

**Subject:** News Headlines: 2-29-24

**From:** "Local Government News" <info@list.localgovnews.org>

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News Headlines: February 29, 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](mailto:asimon@ancelglink.com)

#### EDUCATION

Are We Treating Gen Z's Mental Health Crisis All Wrong? The new book "Bad Therapy" chronicles how young Americans are living a childhood radically dissimilar from past generations, a childhood characterized by therapy, medication, diagnoses, rampant accommodations, and classes where teachers talk about trauma and feelings

<http://tinyurl.com/3wx4xbcx>

When Every Day is a Mental Health Day; An astute and impassioned analysis of the mental-health crisis afflicting American adolescents

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

School Nurses Are Untapped Resource to Combat Chronic Absenteeism; "Many people think our primary focus is to send children home, but actually our focus is to keep kids in school"

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

School Nurses and Chronic Absenteeism in Schools: A Qualitative Study on Experiences, Perspectives, and Roles

<https://bit.ly/3uEae1C>

Indiana House lawmakers have amended a Senate bill focused on chronic absenteeism to require school districts to prohibit habitually truant students from participating in extracurricular activities

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

How do equitable grading practices affect expectations? How homework bans and penalty prohibitions for late work and cheating impact student accountability

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

How educator Gloria Jean Merriex used dance, drills and devotion to turn around a failing elementary school in a year

<https://bit.ly/3TfK9Pz>

Concerned about teacher shortage, New York officials consider expanding ways to get certified

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

Teach For America's Fast Path to the Classroom Accelerates Performance Over the Longer Haul

<https://bit.ly/48F5ma5>

Teach for America educators see higher turnover - but better student outcomes; Corps members who remain in the classroom for five years or more show double the impact on student learning

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

In dozens of Minnesota schools, entire classes are failing to meet minimum state standards; Most are public charter schools

<https://bit.ly/3UY5IWd>

Philadelphia's 'Renaissance' charter schools did not produce what was promised

<https://bit.ly/3V09Gh4>

How to Create Wins for Public and Private Schools; School choice programs are regularly met with opposition based on the notion that they "steal money" from local public school

<https://bit.ly/3Tf2In0>

Unions Use Teacher Dues to Advance Political Agenda; The National Education Association's LM2 expenditures report for fiscal year 2022 - 2023, reveals their troubling agenda

<https://bit.ly/3wvGhB7>

Tennessee lawmakers are considering a major change to school board elections; Would require localities to schedule school board elections on the dates of the federal primary and general elections in August and November, respectively, and to eliminate staggered terms

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

GOP governors face pressure campaign to feed kids in the summer; Summer EBT aims to make it easier for kids to access food when school's out by providing pre-loaded cards, rather than prepared meals that need to be picked up from select locations

<https://politi.co/3TfWZ0k>

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

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

America's Early Childhood Literacy Crisis; A new model of intense online tutoring shows remarkable promise in helping kids meet literacy markers, especially in rural and low-income schools

<https://bit.ly/3V4pKOK>

My math teacher refused to let me fall through the cracks. It saved my life; Mr. W was the busiest person I knew, but he always took five minutes out of his day to make sure I was OK

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

Teaching Information Literacy in an Age of Misinformation; Rather than approaching every source with, "This might be wrong," my goal is to help them practice evaluating, "How can I verify the credibility of this?"

<https://bit.ly/3ws8Kry>

Why Neuroscience and Technology Are Key to Helping Us Rethink How Students Learn

<https://bit.ly/3TfW3ZW>

As artificial intelligence steamrolls ahead, the nation's K-12 school superintendents are largely flummoxed by how they should teach, use and set guidelines around AI; Education consortiums and for-profit companies are scrambling to put AI tools in educators' hands

<https://bit.ly/42V3EjE>

Transparency bills seek to reveal the true costs of college; The cost of course materials and other expenses should be listed with each class at public colleges, proponents say

<https://bit.ly/3uQsXa2>

Black, Hispanic Students at Greatest Risk of Leaving Postsecondary Program; Emotional stress, mental health, and cost are top reasons students consider withdrawing

<https://bit.ly/43djtCN>

The Poisonous Patriarchy of Higher Education; As recent ousters illustrate, patriarchy's a particular issue for Black women in top administrative positions at colleges and universities. Education leaders and public officials need to take it seriously

<https://bit.ly/3v0V3zo>

Congressman seeks to block Labor Department's new overtime rule; The bill is just one example of the pushback the agency has received since it released the proposal, which could have major impacts for colleges

<https://bit.ly/3wGbn9e>

Pennsylvania governor provides more details on community college, state system consolidation plans

<https://bit.ly/49O6idp>

What to the Conservative Is Black History Month? Progressives monopolize the concept, but conservatives could use it to celebrate black achievement

<https://bit.ly/3TgxFY3>

I Came from Uvalde to Tell Congress Schools Need More Help to Keep Students Safe; There must be significant policy and funding improvements if America is to secure its schools and give children what they need to succeed

<https://bit.ly/3P1Qb3R>

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Study: Illinois' spending per student is one of highest in the country

<https://bit.ly/42UcC0P>

Illinois now requires public schools to teach diverse histories. Are teachers ready?

