

Subject: News Headlines: 3-15-24

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News Headlines: March 15, 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

Learning shouldn't take a summer break, White House and Education Department say; Districts are being asked to "redouble" efforts to provide summer learning by using remaining COVID funds and other federal funds

<https://bit.ly/4a48Kg2>

Districts increasingly turn to 4-day school weeks to recruit, retain staff; About 2,100 schools across 900 districts have adopted four-day school weeks, as of the 2022-23 school year

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

We Know How Much Planning Time Teachers Get on Average. Is It Enough?

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

Should students have cell phones in class? Indiana just said no - with a few exceptions

<https://bit.ly/43p5Ro0>

Apps are helping teachers communicate with families that don't speak English

<https://bit.ly/43f1EmL>

Here are the concerns with artificial food dyes, as California weighs a ban in schools

<https://n.pr/43gru9W>

"Continuing to Explore the Exodus from Higher Education" contains new insights into how today's potential college students are looking for assurance that their time and money in higher education will lead to a better future

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

Study finds confidence in the value of 2- and 4-year college degrees slipping; Most young people see more value in on-the-job training, certification programs

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

College Board declares launch of shorter, digital SAT a success; The new test, debuting this month in the U.S., takes less time to complete and has shorter passages for the reading and writing sections

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

University of Texas at Austin Brings Back the SAT After Scoreless Kids Underperform; The college is the latest in a spate of schools reinstating SAT and ACT test requirements

<https://bit.ly/3Pk8ul7>

The governor of Indiana signed a whopping 75 bills into law, including a heavily debated proposal that conservative proponents hope will spur "intellectual diversity" in publicly funded college classrooms

<https://bit.ly/3v1OgWt>

A bill that would require Idaho public and school libraries to move materials deemed harmful to children, or face lawsuits, passed the Idaho House

<https://bit.ly/3Vhq7K>

College Republicans and Democrats agree: Defend speech that hurts feelings

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

Poll: More than two-thirds of college students say freedom of speech protections on campuses should extend even to individuals who are inciting violence or threatening others

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

The Supreme Court Hands the Campus Surveillance State a Lifeline; Students can continue to anonymously report on one another and their professors in order to rectify 'bias'

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

Culture Warriors-on Both Sides-Are Wrong About America's History Classrooms

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

As Dartmouth men's basketball players move toward forming the first labor union in college sports, a majority of Americans say they are against college athletes unionizing-though younger respondents are more supportive

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

Illinois Senate committee approves plan creating Department of Early Childhood

<https://bit.ly/43lQ6OG>

Today's average Chicago Public Schools teacher has seen a salary increase of 86% since the 2011-2012 school year. That's over 2.5 times faster than inflation or the private sector

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

Community groups call on Illinois Senators to oppose the Elected School Board legislation (SB15). They say it is not transparent and is a hybrid bill that will enable Mayor Johnson and the Chicago Teachers Union to control the entire CPS Board

<https://bit.ly/3Tz5svS>

Mayor Johnson: City is "moving quickly" to vaccinate CPS students against measles

<https://cbsn.ws/3v2v2A3>

Only about 20% of Joliet's future workforce can read at grade level and it's even worse for math. And with St. Jude School closing, along with the death of the state's only school choice program, there are few good choices for parents looking for something better than what Joliet's public schools offer

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

More than a dozen parents and students took to the podium at the District 200 board of education meeting to share their concerns about student safety and transparency within the district after reports of violence in bathrooms at Wheaton Warrenville South High School

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

Illinois could switch from the SAT to the ACT next school year

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

Spring enrollment at Illinois Community Colleges increased for the second straight year system-wide

<https://bit.ly/4ccW2gP>

Illinois community colleges see enrollment increase, Rock Valley College slightly down

<https://bit.ly/3Ph9g23>

Largest teacher's union in Illinois gives state of public schools middling grade

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

Teacher shortages worry Illinois adults about empty classrooms

<https://bit.ly/43gl9tM>

Chicago Public Schools to Host Black Student Success Community Roundtable Discussions

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

Chicago voters who support a proposed tax referendum may end up funding the Chicago Teachers Union instead of the homeless

<https://bit.ly/3ViBMV9>

How North Central College grew into one of the nation's most successful programs in women's wrestling

<https://bit.ly/3Vkm6vS>

North Central College Leads NCAA with Largest Women's Wrestling Team; Eyes NCAA Championship Status

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

Glenbrook High School District 225 was the highest-ranked Illinois school district in a recent survey by Test Prep Insight, among 'most envied' list

<https://bit.ly/3vbSg6C>

CTA Expands Free Bus Operator Training Program With City Colleges to Address Driver Shortage

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

CTA's Diversity Program Hosts Pre-Apprenticeship Fair for Area High School Students

<https://bit.ly/3TkBQ3S>

IBHE Awards \$1.4M to Nursing Schools Across the State

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

Chicago-area library launches political scientist residency ahead of general election

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

Local libraries are paying a pretty penny to rent e-books for patrons

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How to ease the labor shortage by fixing the social safety net; The labor force participation rate is expected to decline even further to around 60.4 percent by 2032; Given the fact that most safety-net recipients want to work, why don't we have a system that makes the process of reentering the workforce as easy as possible?

