes down

<https://bit.ly/3UVajsi>

What's behind the US's critical veterinarian shortage? As vets turn away from the profession citing poor mental health and high costs, experts say public health is at risk

<http://tinyurl.com/zvr5csdn>

Louisiana prisons have experienced 50% spike in deaths, report says; Healthcare in the state's prisons is known for being deathly inadequate - and the incarceration rate may keep growing

<http://tinyurl.com/2f9aajnh>

More places install drop-off boxes for surrendered babies. Critics say they're a gimmick

<https://bit.ly/49uRzUV>

Why Doesn't DOJ Investigate Police Departments for Endemic Failures on S. Assault Cases?

<https://bit.ly/3OTT7j9>

San Francisco is following other California counties in charging dealers connected with fentanyl deaths with murder in the latest attempt to curb the fentanyl epidemic in the state

<https://bit.ly/42RTVKY>

State launches first-ever firearm data dashboard meant to help Coloradans better understand gun violence, prevention

<https://bit.ly/3uPDPoQ>

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The Democrats running to replace Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx answer five key questions

<https://bit.ly/3uMI6cu>

Another legal cloud hangs over ShotSpotter contract

<https://bit.ly/3UVp9z1>

Chicago's O'Hare and Midway Airports Join Fight Against Opioid Epidemic with Lifesaving Naloxone Access

<https://bit.ly/3UUXDl3>

Cook County judge denies extension on stoppage of police discipline cases

<https://bit.ly/3wvA5cx>

Judge plans to rule next month on whether serious Chicago police disciplinary cases can be heard in private
<https://bit.ly/3wwjV2w>

Suburban woman who claims she was misled by Vietnamese 'influencer' gets 10 days in Jan. 6 case
<https://bit.ly/48waugL>

A Cook County judge denied an effort by the city's largest police union to extend a pause on pending disciplinary cases before the Chicago Police Board
<https://bit.ly/3TcGG4h>

Chicago South Side Birth Center expected to open in South Shore by 2025; The space that was once a church, will now be the future home of the Chicago South Side Birth Center
<https://bit.ly/3lh9C57>

String of armed robberies in Hermosa prompts community alert
<https://bit.ly/3Td8yWd>

Portage Park alderperson, residents seek traffic safety improvements after hit and run
<https://bit.ly/3UTzEmi>

Doctors and other health care providers accused by patients of s. misconduct kept practicing - sometimes for years - because of gaps in Illinois laws and a licensing agency that can be slow to take disciplinary action
<https://bit.ly/3lelrcd>

Indiana could soon have life rings near Lake Michigan
<https://bit.ly/49x70w2>

Judge Robert Adrian was removed from the bench by the Illinois Courts Commission for misconduct, after he reversed a sexual assault conviction against Drew Clinton.
<https://bit.ly/3wwe11z>

Chicago Police Officer Ella French's Alleged Killer Set to Go to Trial This Week
<https://bit.ly/42PWPQE>

City of Danville issues burn ban
<https://bit.ly/42QT6SN>

The backstory on a Peoria firefighter recently arrested on a DUI charge
<https://bit.ly/3V0aQJH>

IDPH approves new opioid antagonist to combat overdoses
<https://bit.ly/4bUrHTW>

NWS: tornado 'can't be ruled out' for central Illinois Tuesday
<https://bit.ly/49LVSuM>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Feds preach vigilance amid multiple physical, cyber threats against election officials

<https://bit.ly/3STPUkT>

Intimidation of State and Local Officeholders; Left unchecked, abuse harms not only elected officials but also the public they serve

<https://bit.ly/497cSvf>

Few homeless people have been detained under San Diego's camping ban. The number prosecuted is even lower

<https://bit.ly/49t36nQ>

What Could Entrepreneurs and Government Do Together? When technology, data and collective effort converge, government, the tech industry and higher education can tackle major challenges while bringing a new generation into the workforce

<https://bit.ly/48xJfTc>

How governments handle data matters for inclusion; Algorithms and artificial intelligence can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services. But if underlying data is not handled thoughtfully, it can mirror and perpetuate existing inequalities

<https://bit.ly/49knnfb>

How clicking a single link can cost \$Ms; Is cybercrime getting easier? How cybercriminals exploit human vulnerabilities; The latest on how to recognize and protect yourself from scams

<https://bit.ly/430Qthq>

Climate risk planning portal from Argonne National Lab gets new features; The portal uses one of the world's largest supercomputers to model climate change hazards. Now, communities can use it to predict impacts on vulnerable populations and infrastructure