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

Elementary students who received scholarships through Illinois' controversial Invest in Kids tax credit program lagged in reading and math proficiency, on state standardized tests, compared to public school students, according to a new report submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education

<https://bit.ly/3wzLk3l>

Central Illinois superintendent of school, child tax credit advocates react to proposed early childhood budget investments

<https://bit.ly/4bWcfa8>

The Chicago Teachers Union's affinity for failure; The community school model is bad for elementary students, but it is worse for high schools. Every sustainable community high school in CPS has lower reading and math proficiency than the district average for high schools

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

Chicago's principals have multiple bosses. Could that change with an elected school board? A new principals union and an elected school board on deck could further disrupt an already complicated hierarchy

<https://bit.ly/4bQ7JK5>

With federal COVID-19 relief funds ending in the months ahead, Indian Prairie School District 204 officials are proposing to cut 30 teaching positions district-wide over the next three years

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

A Darien area school board member criticized a petition that described Hinsdale Central and South high schools as "very different" and discouraged efforts to completely equalize course offerings

<https://bit.ly/3lfK6gw>

Northbrook Educator Honored By Illinois State Board of Education; Sandra Luna is a coordinator for ELL/Bilingual (grades K-8) in West Northfield School District 31.

<https://bit.ly/4c8wj9t>

Zion-Benton D126 teachers union votes to authorize potential strike; 'We feel we need the strike as an option'

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

CLC's STEM for Girls event gives students a glimpse of career options; 'This is all about getting them interested at an early age'

<https://bit.ly/48yh9Y2>

UIC student designs moon app as part of winning NASA competition team

<https://bit.ly/49ufR1p>

Strong words about weak results; Evanston THS board member calls Black student SAT scores "horrific."

<https://bit.ly/42U79Hf>

Ex-Elmhurst University music instructor sues, saying school discriminated against him because he is Jewish

<https://bit.ly/49RE5Cn>

First-Year REACH Program At Wheeling A Beacon For Students Looking To Catch Up

<https://bit.ly/49wJ5wG>

Sycamore School District 427 employee charged with inappropriately touching students

<https://bit.ly/3wx3W4i>

Urbana attorney Ron Langacker is representing Booker T. Washington STEM Academy Principal Jaime Roundtree and Assistant Principal Rebecca Ramey "in relation to their employment with Unit 4."

<https://bit.ly/49Py09J>

Peoria parents, administrators face uncertainty after end of private school scholarship program

<https://bit.ly/42TT1hf>

The Northwest Upstate Illinois Conference (NUIC) has denied Aquin girls basketball's request to form a co-op with Orangeville.

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

Awaken Foundation L3C receives \$250k grant to support culinary arts program in Rockford

<https://bit.ly/3P05UR6>

Illinois State University names fourth, final Presidential candidate

<https://bit.ly/3TfS0N3>

Heartland Community College opens 'state-of-the-art' manufacturing academy

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

The University of Illinois Springfield School of Education has been awarded a \$145,000 grant from Grow Your Own Teachers to develop a consortium aimed at addressing teacher shortages across Central Illinois.

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

Normal West teacher April Schermann wins national award for computer science education

<https://bit.ly/3SVG02a>

Contract agreement pending for ISU Graduate Workers Union

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

UIS School of Education awarded a \$145,000 grant to address teacher shortage

<https://bit.ly/3USY1kf>

Lake Land College sets new record for international student enrollment

<https://bit.ly/3P0OCU6>

Decatur schools hire director of teaching and learning

<https://bit.ly/49MDF0N>

Area FFA programs earn state grants

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

Charleston High School renovation enhances vocational programs

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

Sorry, but nobody writes in cursive anymore. There's no need to teach it in schools | Opinion

<https://bit.ly/48l6JoQ>

From a number of outdoor classrooms to raised garden beds, to scholarships for teachers, the Madison County Green Schools Program recently awarded more than \$42,000 for environmental projects at schools around the county

<https://bit.ly/3ww05UZ>

Carrollton Board Of Education Announces Hiring Of Jason Bauer As Superintendent

<https://bit.ly/3P1aD51>

SIU committed to diversity despite Supreme Court decision ban of affirmative action

<https://bit.ly/3V1i53R>

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why US housing inflation relief may be short-lived; A pipeline of new apartments starts to run dry while the stock of single-family homes remains short, a recipe for future price pressure

<http://tinyurl.com/859z458r>

What's the Bear Case For Housing Prices?

<https://bit.ly/3wzJOP4>

House passes bill transferring control of RFK Stadium site to D.C., enabling possible Commanders redevelopment

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

Warren Buffett just closed out his big housing market bet. But why? Berkshire Hathaway recently disclosed that it sold off nearly 6M shares of D.R. Horton-the vast majority of its homebuilder investment

<https://bit.ly/49xD9n9>

Technology dominates talk at National Multifamily Housing Council annual meeting; From AI to EVs to 3D printing, the multifamily industry is experiencing a tech-driven transformation unlike we've ever seen

<https://bit.ly/49ScBN3>

Fear, Loathing, and Zoning Reform in Minnesota; Minneapolis, Minnesota, earned itself a spot in the YIMBY pantheon for being the first city in America to end single-family-only zoning

<https://bit.ly/4bVHuC3>

New Apartments and the "What If" Game; Here's one important question to ask about how your city regulates housing

<https://bit.ly/3P33m4F>

Formerly incarcerated, landlords at odds over Connecticut criminal history bill

<https://bit.ly/3TfwR5D>

Consumer confidence falls, breaking three-month rising streak; Spending by consumers is showing signs of sputtering after propelling better-than-expected economic growth last year

<https://bit.ly/3TgKSA8>

How America's once great department stores became a dying breed; Company management did little to update their offerings to compete with new rivals over the years