<https://bit.ly/3wNpf1y>

Bernie Sanders unveils 32-hour workweek bill; The bill, over a four-year period, would lower the threshold required for overtime pay, from 40 hours to 32 hours. It would require overtime pay at a rate of 1.5 times a worker's regular salary for workdays longer than 8 hours, and it would require overtime pay at double a worker's regular salary for workdays longer than 12 hours

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

Bernie Sanders Proposes 32-Hour Workweek As New U.S. Standard; Insisting it was "not a radical idea," the progressive senator said that his legislation would "allow Americans to enjoy a better quality of life"

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

Migrants can solve our labor crisis if we can match them with jobs

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

February retail sales up 0.6%, yet fissures emerge in what has been a driving force for US economy

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

U.S. producer prices increased more than expected in February amid a surge in the cost of goods like gasoline and food, which could fan fears that inflation was picking up again

<https://bit.ly/3TAnc9Z>

Wall Street braces for commercial real estate time bomb; Delinquency rates for commercial mortgage back securities are on the rise in recent months, though they're still well below highs reached in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic and the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis

<https://bit.ly/3TBoB0g>

The rent is too high; President Biden has expressed increasing concern in private that the high cost of housing is undermining the economic case at the center of his reelection campaign. And it's spurring a fresh effort within the White House to defuse the issue

<https://politi.co/3wRO3pg>

The homes your real-estate agent doesn't want you to see; Real-estate agent commissions have barely budged over decades. Critics blame a shady practice known as "steering"; Among real-estate agents, no topic is more sensitive than their commissions

<https://bit.ly/3v2wjaj>

Millennials tiptoe toward better chance for homeownership; Mortgage rates are down a full point since peaking at a two-decade high last October - and are expected to fall further as the Federal Reserve begins cutting interest rates later this year

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

As New Hampshire lawmakers eye statewide housing solutions, local control remains a barrier; The goal behind the bill is bold: Allow any property owner to build residential housing units in a commercial zone - whether the zone allows for it already or not

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

Robotic-arm-mounted 3D printer can create fully-enclosed, multi-story structures from a low-carbon mixture; CarbonX is the "lowest carbon residential building system ready to be used at scale"

<https://bit.ly/3IAaH82>

Airbnb has updated its City Portal platform to give municipalities and tourism organizations more data related to compliance with vacation rental regulations and tourism statistics

<https://bit.ly/3TzU1Ux>

New Airbnb City Portal features to help governments manage short-term rentals; Expanded to more than 430 jurisdictions around the world

<https://bit.ly/3TyX0wG>

Biden administration asks for 2.7% FY 2025 increase in DOT budget; The Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration would receive modest cuts over the enacted fiscal year 2024 budget

<https://bit.ly/43kxXk5>

Every Question We Could Think of About Congestion Pricing; Including how not to pay

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

\$10B New York City intercity bus terminal project moves forward

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

Waymo's robotaxi service set to expand into Los Angeles

<https://n.pr/3TgcAf5>

Waymo will begin offering a robotaxi service to the public in Los Angeles now and in Austin by the end of the year

<https://tcrn.ch/4abjmtE>

Raspberry Pi-powered AI bike light detects cars, alerts bikers to bad drivers; Data from multiple Copilot devices could be used for road safety improvements

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

New Caltrans Application Puts Equity on the Map; The Transportation Equity Index tool from the California Department of Transportation identifies key equity variables to aid in the evaluation of transportation projects. It's a web mapping application with several layers of data overlaid

<https://bit.ly/48W9blr>

Inside Saudi Arabia's plan to dominate mining; The kingdom's broad-ranging ambition is to extract the more than \$2.5T in metals in its soil, invest in minerals extraction around the world, and capture as much of the minerals value chain as possible

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

President Biden pushed back against the potential sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel of Japan, calling it "vital" for the company to remain domestically owned

<https://bit.ly/49RKH4h>

Biden Opposition to Takeover of U.S. Steel Comes After Months of Lobbying

<https://bit.ly/49QQ0Rf>

Air taxis, indoor forests, and other strange sights you'll find in the airports of the future; Architects are already designing the next generation of airports, and they just might make you like traveling again