<https://bit.ly/3OZ9meC>

The 5 tenets of turning pain into power

<https://bit.ly/3uOgJPi>

Your Organization Isn't Designed to Work with GenAI; Companies need to reimagine their processes to encourage dialogue between people and these new AI tools

<https://bit.ly/3wCRFv0>

The Illinois Municipal League has created a dedicated webpage with additional information including data about the estimated financial impact of the proposed grocery tax elimination by municipality

<https://bit.ly/49ttZYD>

The Illinois Municipal League sent a memo to municipal officials discussing the IML's strong opposition to the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Grocery Tax

<http://tinyurl.com/33a5vn39>

CMAP Technical Assistance and RTA Community Planning Program; The annual call for communities to apply for technical assistance officially opened February 26th

<https://bit.ly/3iR3tQK>

What type of CMAP technical assistance is right for my community?

<http://tinyurl.com/3u5ne7yv>

Chicago progressives, don't fret loss of your 'Mansion Tax.' The biggest one of all is already law, which your chosen leaders despise; The \$10K cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions that became law in 2017

<https://bit.ly/49O6fOH>

Mayor Johnson promised a new era of 'co-governance' in Chicago City Hall. So far, it's a bumpy ride

<https://bit.ly/49MX418>

Johnson administration asks judge to stay ruling invalidating transfer tax referendum

<https://bit.ly/49RLkdN>

The Democrats running to replace State's Attorney Kim Foxx answer five key questions

<https://bit.ly/49rUvIm>

Longtime Cook County tax appeal commissioner faces a big-money push to replace him

<https://bit.ly/3wD2Tj8>

Cook County tax appeal official Larry Rogers' biggest primary challenge? Conflict of interest accusations

<https://bit.ly/3lcXeCX>

Mayor Brandon Johnson's push to fund services for the unhoused with a real estate tax hike hit a roadblock Friday when a Cook County judge sided with business groups suing to get it off the March ballot.

<https://bit.ly/3URMH7S>

Naperville Help Center To Help Residents Communicate With Officials

<https://bit.ly/49tID2c>

Arlington Heights mayor denies claims of pressuring school districts in ongoing Chicago Bears land dispute

<https://bit.ly/3TcsMiD>

Elmhurst Eyes Raising Parking Fees, Fines; Fewer people commute to downtown Chicago. And that means less income for the city's parking account

<https://bit.ly/3SWtNKF>

Dolton mayor Tiffany Henyard launching podcast

<https://bit.ly/3uMHRhA>

White supremacist group's anti-Semitic comments are cut off at Evanston City Council meeting

<https://bit.ly/3lbLHE2>

Evanston to 'explore legal options' against hate speech, but options in wake of antisemitic comments last

Thursday may be very limited.

<https://bit.ly/4bRw9Tp>

Evanston's City Council is scheduled Monday night to discuss creating a committee to try to persuade major non-profits in town to make voluntary payments in lieu of taxes.

<https://bit.ly/3TcEpGk>

Former Ravinia Women's Board member sues for 'wrongful' dismissal

<https://bit.ly/3PI7oWr>

Aurora City Council set to approve 14 Historic Preservation Grants

<https://bit.ly/3lcfw7B>

Protecting oak trees - and the birds that rely on them - is aim of USDA grant program

<https://bit.ly/3leKj3G>

Arlington Heights plans to replace residential water meters

<https://bit.ly/49LPyDC>

Starting March 4, 2024, the public will move to using Naperville's Help Center to contact Mayor Scott Wehrli and all City Council members, providing a more efficient and organized way to submit requests, questions and feedback.

<https://bit.ly/3wnPAmD>

Park Ridge City Council voted to award Lemont-based Tecnica Environmental Services a contract to remove asbestos-lined doors and perform other environmental remediation at Fire Station 35

<https://bit.ly/49yDbuT>

Niles-Maine District Library Approves 'Good' Plan To Replace Roof Insulation

<https://bit.ly/49vdo6H>

30 Underwater Bubblers Work To Keep Lake Opeka Healthy in Des Plaines

<https://bit.ly/3IfTv7I>

AgeGuide announces grant funding opportunities for fiscal year 2025

<https://bit.ly/3IkMX7L>

DeKalb residents can weigh in on city application for state funds to help replace lead-lined water pipes