<http://tinyurl.com/mthxu6ah>

What Walmart may gain from FTC's Kroger-Albertsons lawsuit

<http://tinyurl.com/y6jt8jk7>

Analysts weigh in on FTC's suit to challenge Kroger-Albertsons agreement

<https://bit.ly/3wzK5S6>

What's next for \$25B supermarket supermerger after FTC sues to block it, saying it could raise prices

<https://bit.ly/3P0re8Y>

How is off-premise diner demand evolving? Here's what the data shows; Nearly half of restaurants said off-premise business made up a higher percentage of business last year compared to 2019

<https://bit.ly/3UWLBi8>

More than 50% of US funds for 'climate-smart' farming do not help crisis; Agriculture agency set aside nearly \$3B to give to farmers who cut emissions, but about \$1.9B spent on practices not doing that

<http://tinyurl.com/yytv8bza>

Podcast: Autonomous vehicles' potential to remake transportation

<https://bit.ly/49BOi6j>

The 'greenest' car in America might surprise you; A new report says a plug-in hybrid can beat out the greenest of electric vehicles

<https://wapo.st/3Tij6i9>

Here's what it's like to charge an EV at Electrify America's new station; The indoor charging station is exactly what EV drivers want and need

<https://bit.ly/3wzyv9s>

To Electrify Trucking, Start With a Blueprint; Ava Community Energy has drafted its Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy-Duty Goods Movement Blueprint to aid in the transition of trucking toward zero-emission vehicles

<https://bit.ly/3P2PNIH>

Battery recycling can boost EV sales in the United States; Electric vehicles may soon be cleaner and more affordable thanks to a secure domestic supply of recycled battery materials

<https://bit.ly/3wtvt4>

AI phone lets users 'drive' car with only their eyes; Ever thought about driving a car simply by looking at an app?

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

Apple cancels decade-long electric car project, source says

<http://tinyurl.com/2w7m77wj>

Apple to Wind Down Electric Car Effort After Decade-long Odyssey; Executives tell staff to end work on endeavor known as Titan; Employees on some car teams will move to Apple's AI division

<https://bloom.bg/3SQ5jT8>

The Yangwang U8 luxury plug-in hybrid SUV is capable of floating in the event of accidents involving water

<http://tinyurl.com/5wxbe79d>

Biden administration waives certain 'Build America' requirements for broadband; Even with the waiver, though, the administration estimates that roughly 90% of funding for equipment will still be used to purchase U.S.-made products

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

Tenants didn't flock to bulk warehouses and distribution space in 2023. But what about this year?

<https://bit.ly/3T01tXJ>

Amazon to spend \$1B on startups that combine AI with robots

<https://bit.ly/3SQWc4C>

8 robots that may bridge 'the uncanny valley'; These 8 humanoid robots are to be useful without being scary - but do they succeed?

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

What If the Biggest AI Fear Is AI Fear Itself? Artificial intelligence has potential to create more work than it disrupts

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

The future of AI video is here, super weird flaws and all

<https://wapo.st/3lgFDdr>

Are Publicly Funded Stadiums a Good Investment? State Lawmakers Weigh in on Chicago Teams' Plans

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

The Chicago office market more nuanced than you think? Certain Chicago office buildings continue to boast solid occupancy rates and are attracting companies eager for high-quality office space

<https://bit.ly/3OX40Rh>

More than \$54M of debt and \$49M in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit equity financing provided for the rehabilitation of Island Terrace, a 21-story affordable apartment complex located across from the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood



<https://bit.ly/3SXbcy3>

Building Of \$141M Meat Production Facility In Glenview On Hold

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

Improper Executive Session Concerned Loan To Stalled Skokie Hotel; The discussions show the developer on the downtown hotel project was \$10M short of the funding needed to build the project before village trustees authorized a loan from the Economic Development Fund

<https://bit.ly/3UX3N4r>

Elmhurst Route 83 Pedestrian Bridge In Works; The total project is expected to cost Elmhurst \$2.6M, of which the city has \$1.9M in outside funding

<https://bit.ly/49TV8Ea>

Three projects receive grant funding to bolster Illinois' growing TV and film industry

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

Flyover Studios in Champaign among those splitting \$10M in grant funding for Illinois film studios

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

Starbucks agrees to start labor talks with Workers United union; The milestone comes one week after 21 stores, including two in Chicago, filed to form unions.

<https://bit.ly/3TfeE8i>

FitzGerald's in Berwyn may soon be a landmark - something Chicago music fans already knew

<https://bit.ly/4c6aGGK>

Frankfort downtown redevelopment includes French bistro, sushi restaurant and Olde Frankfort Mall expansion

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

Could homes replace old office complex on South Arlington Heights road?

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

'It took a village': Glen Ellyn plans to sell property to affordable housing developer

<https://bit.ly/49yu659>

A new plan for expanded parking at Wheaton's Cosley Zoo will be the subject of a public hearing at 7 p.m. March 12 before the Wheaton Planning and Zoning Board.

<https://bit.ly/3SR5aPk>

1st Black-owned birthing center to open on Chicago's South Side

<https://bit.ly/4bUKvT1>

Vehicle Service Group, headquartered in Downers Grove, Launches New Pit Lift Model

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

Concept plans for 2nd phase of Hudson Pointe in Oswego move forward

<https://bit.ly/3ul4Pqj>

Ground broken in Belvidere for state-of-the-art cold-storage facility

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

WTVP audit sheds new light on the Peoria public television station's steep financial losses in 2023

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

The City of Champaign officially accepted \$500,000 in funding from the Illinois' Tourism Attractions and Festivals grant to get started on their plans for Downtown Champaign this summer.