<https://bit.ly/3Pjgq5W>

Titanic replica plans resurrected - and it could set sail in 2027

<https://tinyurl.com/3ppavcbr>

The hurdles to LA's Olympic climate claims; The pressure is on for Los Angeles to meet clean transit and energy goals by 2028

<https://politi.co/3PI9sNP>

Disney plans to invest \$30B into Disneyland, Disney California and other theme parks worldwide over the next decade

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

Pennsylvania could be the first state to make polluting power plants pay for their emissions

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

Democratic-Farmer-Labor legislators are proposing a streamlined permitting process for big renewable energy projects, enabling Minnesota to become 100% carbon-free energy by 2040

<https://bit.ly/48Us12n>

The United States has its first large offshore wind farm, with more to come

<https://bit.ly/4chyQy4>

Coming soon: A programmable army of humanoid robots; Walking, dexterous robots are gradually making

the leap from the science lab to the workplace, requiring more sophisticated management system

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

Oracle unveils \$10B data center expansion plan

<https://bit.ly/3wSOsb9>

What Is a GPU? The Chips Powering the AI Boom, and Why They're Worth \$Ts

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

Regulators Need AI Expertise. They Can't Afford It; The European AI Office and the UK government are trying to hire experts to study and regulate the AI boom-but are offering salaries far short of industry compensation

<https://bit.ly/3Tydi90>

How States Can Keep Big Tech from Dominating AI; A handful of tech giants are poised to control AI. States like California and New York can do something about it

<https://politi.co/49aDkE1>

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Illinois' population decline crisis has now spread to every major metropolitan area in the state. Chicago continued losing residents in 2023, 3rd worst in nation

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

Illinois' population decline crisis continues to affect virtually all counties despite fewer losses in 2023. Cook County saw nation's second-highest number of residents moving out

<https://bit.ly/3Vew32B>

Census shows Cook County's population dropped in 2023, but the exodus is slowing

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

The Illinois Department of Employment Security reports mixed job statistics in January, with job growth in some metro areas and an increase in unemployment rates across all districts

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

With Recession Fears Subsiding, New State Economic Forecast Expects 'Firm but Steady Growth'

<https://bit.ly/3Vjv4Oz>

Bloomington-Normal economy up 3,600 jobs vs. this time last year, state data show

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

Illinois businesses brace for potential tax increase

<https://bit.ly/3IG9CvH>

Changes coming to Temporary Labor Services Act

<https://bit.ly/48QgO2Y>

Clean fuel mandates will further increase Illinois gas prices, opponents say

<https://bit.ly/3wOeU5u>

Deadline approaching to challenge Illinois broadband map

<https://bit.ly/3Pocq4p>

Governor Pritzker addressed the Bears' latest plans for a domed stadium along the Chicago lakefront, calling them "a good first step"

<https://bit.ly/4cg51O7>

This time around, don't give Jerry Reinsdorf a win over taxpayers; Self-financing would be a win-win for taxpayers and fans, even if it's unpopular with owners and investors in sports franchises with big appetites for public subsidies

<https://bit.ly/43eesd7>

Evanston approved a tax break worth of up \$1M to the operator of a local Volkswagen dealership in a bid to prevent it from relocating

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

Ross Dress For Less is coming to Romeoville in an 18,000-square-foot space formerly occupied by Office Max

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

Candidates in Illinois' 40th state senate district debate EV battery plant

<https://bit.ly/3v1JnwF>

South Loop apartment tower sold for \$144M in biggest Chicago apartment deal so far this year

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

New chicken wing place will 'be a great fit' for Rolling Meadows, owner says

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

Southern Illinois is a hotspot for solar eclipse tourism

<https://bit.ly/3ID3K6s>

Chicago's Blue Line Set for a Revamp with \$111M Federal Boost to Enhance West Side Service

<https://bit.ly/3IHPPf6>

Chicago's Red Line Extension Poised for \$350M Boost from Biden-Harris Budget Request

<https://bit.ly/49QPJ0Z>

Illinois is investing \$50M into building 46 new EV charging stations, advancing Gov. Pritzker's goal of having one million EVs on state roads by 2030. Applications for funding are open until May 7

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

Aurora converts shuttered school buildings into affordable housing

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

Pending sale of Village land would lead to condo/retail development in Kenilworth

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

UIC Business, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce collaborate on trends survey to uncover crucial trends among the Chicago area's small business community

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

Elk Grove Mayor Meets With ComEd On Substations For Data Centers

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

Fat Rosie's Restaurant Looking At September Opening In Rosemont

<https://bit.ly/49U3Gej>

Building On Dundee Road In Wheeling To Become Apartments

<https://bit.ly/4cdOkD7>

DeKalb city approves local developer's plans to build 224 units for senior living