<https://bit.ly/3OUjCF2>

Most veterinarians are women, but they still face sexism in rural areas where they're most needed

<https://bit.ly/3OYRFvJ>

Moline make traffic changes to major John Deere Road intersection

<https://bit.ly/3Te3Y95>

Moline "dares to dream" of a bright future, mayor says in State of the City

<https://bit.ly/49qkJVa>

County to form advisory board for Kankakee River

<https://bit.ly/3OWXVV1>

Historians discuss Sundown Towns and their impact on black Americans

<https://bit.ly/49LWd0w>

Springfield, other Central Illinois communities to receive 25 more buses, paratransit vehicles thanks to state grant

<https://bit.ly/3SWvsQp>

Illinois Vermilion Democratic County Party to Republicans: Stop the Insanity Now, Do Your Job

<https://bit.ly/3ld0Bd5>

Abner Place set for drainage improvements; Edwardsville saves thousands

<https://bit.ly/3uFt9Jo>

SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Gov. Pritzker says using public funds on a new White Sox stadium is 'not a priority'; White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf is reportedly asking for \$1B in public funds for construction.

<https://bit.ly/42SYeFW>

Chicago Red Stars join the teams seeking public funding for a stadium: 'Women's sports need to have a seat at the table'

<https://bit.ly/42W4VqF>

Anti-referendum speakers challenge Avoca School Board on necessity of new school

<https://bit.ly/3OXVIhp>

STATE & FEDERAL

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker Announces \$23M Birth Equity Initiative in Chicago to Tackle Maternal Mortality Disparities

<https://bit.ly/3UVqWnl>

Where Does Illinois Lottery Revenue Go?

<https://bit.ly/3T1jRzA>

Pritzker, Duckworth back IVF protections amid Alabama court ruling

<https://bit.ly/49ROZbx>

Expect to see a lot of noisy, two-inch flying cicadas in Illinois this May. But don't worry.

<https://bit.ly/4bJMhX8>

The same phosphorous that fertilizes the thriving agriculture of the Midwest is also responsible for a vast "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico near the Mississippi Delta.

<https://bit.ly/48wPhDz>

—
Democrats at the state level are pursuing an ambitious six-year plan to control half of state legislative chambers by 2030, according to a new strategy memo

<https://bit.ly/3UUPZHn>

'Chaotic' US Congress faces whirlwind of shutdown, impeachment, border fights

<http://tinyurl.com/3u3wh9dr>

A shutdown is approaching. Biden and Johnson's lack of relationship isn't helping; The Ukraine crisis escalates and a government funding deadline looms. The lack of history between the president and the House speaker could make things worse

<https://politi.co/42Wqrfi>

Lawmakers race to avoid looming shutdown as blame game begins

<https://bit.ly/3SWip1i>

Biden Rule Would Deprive Pregnancy Resource Centers of Funds and Favor Abortion Groups, Conservatives Warn

<http://tinyurl.com/mrxvjthp>

Ex-Trump officials plot out sweeping abortion restrictions for return to office

<https://bit.ly/48w1pEA>

Texas governor responds to LGBTQ human rights criticisms: 'The UN can go pound sand'

<https://bit.ly/49OTFPf>

GOP Social Media Censorship Laws Are Headed To The Supreme Court. These Liberal Law Professors Don't Want Them Struck Down; The argument made by a Big Tech lobbying group to strike down the laws could make it impossible to regulate social media, AI, tech companies and digital privacy

<https://bit.ly/3lfbeye>

Supreme Court digs into Big Tech censorship and First Amendment

<https://bit.ly/3lcesk7>

US Supreme Court torn over Florida, Texas laws regulating social media companies

<http://tinyurl.com/2psucds9>

Supreme Court casts doubt on GOP-led states' efforts to regulate social media platforms

<https://bit.ly/49ROHkX>

Why the Associated Press isn't using 'presumptive nominee' to describe Trump, Biden; A presidential

candidate doesn't officially become the Republican or Democratic nominee until winning the vote on the convention floor

<https://bit.ly/42VKFG0>

Primary apathy in Michigan: Democrats, GOP struggle as supporters mull whether to even vote

<https://bit.ly/3URLjIG>

Biden Will Win Michigan Easily. It May Also Show His Weakness; The president will crush Dean Phillips. But if "uncommitted" beats expectations dramatically, this may be the most complicated blowout in presidential primary history

<https://bit.ly/3IfGRWA>

If age forces Joe Biden to stand down, who will step up?