<https://bit.ly/3lgl2pB>

Jan. 2023 vs. 2024: Champaign Co. home sales, prices rise

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

Minority Business Development Center celebrates its first year in Bloomington, plans for more in 2024

<https://bit.ly/3OZzl9C>

The long-awaited Scheels Sports Park is a step closer to being open after local banks told Springfield officials they're willing to help finance the project.

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

Danville Mayor Williams Says HOLD BACK on Wild Mall Rumors; Leon Parker Pending as New Corporation Counsel

<https://bit.ly/48yqv66>

New clothing store in Shiloh announces date for long-anticipated grand opening

<https://bit.ly/3UWViX2>

FCI Pekin looking to hire, schedules hiring event for March

<https://bit.ly/3uXU2bl>

Do Different Types of Farms Pay Different Interest Rates?

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

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Covid Taught Us a Lot. The CDC Now Wants Us to Forget It; The agency reportedly plans to tell people with Covid and other infections to isolate based on symptoms. Researchers say symptoms aren't a good indicator of who's contagious

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

Children Suffered More From COVID Mismanagement Than From Exposure, That's A Fact

<https://bit.ly/48yp3Ay>

With 10 measles cases in Florida, state health officials fail to provide information

<http://tinyurl.com/3unt8f7p>

Florida shows how to bungle a measles outbreak

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

Man in remission from blood cancer and HIV after remarkable treatment; Is the fifth-known person in world confirmed to be in remission from both, says cancer institute

<http://tinyurl.com/yb8a76hh>

The surprising link between gut bacteria and devastating eye diseases; Finding raises hopes that antibiotics could treat some genetic diseases that can cause blindness - but also prompts doubts

<https://go.nature.com/3P5iVsz>

Researchers clone two Tibetan goats, report claims; Chinese researchers clone Tibetan goats to enhance adaptability and protect against degeneration

<https://bit.ly/3uH8Pr3>

Low-level blasts from heavy weapons can cause traumatic brain injury - 2 engineers explain the physics of invisible cell death

<https://bit.ly/49PCs8d>

Emergency Planners Are Having a Moment; Governments, businesses, and even militaries pay for the help of experts to help them prepare for the worst. In a world lurching from disaster to disaster, they're doing so more often

<https://bit.ly/3lhrZH3>

Wildfire grows into 2nd-largest in Texas history as flames menace multiple small towns

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

Texas wildfires continue growing as firefighters struggle to contain massive Panhandle blazes; The five fires have burned 975,000 acres - more than double the landmass of Houston - as residents have fled or sheltered in place

<https://bit.ly/48zGS1W>

US government may sue PacifiCorp, a Warren Buffett utility, for nearly \$1B in wildfire costs

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

Higher court strikes injunction on Indiana gender-affirming care, reinstating health care ban

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

Catholic Churches Attacked 400 Times Since 2020, Tracker Finds

<http://tinyurl.com/dh6v6hky>

Data lacking on assaults against taxi, ride-hailing drivers and passengers; Uber, Lyft and taxi companies do not regularly report data on assaults, leaving the agency to conclude that it can't measure the prevalence of such crimes

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

Supreme Court trains sights on US ban on gun 'bump stocks'

<http://tinyurl.com/t5fsp49m>

Supreme Court to hear arguments over bump stock ban; Decision could see bump stocks - which allow some firearms to effectively become machine guns - back on civilian market

<http://tinyurl.com/34e7ppxp>

Supreme Court May Torch Another Major Gun Reform; The conservative-tilted court appeared skeptical that anyone but Congress can ban bump stocks

<https://bit.ly/3ThGm4C>

How Justice Amy Coney Barrett could save us from fully legal automatic weapons; Most of the justices appeared uncomfortable with "bump stocks," devices that allow semiautomatic weapons to fire automatically

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

Oregon lawmakers on the joint addiction committee voted for a proposal to backtrack on Measure 110 and reshape the state's approach to the addiction and overdose crisis

<https://bit.ly/3uSAq8M>

At least 22 Californians have died while being held face down by police since 2016; Police have long known the dangers of holding people in prone restraint. So why do so many keep dying?

<http://tinyurl.com/568xhn5z>

California seized enough fentanyl last year to kill everyone in the world 'nearly twice over'

<http://tinyurl.com/59axbcay>

West Virginia House passes bill prohibiting publishing mug shots

<https://bit.ly/3UUG8kY>

Justice Department Finds Unconstitutional Conditions in 3 More Mississippi Prisons; Mississippi's prisons are falling apart, run by gangs, and riddled with s. assaults

<https://bit.ly/49Q66dM>

To end mass incarceration, reform our excessively punitive systems

<https://bit.ly/4bVH8vd>

Montgomery County officials promised to revisit their sanctuary policy after federal authorities said a man accused of murdering a toddler was twice in the Maryland county's custody but was released in defiance of a deportation "detainer" request

<https://bit.ly/3UZOV5m>

Student Killed On UGA Campus Highlights Dangers Of Running Alone For Women; Death has sparked renewed concerns about women's safety while exercising by themselves

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

Student's killing gives momentum to bill to require Georgia sheriffs to cooperate with ICE

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

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Chicago police superintendent defends ShotSpotter technology