<https://bit.ly/3Ve6bUs>

Plans for HomeGoods store in Oswego moving ahead

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

Two new retailers coming to Pekin's East Court Village next fall

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

Cullinan Properties announced that some new stores are coming to East Court Village in Pekin. The more than \$50M redevelopment project will encompass the mall and the remaining outlets

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

City of Urbana asks for input on housing plan draft

<https://bit.ly/3IDW2Je>

Mendota: Black Bros. Co. is excited to announce progress has begun on an additional 18,000-square-feet of manufacturing space at its headquarters

<https://bit.ly/4a9VDd5>

CEO: New bill would 'decarbonize without deindustrializing' Illinois

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

Vermilion County Board's Wind and Solar Committee is holding public hearings March 14, 2024 on three proposed solar projects

<https://bit.ly/4cd4v3v>

Chicago street named one of the coolest in the world by Time Out

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

How Chicago's long history of migrant influxes has shaped its population

<https://bit.ly/3Ti5ymb>

PUBLIC SAFETY

The tropical disease that's suddenly everywhere; Dengue is erupting in South America - and has even found its way to the US

<https://bit.ly/3Ty7xrM>

A blood test for colon cancer performed well in a study, expanding options for screening

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

Apple Vision Pro unlocks new opportunities for health app developers; Healthcare developers are creating new apps that were not previously possible, transforming areas such as clinical education, surgical planning, training, medical imaging, behavioral health, and more

<https://apple.co/3vicQSP>

Federal civil rights investigators are looking into whether protected health information was exposed in the recent cyberattack on Change Healthcare; Change Healthcare provides technology used to submit and process insurance claims - and handles about 14B transactions a year

<https://bit.ly/3wYaf7K>

Digital IDs Are Here, But Where Are They Used and Accepted?

<https://bit.ly/3lB7sx9>

How a sanctuary for self-expression can change lives; Reveals two sides to the LGBTQ+ experience - one as a mother, one as a trans woman - and offers insight into the power of community

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

The unanswered questions surrounding the tragic death of Nex Benedict; A trans teen is dead. The state he lived in made his life as hard as possible

<https://bit.ly/48U1FO0>

Death by neti pot: Why you shouldn't use tap water to clean your sinuses; An alarming number of Americans think tap water is sterile-it's definitely not

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

Delta-8, an unregulated form of THC, is popular among high school students

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

What is delta-8? What to know about the alternative THC products and their use by teens

<https://bit.ly/48Tzm2i>

Massive wildfires raging across Texas released a combined 920,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide in January and February, the second-largest release on record for that period

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

Digital Evidence Management: Another Way AI Can Help; Digital evidence management system uses artificial intelligence for object recognition, redaction and other tasks

<https://bit.ly/490sjVn>

Crush of complaints forces South Dakota to hire extra help for officer misconduct investigations; Record numbers tied in part to online reporting, officials say

<https://bit.ly/3vezY4P>

Madison County Associate Judge Foster declared Governor Pritzker's forum law favoring Cook and Sangamon County is unconstitutional and denied Illinois Attorney General Raoul's motion to transfer an Alton gun store's constitutional challenge to both the venue law and the firearm liability law

<https://bit.ly/3VjiZJ7>

Senate Bill 2643 would hold funeral homes accountable by reestablishing integrity and trust in the death care industry. The bill comes in response to a Carlinville funeral home insufficiently handling human remains, giving over 60 families the wrong remains

<https://bit.ly/3x4VTvC>

House panel opens hearings on Pritzker's health insurance reforms. Bill seeks to reduce denials of coverage, improve provider networks

<https://bit.ly/3Po7jRz>

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker Proposes Healthcare Protection Act to End 'Predatory' Insurer Practices

<https://bit.ly/48WDP4r>

The Pritzker administration is set to remove thousands of non-citizens over the age of 65 from the state's taxpayer-subsidized health care plan in an effort to save taxpayers Ms

<https://bit.ly/3TjX2qN>

\$45M settlement offered for teen who can't walk, speak after crash during police chase

<https://bit.ly/3TCPh0G>

2 CPS students reported to have measles as new cases climb to 10, officials say

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

Chicago Measles Outbreak Reaches Double-Digit Cases, Infecting Students and Prompting Quarantine Measures

<https://bit.ly/3v37ElZ>

Mayor Johnson: City is "moving quickly" to vaccinate CPS students against measles

<https://cbsn.ws/43fjxSp>

Illinois to end state-funded healthcare for thousands of migrants

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

Contrary to neighbor's concerns, Chicago Fire Department says they haven't heard of any problems with new Dearborn protected bike lane

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

Chicago Rolls Out 'The People's Plan' to Bolster Safety in Englewood, Austin and Other Key Neighborhoods