<https://bit.ly/3UVghcG>

Michelle Obama: September Savior or 'Suicide Mission'? Just how desperate are the Democrats to get Biden off the ballot?

<https://bit.ly/3TdZxuX>

Kentucky's attorney general is investigating a health care company that wired \$200K to James Biden the same day he wrote a check for that amount to his brother and future president Joe Biden

<http://tinyurl.com/4efntbc6>

Takeaways from South Carolina primary: Donald Trump's Republican home field advantage is everywhere

<https://bit.ly/3wwXJ8B>

Trump's demographic problem; Trump's campaign says that in the battleground states where the election will be decided, his message will appeal far beyond the GOP base that propelled him to the nomination

<https://bit.ly/3lczKxN>

Three Theories for Why Trump's Primary Results Are Not Matching Expectations; Anti-Trump voters are highly motivated to turn out this cycle. It wouldn't mean the polls will be wrong in November, but it would be good news for Democrats nonetheless

<https://bit.ly/48xuGz0>

Does Trump Really Have a Republican Problem? The general-election polling that forecasts a united GOP by Election Day isn't hard to believe

<https://bit.ly/3TcUc8c>

Trump's Conservative Political Action Committee speech showed clear signs of major cognitive decline - yet MAGA cheered

<https://bit.ly/49O581p>

I went to CPAC as an anthropologist to understand Trump's base - they believe, more than ever, he is a savior

<https://bit.ly/3Tnf10Z>

Russia looms over yet another Trump presidential campaign; The former president has repeatedly expressed

a fascination with Russia, lavished praise on Putin and refused to stand up to the Russian president on a range of issues

<https://bit.ly/3SWgxp8>

Russia's 2024 election interference has already begun; Moscow is spreading disinformation about Joe Biden and other Democrats to lessen U.S. military aid to Ukraine and U.S. support for NATO, former U.S. officials and cyber experts say

<https://nbcnews.to/4bO1LcL>

New election year means another Russiagate as Biden, Dems try to smear impeachment probe

<https://bit.ly/3SQp3Gh>

Koch network halts Nikki Haley campaign funding after South Carolina loss

<https://cnb.cx/3woFcLq>

Koch network stops spending on Nikki Haley's presidential campaign; Americans for Prosperity Action said it had to "take stock" after Haley's loss in South Carolina

<https://politi.co/3lg9X7W>

Nikki Haley's Favor to Joe Biden; The South Carolinian is keeping Republican donors from consolidating behind the all-but-sure Trump candidacy

<https://bit.ly/4bOPDbr>

How Much 'Sore Loser Laws' Would Impede Nikki Haley on a No Labels Ticket; If the No Labels organization convinced Haley to be its nominee, laws in eight states would represent a significant obstacle

<https://bit.ly/49QmwCG>

Majority of Americans, for first time, support building border wall

<https://bit.ly/49SxbwV>

More than 8 in 10 Americans see illegal immigration as either a very serious (61%) or somewhat serious (23%) problem

<https://bit.ly/42QIB1P>

Why Senate Has a Solemn Obligation to Conduct a Mayorkas Impeachment Trial; The House impeached Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas for "willful and systematic refusal to comply" with federal immigration law

<http://tinyurl.com/bdfc4h8x>

There is a simple reason why many Republicans will snub Ukrainian President Zelensky's desperate plea for \$Bs in arms and ammunition. Sending more taxpayer funds to a war on the edge of Europe is incompatible with the "America First" creed of a party dominated by ex-President Trump

<http://tinyurl.com/2s4x6ret>

House Republicans' excuses on Ukraine are empty - we must fund our allies now

<https://bit.ly/3TbUxb4>

Poland's foreign minister doubled down on his push for the United States to support Ukraine, claiming he

would tell House Speaker Johnson the "fate" of the war-torn nation and "credibility" of the United States are at stake

<https://bit.ly/3UV5bVg>

Watch Poland Debunk Putin's Propaganda With This Powerful UN Speech; Poland's Foreign Minister rebuked a Russian ambassador for lying about the state of the war, Ukraine's leadership, and the threat Russia poses to the region

<https://bit.ly/3STXGez>

For a Decade the CIA Has Been Helping Ukraine Fight Russia

<http://tinyurl.com/yцер2kn8>

Russia could attack NATO states if west fails to support Ukraine, Macron says; French president tells Paris conference Moscow 'must not and cannot' win the war and that Europe's security is at stake