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

Chicago Taxpayers to Spend an Additional \$4.2M to Allow CPD to Use ShotSpotter Through November

<https://bit.ly/49rZu5o>

Looming end of Chicago's ShotSpotter contract brings mixed reviews

<https://bit.ly/3SZSk1c>

CPD officer responding to ShotSpotter alert fired at teen setting off fireworks

<https://bit.ly/3OZjhB3>

At least 11 tornadoes may have touched down in region Tuesday night, weather service says

<https://bit.ly/49uGkf7>

Mundelein, Hoffman Estates and Palatine among towns cleaning up from storms

<https://bit.ly/3liUO68>

Chicago Weekly Crime Tracker

<https://bit.ly/3l3abzK>

Chicago's top cop addresses mayor's decision to get rid of ShotSpotter technology

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

Federal judge lays out roadmap for how challenge to Illinois' gun ban proceeds

<https://bit.ly/4bVOU8n>

Orland Park will deploy citizens trained in CPR to emergency calls using new app PulsePoint

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

BNSF Railway agreed to pay \$75M to settle a landmark Illinois biometrics privacy case after a jury found the company violated the privacy rights of thousands of employees, a decrease from an initial award \$228M

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

'This place is horrific': 10-week-old complaint details 'filthy' conditions at Centralia funeral home; Coroner says 'this cannot be allowed to go on' as state declines to confirm investigation

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

Bartlett Fire District to launch 'Stop the Bleed' training program April 13

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

Ex-McHenry Co. sheriff's detective charged with official misconduct, solicitation

<https://bit.ly/49UZYB1>

9-year-old boy brings loaded gun to suburban Chicago school, woman charged

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

Two new University of Chicago studies investigate roles of gut microbiome, estrogen in differing disease rates

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

Evanston council OKs program for unarmed responders to handle some 911 calls

<https://bit.ly/49PI6XX>

Family of man killed by Carol Stream police files lawsuit

<https://bit.ly/3wz19ZI>

Elk Grove Village Announces New Top Cop; Barrington Chief David Dorn To Lead Force Starting April 1

<https://bit.ly/42U7Gcd>

Peoria's police chief apologizes for recruitment ad patterned after violent video game

<https://bit.ly/3SR7NRc>

Local law enforcement task force continues to catch alleged online predators, looks to expand with more agencies; Fairbury Detective Tyler Rafferty started the CHAOS Task Force in 2021. He has arrested more than 50 alleged s. predators himself.

<https://bit.ly/4bRb1g9>

A former Bloomington police officer will not face criminal charges related to his release of police reports to two suspects in a drg case

<https://bit.ly/49Pz65I>

Georgetown firefighters run vehicle extraction training

<https://bit.ly/42U9jXn>

Danville police may get two new K9 officers

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

No threat from measles outbreak - so far

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

Are you 'rat running?' What IL law says about cutting through parking lots to skip a light

<https://bit.ly/3UVXw8U>

The Madison County Emergency Telephone Board on Wednesday approved the hiring of a new 911 coordinator.

<https://bit.ly/3Tfhn1H>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Oklahoma governor signs bill to eliminate state's grocery sales tax; Local sales taxes would remain. Ready-to-eat items would also still be taxed

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

How Hoboken Has Gone Years Without a Traffic Death; It's been seven years since the New Jersey city has seen a traffic fatality, with injuries down significantly as well. Many of its improvements could be replicated elsewhere

<https://bit.ly/3SZ6TIC>

New program to help US local elections officials who face 'death by 1,000 cuts'; Protection hub will offer legal assistance and technical help as officials report ongoing threats and harassment on their jobs

<http://tinyurl.com/mr3xuw2p>

Boiling tap water can destroy at least 80 percent of three of the most common plastic compounds that can be found in your water

<https://bit.ly/48HMOV4Y>

Mental fatigue has psychological triggers - new research suggests challenging goals can head it off

<https://bit.ly/3P04CFO>

—  
S&P Global Ratings has revised the outlook on Chicago's general obligation bonds to stable from positive; Specifically, S&P cited rising public safety labor costs, recent legislative changes to pension contributions and the ongoing costs of migrant arrivals

<https://bit.ly/49yf9QA>

As number of migrants awaiting placement dwindles, Chicago closes, repurposes shelters; A total of more than 36,000 migrants have arrived in Chicago from 822 busses since Aug. 2022, but only three busses have arrived from Texas since Feb. 17

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

At Democratic convention in Chicago, perks for big Biden campaign donors include coveted credentials, hotels

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

Property tax bills come due: Cook County residents will repeat last year's sticker shock

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

Mayor Johnson's commissioner shuffle leaves some agencies in disarray

<https://bit.ly/49N08Ku>

The third-largest financial backer of Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's tax hike proposal is none other than his old boss, the Chicago Teachers Union. The union has funneled at least \$200,000 to "Bring Chicago Home," the ballot committee created to support Johnson's real estate transfer tax proposal.