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

Johnson to Focus Chicago's Anti-Violence Efforts on 10 Blocks in Englewood, West Garfield Park, Austin, Little Village

<https://bit.ly/3Tez9kl>

Mayor Brandon Johnson, Department of Family and Support Services announce My Chi. My Future. Micro-Grant Program

<https://bit.ly/3Tg6bkk>

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois collected over \$60M in FY 2023 from criminal, civil, and asset forfeiture actions

<https://bit.ly/43fd7Tk>

Illinois EPA Offers Two Funding Opportunities for Watershed Management Projects to Address Nonpoint Source Pollution

<https://bit.ly/43mH1oz>

Hate Crime Prevention Panel Held by 'Cook County United Against Hate'

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

Geneva officers to get body-worn cameras. All officers will be trained, outfitted by end of March

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

Illinois Made It Easier For Gun Violence Survivors To Apply For Compensation. Why Aren't More Chicagoans Finding The Program?

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

Clerk Martinez, Former Mayor Lori Lightfoot Announce New Initiative to Protect Women's Privacy in Court Records

<https://bit.ly/3v3cJe3>

IL inmates stuck in jail despite mental health court orders

<https://bit.ly/3TkWmS8>

The Champaign Rotary Club is on mission to fight drug addiction in the community by distributing Narcan

<https://bit.ly/48U4dfg>

Chicagoans Are Dying From Cardiac Arrest at Younger Ages: UIC Study

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

Nurse-midwifery program director appointed to Illinois Board of Nursing

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

McClean County: What we know so far about Behavioral Health Coordinating Council meetings being suspended

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

Limited capacity in juvenile detention centers statewide

<https://bit.ly/3Po1PGF>

Here's how Illinois can better help relatives who take in foster-care children

<https://bit.ly/4aaYO4o>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

San Antonio's guaranteed basic income pilot helped low-income families afford housing

<https://bit.ly/3TDy1bD>

A small city in Oklahoma elected a white nationalist. Will it be able to vote him out?

<https://nbcnews.to/3wYdANK>

Model helps cities map out pedestrian pathways; A New Method to Understand the Walkability of Cities

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

California eases new water saving regulations for local agencies after pushback; State officials had estimated that their original proposal would have slashed California's urban water use 12% by 2035. With the changes, the state estimates the revised rules could reduce water use by 7% by 2035, and 9% by 2040

<https://lat.ms/49Q4aCs>

Podcast: Herocrats - A Guide for Government Workers Leading Change

<https://bit.ly/43hP4D4>

Podcast: How to Become More Persuasive at Work; If you're a leader, you need to know how to influence people

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

Podcast: How to Fail Right; Why and how you fail is more important than success

<https://bit.ly/3TA3v23>

Harnessing Imagination to Drive Innovation; Six steps to systematize creative thinking - and ultimately drive growth

<https://tinyurl.com/b9hsw5a8>

How Organizations Can Encourage Productive Allyship; New research suggests that people from underrepresented groups appreciate acts of allyship more than people from majority groups might think

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

It's Time to Re-conceptualize What "Imposter Syndrome" Means for People of Color; How racism, bias, and imposter feelings are intertwined

<https://tinyurl.com/upjj2n9u>

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Cook County lost 24,000 residents last year in latest census survey

<https://bit.ly/49Ta1qD>

Mayor Johnson said he is "frustrated" that the city spent approximately \$524M on employee overtime in 2023 - 19% more than in 2022, with more than half of the total amount used to compensate Chicago Police Department officers for working extra hours

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

The Illinois Supreme Court rejected a petition to invalidate votes on the "Bring Chicago Home" referendum. Voting ends March 19

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

Chicago Officials Undeterred by Criticism, Advocate for Tax Referendum to Aid Homelessness Crisis

<https://bit.ly/3Vi3Zve>

Voters to decide on Bring Chicago Home tax referendum; what you need to know

<https://cbsn.ws/49SukEA>

How many Chicagoans are homeless? 'Bring Chicago Home' advocates claim there are 68,000 homeless Chicagoans, but that's 10 times higher than the estimate recognized by the federal government. If the problem is exaggerated, what will Mayor Johnson do with his tax hike?