<http://tinyurl.com/29t6y2tt>

NATO needs more than funding to solve its Russia problem; NATO needs a new Harmel Report to assess the heightened Russian threat, the war in Ukraine and its aftermath. Iran, North Korea and China must also be considered

<https://bit.ly/48ybgKn>

It's official: Sweden to join NATO; Hungary finally lets Sweden into the military alliance, dealing a blow to Russia

<https://politi.co/3SRbM0g>

Sweden's NATO bid clears final obstacle with Hungarian parliament approval

<https://bit.ly/3wu0YgR>

Sweden clears final hurdle to join NATO as Hungary approves accession

<http://tinyurl.com/mwzj5t4v>

Ukrainian troops pull back again as Russia's onslaught pushes ahead in eastern Ukraine

<https://bit.ly/4bSwJAR>

Why the U.S. and Saudis Want a Two-State Solution, and Israel Doesn't

<https://bit.ly/4bUq2Oc>

Israel plans to build more than 3,300 new homes in settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in response to a fatal Palestinian shooting attack, a senior Cabinet minister said. The decision drew an angry response from the U.S.

<https://bit.ly/3OWIMDc>

With or without a cease-fire, Netanyahu says Israeli operation in Rafah will happen

<https://n.pr/4c59XWn>

UN warns Rafah attack would be 'nail in coffin' of Gaza aid as deliveries halve; Amount reaching starving territory dropped 50% in February despite severe shortages of basic necessities

<http://tinyurl.com/2azbeb2n>

White House seeks Israel-Hamas hostage agreement in 'coming days' - Netanyahu says 'it's too soon to say'
<https://cnb.cx/4bNY9rf>

American doctor describes "incomparable" devastation in Gaza impacting children as Israel-Hamas war continues
<https://cbsn.ws/42Y5wlv>

How Europe learned to stop worrying and love TikTok; A year after banning the Chinese-owned app, Europe's politicians are popping up on TikTok to fight for re-election
<http://tinyurl.com/4rwbcf8b>

U.S. engaged in 'battle of ideas' with communist China, U.S. ambassador says; Beijing raiding American companies in China, continuing theft of technology
<https://bit.ly/3OTYChN>

Inside North Korea's forced-labor program; Workers sent from the country to Chinese factories describe enduring beatings and sexual abuse, having their wages taken by the state, and being told that if they try to escape they will be "killed without a trace"
<https://bit.ly/3uLPsgs>

China will need to expand its current solar and wind energy capacity by eight- to tenfold, to fulfill its 2060 carbon neutrality goals, a University of California-led study has found
<https://bit.ly/3Te7t0r>

Vast swaths of US will be exposed to polluted air by 2054, says report; Researchers say the number of Americans exposed to unhealthy air will rise by 50% by the middle of the century
<http://tinyurl.com/mvjtvbwe>

Diagnosing 'warming winter syndrome' as summerlike heat sweeps into central and eastern US
<https://bit.ly/4bVe8nx>

Why so much of the US is unseasonably hot
<https://bit.ly/49kAa1b>

A Single Antarctic Heatwave Can Noticeably Raise the Sea Level
<https://bit.ly/48t7OAx>

80-mile-long Doomsday Glacier in Antarctica started melting in 1940s
<https://bit.ly/4bTqYSW>

The 'Doomsday Glacier' is rapidly melting. Scientists now have evidence for when it started and why
<https://bit.ly/3wwpfD0>

Sea Levels Are Rising, but Many Coastal Cities Are Sinking Faster; Cities in South, Southeast and East Asia are seeing the most rapid rates of subsidence
<https://bit.ly/3uXAZyI>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are no wrong turnings. Only paths we had not known we were meant to walk."

--Guy Gavriel Kay

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Q: How can my agency ensure it is purchasing "green energy" for its electric needs?

A: There are several options for purchasing "green energy," but not all of them guarantee that renewable energy is directly delivered to your premises. A local government can purchase electricity indirectly either by signing a power purchase agreement with an Alternate Retail Electric Supplier or by subscribing to a community solar program. In these options all or part of your electric consumption is offset by the purchase of renewable energy credits so the amount of conventional power you purchase is replaced by renewable energy produced elsewhere. Green energy can be purchased directly if you are able to locate a renewable energy production facility on your property (e.g. rooftop or open space) behind the meter. Local governments can either own and operate their own facility or lease the property to a company that will own and operate the facility and sell you the electricity generated by the wind or solar power.

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