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

Chicago on pace to set record for warmest February

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

CTU staffer fights to keep Mayor Johnson's former seat on the Cook County Board

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

As CTA Struggles, Transit Boss Hopes For System To Rival London, Paris

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

RTA and CMAP discuss future of paratransit at Urban Transportation Center seminar

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

Statement: Chicago Board of Election Commissioners to appeal court's referendum lawsuit decision

<https://bit.ly/48Ck7KZ>

ComEd payment system restored after botched upgrade left customers unable to pay bills online for days

<https://bit.ly/48yxZ9c>

Dolton trustee candidate who lost in 2023 accuses Mayor Tiffany Henyard of libel, defamation

<https://bit.ly/4bS7P3X>

Crowd turns on Schaumburg board after it resists calls for cease-fire resolution

<https://bit.ly/49yiKy9>

Elk Grove Village Renews Calls For FAA To Consider Other 'Fly Quiet' Rotation Options; If FAA Gives Analysis To Chicago Aviation Dept., 'We Will File Suit The Next Day'

<https://bit.ly/3lgdG5p>

'Our village is growing and thriving': Leaders take stock of progress at State of Huntley

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

On March 2, Climate Action Evanston will host a Climate Action Accelerator to get community members involved in local climate solutions.

<https://bit.ly/3USOMR2>

YWCA services for families and immigrants now available in McHenry County

<https://bit.ly/3lj4Fsu>

Public lashes out at Oak Park library over management of Palestinian culture event

<https://bit.ly/4bS9lmF>

Mount Prospect Takes Issue With Bills To Wind Down Elk Grove Fire District

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

Rosemont, Niles, Des Plaines Mull Dollar Effects Of Eliminating Grocery Tax

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

DeKalb alderman storms out after heated debate on controversial downtown nuisance gatherings

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



Winnebago County agrees to pay, admits no wrongdoing in HR chief dismissal

<https://bit.ly/3TgRL4E>

If Illinois grocery tax ends, Peoria might suffer. Here's why

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

Peoria County has too many cats, and this survey may offer a solution

<https://bit.ly/49N39KO>

Stray cats causing problems in Woodson

<https://bit.ly/42Zjlq3>

Volunteers complete point-in-time count to gauge homelessness in Sangamon Co.

<https://bit.ly/3li5D8g>

Calls for ceasefire in Gaza heat up Urbana City Council meeting

<https://bit.ly/3uTVU55>

Bloomington shelter rolls out innovative program to find rentals for housing insecure

<https://bit.ly/48u5hGt>

Bradley raises CVB concerns; village CVB representative was not part of any discussions regarding a new set of governing bylaws or even informed as to the meetings taking place.

<https://bit.ly/49Snpl7>

Tiffany Henyard's Village Of Dolton Sued For Withholding Public Records, Again

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

Jacksonville officials trying to stop rumors of migrant buses at MacMurray

<https://bit.ly/3P25xFx>

Jacksonville board directed to figure out how two ambulance companies can co-exist

<https://bit.ly/3lhDtu9>

Changes to liquor, video gaming law heads to Danville council

<https://bit.ly/3wwmxO2>

Quincy Central Services refill road salt reserves after using 1200 tons; \$95.60 per ton of salt

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

Citizens React to Senior Center Building Closure in Cairo

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

Edwardsville secures \$33,000 with Voltus energy deal

<https://bit.ly/49U8pwu>

## SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Are Publicly Funded Stadiums a Good Investment? State Lawmakers Weigh in on Chicago Teams' Plans

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

Library patrons and community members got their first look at the designs for the Highland Park Public Library's long-planned expansion, which staff said would address several priorities involving programming, space and services.

<https://bit.ly/4bULti7>

Stadium Upgrades, Classroom Conversion Highlight Projects In Leyden Community High School Dist. 212

<https://bit.ly/3UR0Ylk>

Prospect Heights Police Detectives To Receive New Office Space

<https://bit.ly/4bWfO00>

UI Foundation moves in to new building designed for flexibility, growth

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

Christian County YMCA To Launch Public Capital Campaign For Renovations

<https://bit.ly/3SZO5Tg>

## STATE & FEDERAL

Cook County judge kicks Trump off Illinois ballot - but puts her own order on hold

<https://bit.ly/48ui3Vr>

After Alabama ruling, Pritzker opens welcome mat for those seeking IVF protections: 'Come to Illinois'

<https://bit.ly/3P2KyTf>

State Treasurer Frerichs eclipses \$3B in investment earnings for state portfolio

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

Illinois Might Swap Plastic for Pixels, Digital Driver's Licenses on the Horizon in Chicago and Beyond

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

Populist Pritzker and the fine print of his budget proposal; Tax hikes on businesses and individuals didn't make the cut in Governor Pritzker's budget address, but they're a big part of his budget proposal

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

Pritzker's pension plan proposal could save taxpayers \$B's

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

Several special interest groups, including the Illinois Education Association, are pushing to enhance benefits

across the entire Tier 2 pension system

<https://bit.ly/43dpwqZ>

Warm winter: Experts weigh in on what's causing unseasonable temps, what to expect

<https://bit.ly/3UX6NgU>

Durbin critical of federal inmate death rate

<https://bit.ly/3uGUV8p>

25th Illinois Product Expo returns to Illinois State Fairgrounds March 2-3

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

IL State Treasurer warns potential federal government shutdown could harm Illinois residents, businesses

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

Deer hunting 'a cycle of life.' But fewer people are hunting in Illinois.