<https://bit.ly/490QoLL>

Mayor Johnson's 'Bring Chicago Home' tax hike could fund Chicago Teachers Union's contract demands

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

Here's what happened when Los Angeles passed a 'mansion tax'

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

An activist group is demanding that the City of Chicago and Cook County cease property tax charges to Black Chicagoans as part of reparations

<https://bit.ly/3Vklji8>

Chicago Mayor Johnson unveiled his newest community safety strategy, a hyperlocal investment approach. The focus will be on the 10 specific block groups in four separate neighborhoods: Englewood, West Garfield Park, Austin, and Little Village

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

A state law that limits where lawsuits challenging state laws can be filed has been ruled unconstitutional as applied to a case from Madison County

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

How a Few Voters Control the Fate of More Than a B Dollars in New Spending

<https://bit.ly/49bdsb7>

Chicago mayor announces new exemptions for asylum seekers in 60-day migrant shelter eviction policy

<https://bit.ly/49YK5di>

Chicago's mayor said the 60-day limit on shelter stays would, after previous delays, finally be enforced Saturday, impacting potentially thousands. There would, however, continue to be exemptions

<https://bit.ly/3vf8YIJ>

What will Chicago migrant shelter evictions look like?

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

Cook County offers to chip in on food costs for migrants, approves delay to paid-leave mandate for schools, parks

<https://bit.ly/491mebf>

Critics upset with enforcement of Chicago's 60-day limit at city shelters

<https://cbsn.ws/3wVGldO>

Chicago City Council members helping with education, measles vaccines at Pilsen migrant shelter

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

Looking for work, migrants turn to street vending; Work authorization can provide a pathway to better-paying jobs with better benefits

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

Aurora turns elementary school into affordable housing in effort to end homelessness

<https://bit.ly/490lczy>

Communities along the Fox River weigh fate of several dams; A report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims removing nine dams from the Fox River from Carpentersville to Montgomery would improve water quality and restore natural habitat

<https://bit.ly/3wS2euu>

Understanding Northwest Suburban Judicial Subcircuit Races, What's Contested

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

Tiny House Removed From South Loop Tent City After Stop Work Notice

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

Mayor Johnson unveils plan to invest in neighborhood groups. The goal is to get philanthropists, faith leaders, community organizations, and businesses to help revitalize neglected areas by building stores and providing services

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

Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-04) has secured \$12,216,031 in Community Project Funding for Illinois' 4th District

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

Letter: Vote no on extending Hazel Crest term limits

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

'It's really an amazing resource': Mundelein Tool Library looking for new home

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

Hinsdale votes to institute 90-day minimum stay for short-term rentals

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

Dolton: The embattled leader of two south suburban governments is being accused improperly firing three employees who refused orders to retaliate against her political opponents or failed to show sufficient loyalty

<https://bit.ly/4chtB1d>

Evanston's Finance and Budget Committee this week discussed making people pay for the privilege of paying city bills online or in person with a charge card

<https://bit.ly/3x258wC>

The City of Evanston is excited to announce additional funding for the Small Business Recovery Program, a new grant program launched in February 2024, to help small businesses recover from the negative economic impacts of the pandemic

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

DuPage County provides additional \$2.1M to local food pantries

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

City plans demolition of old Joliet Catholic High School gym this summer

<https://bit.ly/3lBc1HW>

Yorkville making strides toward Lake Michigan water sourcing

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

Peoria Heights may spend Ms to upgrade its water system

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

Voters in Ogle County asked to add 1% sales tax to support local schools

<https://bit.ly/48Uwcv6>

Glen Oak Park Fireworks in Peoria being skipped in 2024

<https://bit.ly/3wP7yP8>

Republic answers to Springfield for lapse in garbage services

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

The Quincy Park Board approved bids for several construction, resulting in an overall saving for the Park District

<https://bit.ly/3Tz5pAb>

Vermillion arena approves HVAC bid, waiting on lining up funding

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

As more municipalities around Madison County pass ordinances banning unauthorized encampments on public property, the Madison County State's Attorney is encouraging others to do the same

<https://bit.ly/3lyL1sy>

SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Obama Foundation Donating \$4M to Build Divisive Playground at Midway Plaisance

<https://bit.ly/3VmmfU7>

Seasoned Arlington developer splashes doubt on Bears' lakefront play ploy

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

Pritzker: Bears' plan to spend \$2B on new stadium a "good first step." Pritzker still appeared to dismiss the idea that the State of Illinois would use taxpayer money to help build a new football stadium in Chicago

<https://cbsn.ws/3wVI83A>

Carpentersville moving forward with final engineering for riverfront park that will include overlook, pavilion, fire pit

<https://bit.ly/4c9SQ5H>

Mount Prospect spending \$1.7M to rehab Elk Grove Township fire station

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

Voters in Glenbard High School District 87 are being asked to approve paying more in property taxes to fund various building projects at the district's four high schools

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

Grundy County Board approves \$10M plan for new building

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

Vermilion County Animal Shelter Awaits Recommendation from Assessor in Arlington, Texas. The main question seems to be should a completely new facility be built, or perhaps a partial new facility?