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

—

Supreme Court stalls Trump's federal election trial while weighing his immunity bid

<https://bit.ly/4bSatH1>

How the Media Industry Keeps Losing the Future; There are signs that the whole concept of "news" is fading. Asked where they get their local news, nearly as many respondents to a Gallup poll said social media as mentioned newspapers and magazines

<https://bit.ly/3SV0acs>

Poll: Almost a Third of Americans Say the First Amendment Goes 'Too Far'; The survey also found that two-thirds of respondents believe that America is on the "wrong track" when it comes to freedom of speech

<https://bit.ly/3STIEp3>

Supreme Court Looks Poised To Gut Restrictive Social Media Laws; The First Amendment restricts governments, not private platforms, and respects editorial rights

<https://bit.ly/3UXMG2h>

Indiana's New AI Policy Calls for Pre-Deployment Assessments; The state's new risk assessments aim to strike a balance between harnessing the benefits of AI and managing data and ethical concerns

<https://bit.ly/430we3s>

Government Accountability Office: \$Bs wasted on federal health insurance program; The Office of Personnel Management has never checked the eligibility of those on its rolls

<https://politi.co/3SQa2nQ>

Democrats, Republicans, and Supply-Siders Misread Reagan Deficits; Individuals, companies and governments' capacity to borrow grows as revenues and expected revenues grow. So yes, the Reagan tax cuts most certainly resulted in deficits and debt, but not for the reasons readers have been told for decades

<https://bit.ly/48ypZF4>

Podcast: Who Bankrupted Us More - Trump or Biden?

<https://bit.ly/4bXy1Ko>

US House reconvenes with a significant to-do list and a looming shutdown; Congressional leaders work to keep government funded and pass wartime aid for Ukraine as far-Republicans refuse to budge

<http://tinyurl.com/4v6snxt5>

Mitch McConnell, the longest-serving Senate leader in history who maintained his power in the face of dramatic convulsions in the Republican Party for almost two decades, will step down from that position in November

<https://bit.ly/3USv5J6>

Mitch McConnell's Legacy Is the Return of Donald Trump; The senate GOP leader could have ended Trump's career. Instead, he ended his own

<https://bit.ly/42Vgm26>

Waning McConnell Is Last GOP Bulwark Against Trump Isolationism

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

Senator McConnell's legacy is the current Supreme Court and a judiciary reshaped by his 'calculated audacity'

<https://bit.ly/3v0Xphl>

How Mitch McConnell lost by winning; He delivered for the old GOP - but the party had changed underneath him

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

Inside Mitch McConnell's Last Fight Before Abdicating

<https://bit.ly/4c68AGS>

Chatbots' inaccurate, misleading responses about US elections threaten to keep voters from polls

<https://bit.ly/3P1Y09L>

Biden, Trump win Michigan. Can the media wake me when the general election starts?

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

Trump and Biden won Michigan. But 'uncommitted' votes demanded attention; Michigan has the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the nation. More than 310,000 residents are of Middle Eastern or North African ancestry

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

Michigan's 100,000 'uncommitted' votes show Israel impact on Biden

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

'Uncommitted' vote in Michigan a warning shot over Biden's support of Israel

<http://tinyurl.com/mryxvhze>

Arab Americans to Democrats: You Can't Ignore Us Anymore

<https://bit.ly/3wGd6eI>

'Uncommitted' Campaign in Michigan Shatters Expectations Against Biden

<http://tinyurl.com/48ju3ymp>

American Israel Public Affairs Committee ally slams "uncommitted" voters warning Biden to change course on Gaza; The pro-Israel group DMFI wants to undermine a Michigan protest vote against Biden's support for Israel's war on Gaza

<https://bit.ly/3T03enN>

It's still a Biden referendum. That's not good for him; Democrats hope polls will turn when people focus on Trump, but change will not be easy

<https://bit.ly/3Th0NgI>

The longer Biden enables Netanyahu, the more his presidency is at risk; As the Israeli PM talks of indefinite military control in post-war Gaza, all the Biden administration has done is wag its finger

<http://tinyurl.com/328br5bc>

Biden Needs to Change His Israel Policy Fast; The high "uncommitted" vote in the Michigan primary should worry the president-but there's something he can do about it

<https://bit.ly/4c8svFd>

Michigan takeaways: Presidential primaries show warning signs for Trump and Biden

<https://bit.ly/3Tg32IJ>

Biden just got a physical. But a cognitive test was not part of the assessment

<https://n.pr/4bWa32o>

Hunter Biden to testify to Republicans' impeachment probe

<http://tinyurl.com/32jux9kz>

Hunter Biden interview marks pivotal moment for GOP-led impeachment inquiry

<https://abcn.ws/3UUcgol>

Hunter Biden Tells Republicans They Have Nothing But Lies; The president's son is likely the last major witness Republicans will interview in their impeachment inquiry against the president

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

Is Trump the new consensus candidate? Whichever candidate carries independents will likely win the general election; Trump unites Republicans to a much greater degree than Biden unites Democrats

<https://bit.ly/4bRZSf8>

There's a Good Reason Haley's Still Running - And It's Not Trump's Legal Problems; The answer might be buried deep in the Republican convention rules

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

Georgia governor says Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis-led prosecution looking more political

<https://bit.ly/49R8DEn>

The revelation that the U.S. intelligence community, under the Obama administration, sought the assistance of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance to surveil Trump's associates before the 2016 election is a chilling reminder of the lengths to which the Deep State will go

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

The Government Really Is Monitoring You - And It's Legal; Consumer data has become a lucrative commodity, and the US government is buying

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

President Biden is signing an executive order aimed at better protecting Americans' personal data on everything from biometrics and health records to finances and geolocation from foreign adversaries like China and Russia

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

Hackers backed by Russia and China are infecting SOHO routers like yours, FBI warns; Six years on, routers remain a favorite post for concealing malicious activities

<https://bit.ly/4bY1XGj>

National Security Agency cybersecurity chief: Revelations from Chinese hacking leak are 'eye-opening'

<https://bit.ly/3ThH6q4>

Dictators Used Sandvine Tech to Censor the Internet. The US Finally Did Something About It

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

An Immigration Journalist Makes the Case for Open Borders

<https://bit.ly/49O8FNI>

A full impeachment trial of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas "would be the best way to go forward," says Senate Minority Leader McConnell

<http://tinyurl.com/2ste76fa>

US Army is slashing thousands of posts in major revamp to prepare for future wars; The decision reflects the reality that for years the Army hasn't been able to fill thousands of empty posts

<https://bit.ly/42XN8zJ>

The Army is cutting 24,000 positions in a restructuring prompted by the changing nature of today's battlefield, as the service faces its most dire recruiting challenge since the end of the draft more than 50 years ago

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

US voters face a stark choice on foreign policy - and they might prefer Trump's offer; As president, Trump's approach was chaotic - but after four years of international upheaval, his views may resonate with the American people

<http://tinyurl.com/4csha9jv>

GOP strained by Trump-influenced shift from Reagan on Russia

<https://bit.ly/3SV5dcU>

How Many U.S. Soldiers Are Already in Ukraine? Western nations claim they will not send troops to Ukraine, but several already have troops there

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

Never believe Putin is unstoppable - after Navalny, this is how a new global opposition can bring him down; Westerners are financing the same bloodshed they condemn. The time for the world's 'deep concern' is over - Russia and Ukraine need action

<http://tinyurl.com/yeymw5x6>

Leaked military documents outline Russia's doctrine for tactical nuclear weapons use, including the minimum criteria for using tactical nuclear weapons; Russia's tactical nuclear weapons are designed for use on the battlefield in Europe and Asia, and have a more limited range compared to strategic nuclear weapons, which could reach the U.S.

<http://tinyurl.com/nj7n3hx4>

How nature became part of Ukraine's resistance; Lawsuits, art and the sandy blind mole-rat have all played a part in Ukraine's fight for environmental justice in the wake of Russia's invasion. But green efforts can only go so far while war rages

<http://tinyurl.com/2y9s36vd>

The New Antisemitism; The new narrative of Jews as oppressors is, in the end, far too close for comfort to the anti-Semitic tradition of singling out Jews as uniquely deserving of condemnation and punishment

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

The Auto Workers Who Stand With Gaza; More than half of organized labor in the US is part of a union that has called for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza. One worker explains why

<https://bit.ly/4bRFn2f>

The International Red Cross Double Cross of the Jewish People; The ICRC has a track record of shamelessly hyping its humanitarianism amid conflicts while practicing a systematic indifference to Jewish life

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

The foreign policy establishment fails to see that the Middle East balance of power has shifted; Arab states are keen to normalize relations with Israel and the Arab political elite has a deep mistrust of the Palestinians

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

South Korean and US troops will begin major exercises in response to North Korean threats; Move will likely enrage North Korea because it views its rivals' joint training as an invasion rehearsal

<https://bit.ly/3SNRa8Q>

In South Korea, world's lowest fertility rate plunges again in 2023; The average number of expected babies for a South Korean woman during her reproductive life fell to a record low of 0.72 from 0.78 in 2022

<http://tinyurl.com/y64b78ee>

South Korea's fertility rate sinks to record low despite \$270B in incentives; If the low fertility rate persists, the population of Asia's fifth-biggest economy is projected to almost halve to 26.8M by 2100

<http://tinyurl.com/4fpvtx7d>

China Isn't Just Spending More, It's Spending Smarter; China's inflation-adjusted military spending is at least three times larger than it was in the year 2000 and by some counts is hundreds of \$Ms larger than the official numbers suggest

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

We need to meet the threats from China - but we need to be smart; While some legislative proposals may appear bold and expedient in countering Beijing's authoritarian agenda, they carry the risk of inadvertently compromising U.S. foreign policy objectives or diluting core American values

<https://bit.ly/3P0Be2i>

China's criticism of NATO exhibits its dangerous multipolar ambitions

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

Toward truly compostable plastic; Materials scientists are cooking up environmentally friendly polymers from natural sources like silk, plant fibers and whole algae. Economics and acceptance remain hurdles

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

Populism imperiling global fight against climate breakdown, says John Kerry; US climate chief hits out at 'disinformation' and 'demagoguery' being used as tactics by special interests to delay action

<http://tinyurl.com/34vn6dnk>

Vanishing ice and snow: record warm winter wreaks havoc across US Midwest; This winter's mild temperatures, a result of climate change, have wrecked plans and disrupted local economies in the region

<http://tinyurl.com/yeyr2833>

Study says 2023's crazy Atlantic Ocean heat, low Antarctic sea ice give glimpse of much hotter world

<https://bit.ly/3Tggl4v>

The West is best to spot UFOs; Understanding the environmental context of these sightings will make it easier to find explanations for their occurrence and help identify truly anomalous objects that are a legitimate threat

<https://bit.ly/3SZ1ScM>

UFOs spotting spanning 20 years were majorly seen in the West of US

<https://bit.ly/3OZMRq2>

Ukrainian troops film disc-shaped UFO hovering over warzone

<http://tinyurl.com/hptw8dvn>

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The difference between fiction and reality is that fiction makes sense."

--Tom Clancy

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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.

(Note: This column is not meant to provide legal advice. Consult with your local attorney. This service may constitute Advertising Material.)  
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