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

Preliminary approval to pay for new Alton homeless shelter. There is \$2.5M available through Madison County Community Development

<https://bit.ly/4cuFyB1>

The Elmhurst school board voted to spend \$259,000 on a new scoreboard for York High School's football field

<https://bit.ly/3Pn7UD1>

STATE & FEDERAL

Governor Pritzker's administration says insurance bill is an effort to balance needs of companies, consumers
<https://bit.ly/4c8fX0i>

New Illinois health insurance proposal would ban 'junk insurance' and 'step therapy'
<https://bit.ly/3TAFUyn>

Supplemental spending: How Illinois could spend some of its \$1.6B budget surplus
<https://bit.ly/4ccRJIF>

Pritzker agency heads questioned on \$1.1B revenue proposals
<https://bit.ly/4cdczkT>

Data suggests Illinois will see low voter turnout for primary election
<https://bit.ly/3VgnfJq>

Group urges Illinois lawmakers to reject assisted suicide legislation
<https://bit.ly/3IFHqZT>

Lawmakers are considering raising the hourly rate for tipped workers to the \$15 minimum wage for 2025. If the law doesn't pass, tipped employees in Illinois will still get a slight pay raise to \$9 per hour in 2025
<https://bit.ly/3VjVFuS>

Lawmakers push bills addressing water quality, free school meals
<https://bit.ly/3TBj0ad>

A new law may soon be on the books to help ensure insurance coverage for certain infertility treatments
<https://bit.ly/4cjeKUe>

A bill in the Illinois state Senate would require pornographic websites verify their users' age.
<https://bit.ly/49SQw1m>

Illinois legislators push to make pornography websites verify visitor's age
<https://bit.ly/3TCw3YQ>

—

Why the 'colorblindness' movement is peaking now; More Republicans think racism against White people is a problem than think that racism against Black, Latino or Asian Americans is
<https://bit.ly/43ii8dK>

Biden's Proposed Corporate Tax Hike Will Punish the Average American; The president wants to raise the rate from 21 percent to 28 percent, despite it being well-established that this is the most economically-destructive method to raise government funds
<https://bit.ly/43f8mZZ>

Why the GOP Should Be Very Worried About Trump's Republican National Committee Purge; Installing loyalists for personal gain has proved ruinous in the past
<https://politi.co/3Tkpdps>

The new team of Trump loyalists in charge of the Republican Party have spent years promoting the former president's lies about the 2020 election. With the 2024 election around the corner, they're set to pursue an agenda built on false claims of election fraud

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

'Why do they bend their knee?' 6 Never-Trumpers look back at what went wrong; How the Never-Trump movement flopped in the GOP primary, and where it goes from here

<https://politi.co/492SMly>

House Speaker Johnson doesn't commit to holding Biden impeachment vote

<https://bit.ly/3Vm1Nmj>

Labor union spending \$200M to help Biden win reelection; The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) announced a "massive drive" to mobilize working class voters of color in battleground states to back pro-labor candidates, including Biden

<https://bit.ly/4c9Ejad>

Democrats are taking third-party threats seriously this time; In an election where voters are dreading a rematch from 2020, voters might be more inclined to at least be third-party curious

<https://bit.ly/3IDLv0C>

Independent candidates spoil the odds in narrow rematch of Trump, Biden

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

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Targets a Generation of Politically Disaffected, Extremely Online Men; In a campaign that increasingly reflects a late night TikTok scroll, he is gathering celebrities and influencers

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

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas Senate impeachment trial stalls while Congress ends spending process

<https://bit.ly/3Tx2BDz>

Florida Governor DeSantis is deploying 250 law enforcement officers and an air-and-sea fleet to Florida's southern waters to help curb a potential wave of Haitian immigrants

<https://bit.ly/3wW6ljR>

How a new global consensus can provide true refuge to the displaced; The huge increase in refugees worldwide is a major threat to public order. We need a new consensus to deal with this crisis and preserve long-held principles governing humanitarian relief and national control of border

<https://bit.ly/49Tt5EX>

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point has removed the words "Duty, Honor, Country" from its mission statement in what some critics say reflects the deepening politicization within the military services under President Biden

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

House Speaker Johnson faces make-or-break moment on Ukraine aid as pressure mounts

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

House Speaker Johnson told Republican senators to expect the House to send them legislation to help Ukraine, but cautioned that what comes out of the House will look substantially different than the \$95B foreign aid package the Senate passed last month

<https://bit.ly/49QB4m9>

Proposed bill would compel the fullest accounting to date of American aid rendered to Ukraine, including via third-party nations. The proposal would address the ongoing problem of mystery spending on our proxy war with Russia: the president's broad discretionary powers, which, when used as they have been, defy ordinary accounting and undercut the congressional power of the purse

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

Government Accountability Office faults Pentagon over tracking of shipments of arms, supplies to Ukraine; Investigators find lack of clear guidance on keeping tabs on \$Bs in aid

<https://bit.ly/4adr865>

Does French President Macron Want to Lead Europe into War with Russia? Macron talks of defeating Russia. Instead, Washington and Brussels should concentrate on bringing the conflict to a peaceful end

<https://bit.ly/4aavF9x>

Sweden Requests NATO Protection for Territory Near Russia

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

Calls for the United Kingdom, a key NATO ally, to test its new laser weapon on the battlefields of Ukraine are growing, as Kyiv struggles to contend with the demands placed on its existing air-defense systems and doubts continue over future Western aid

<https://bit.ly/3Tyv1x4>

Putin Declaration Shows How Cutting Off Ukraine Hurts Prospects for Peace; Negotiating with Putin is probably not all that different from negotiating with Hamas - what's his is his, and what's yours is negotiable

<https://bit.ly/49N37mC>

How Russian elections became a futile exercise for Putin's opposition; Russia's presidential election appears largely a rote exercise, as a popular, unchallengeable leader faces only nominal competition from three "systemic" opponents. The Kremlin has worked for years to make it this way

<https://bit.ly/43dNS3P>

Russia-Ukraine: Don't mention the peace; The Pope's suggestion that Ukraine should raise the white flag broached a toxic subject for Kyiv's allies. But the time for talking will come

<https://tinyurl.com/39yd5uy7>

Beijing said that nuclear powers should "jointly seek de-escalation" following Putin's statement that Russia is prepared for a possible nuclear conflict

<https://bit.ly/3TbZ6kC>

Senate Majority Leader Schumer is calling for new elections in Israel, describing Prime Minister Netanyahu's government as an "obstacle to peace" amid his country's ongoing war in Gaza

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

Senate Majority Leader Schumer issued a call for new elections in Israel and heaped criticism on Prime Minister Netanyahu's handling of the ongoing war with Hamas, as part of the senator's push for a two-state solution in the region

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

Senior U.S. officials have told their Israeli counterparts the Biden administration would support Israel going after high-value Hamas targets in and underneath Rafah - as long as Israel avoids a large-scale invasion that could fracture the alliance

<https://politi.co/4cd9RvH>

A nonpartisan watchdog group sent a letter to top Pentagon officials this week requesting all information that led to Defense Secretary Austin's recent public claim that "over 25,000" Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7 - a figure based on data supplied by the Hamas militant group

<https://bit.ly/4ch12Rx>

More Children Have Died In Gaza War Than Have Been Killed By Conflict Worldwide In 4 Years

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

As hunger grips Gaza, law and order crumbles; Who's in charge of Gaza? Nobody. Neither Israeli troops nor the Hamas police force is on the streets, leaving citizens prey to a dangerous breakdown of law and order

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

Why Ireland is one of the most pro-Palestinian nations in the world; Ireland may be a mostly white European country, but many Irish people say they identify more with the Global South's experience of imperialism and colonialism

<https://n.pr/43igmJC>

Report claims Yemen's Houthis have a hypersonic missile, possibly raising stakes in Red Sea crisis

<https://bit.ly/3TysMd9>

House Oversight Launches Investigation into Biden Administration's Response to Shadow 'War' Waged by the Chinese Communist Party

<https://bit.ly/4ah8nyV>

Biden is backtracking; Biden, touted as the first US climate president, is presiding over the quiet weakening of his two most significant plans to slash planet-heating emissions, suggesting that tackling the climate crisis will take a back seat in a febrile election year

<https://bit.ly/3wUWjF4>

Many coral reefs are dying. This one is exploding with life; Scientists recently observed a rare phenomenon on a reef in Cambodia that left them in awe - and filled them with hope

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

Seeding steel frames brings destroyed coral reefs back to life; It won't help with heat-driven bleaching, but other human damage can be fixed

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

Japan creates multi-\$B space strategic fund to boost space industry; Defined three areas for support: satellites, space exploration and space transportation

<https://bit.ly/3wX5pRF>

Third time's the charm: SpaceX's massive Starship reaches space; Starship is the largest rocket ever built

<https://n.pr/4aa9Kzc>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As a general rule, no credible grand strategy starts with the word don't."

--Joshua Cooper Ramo

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Q: Can a local government accept a tax deductible donation?

A: Yes, it can. Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code states a "charitable contribution" shall be allowed as a deduction. Subsection (c) defines "charitable contribution" to mean a contribution or gift to or for the use of a State or any political subdivision, but only if the contribution or gift is made for exclusively public purposes. It is important to distinguish a gift or contribution, which is voluntary, from a fee or a tax which is paid involuntarily.

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