

Subject: News Headlines: 3-21-24

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News Headlines: March 21, 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

Why is a Grading System Touted as More Accurate, Equitable So Hard to Implement? As schools jump into standards-based grading, attempting to separate academic mastery from behavior, many are "failing miserably," experts say

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

Should schools lock up kids' phones? What banning phones in schools can - and can't - do

<https://bit.ly/4a2hhQS>

Podcast: What New Research Says About Fostering a 'Sense of Belonging' in Classrooms

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

Post-pandemic, our bored and disconnected teenagers need a whole lot more than high-dosage tutoring; They think school is a drag. We must make our public high school system more relevant and meaningful

<https://bit.ly/3Pza4zB>

Should Schools Be Rewarded for Absenteeism? The soft bigotry of low expectations is back and bigger than ever

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

Public schools are intentionally dumbing down their education

<https://bit.ly/3vICEh2>

In Tennessee, the Microschooling Movement Shows No Signs of Slowing Down; A visit to five microschools across the state reveals lively classrooms, booming enrollment and growing waitlists that point to spiking demand

<https://bit.ly/3VrJV9J>

A century ago, one state tried to close religious schools - a far cry from today, with controversial plans in place for the nation's first faith-based charter school

<https://bit.ly/3TJN9nK>

What the Data Says About Pandemic School Closures, Four Years Later; The more time students spent in remote instruction, the further they fell behind. And, experts say, extended closures did little to stop the spread of Covid

<https://nyti.ms/3VwxLfX>

These Students Lost More Than Half a Year of Learning During COVID; Schools districts that stayed almost entirely remote significantly hindered progress, according to new data

<https://bit.ly/43v5Sqy>

Germany, known for sorting kids into college and vocational tracks, takes a more flexible approach; Facing labor shortages in skilled trades, Germany starts to meld practical and academic studies

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

As a Principal, I Thought I Promoted Psychological Safety. Then a Colleague Spoke Up

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

Women's Educational Equity Takes On Technology

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

Why this math professor is putting actors in classrooms; Today's students need to learn collaborative problem solving, creativity and communication - and key to this is engaging them with math

<https://tinyurl.com/2ynswcek>

Computer science at an arts school: This Bronx teacher combines coding and dance

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

Pop! goes the curriculum: songs to inspire primary school children; Writers suggest songs for an alternative schooling

<https://tinyurl.com/37sh7cdn>

Just 47% of public schools rate themselves highly on college prep; Only 62% of public schools include college and career milestones in their graduation requirements

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

University of California stirs furious debate over what high school math skills are needed to succeed in college

<https://lat.ms/3Pwe6ZH>

What are microcredentials? And are they worth having?

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

Marquette University, in Wisconsin, intends to cut \$31M from its operating budget by fiscal 2031, amid increasing economic and demographic pressures

<https://bit.ly/3xe90uw>

Over 80% of Women Leaders in Education Experience Bias, Survey Shows

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

Avoiding The Talk: A Closer Look at Educator Influence on Racial Disparities in School Discipline

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

When the University of Maryland suspended 37 fraternities and sororities earlier this month, the outcry from the chapters-and their national affiliates-was swift. Four fraternities went so far as to file a motion in federal court for a temporary restraining order that would end the blanket suspension

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

Higher education faces a historic reckoning if GOP wins in November

<https://bit.ly/3x4ZY3d>

Truths about DEI on college campuses: Evidence-based expert responses to politicized misinformation

<https://tinyurl.com/3ttp6psj>

Scholars Respond to 'Politicized Attacks on DEI'

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

Alabama lawmakers pass sweeping college and public school DEI ban

<https://bit.ly/4clwTk1>

Alabama governor signs ban on DEI funds that restricts 'divisive concepts' in schools

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

Growing efforts to limit diversity, equity and inclusion programs in elementary and secondary schools may negatively impact special education activities meant to expand inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities, warn some special education and disability rights advocates

<https://bit.ly/4cj1rDb>

In a reminder to school leaders, the Biden administration enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of Education said that it has seen more complaints of discrimination against "Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Hindu, and Palestinian students." The letter did not mention discrimination against Jewish students

<https://bit.ly/3PvtsO9>

The Miseducation of the Modern Lawyer; Lawyers have become mere technicians-no wonder our legal system has gone haywire

<https://bit.ly/49YNrN7>

Ohio State STEM Student Seeks Sixth Circuit Recognition as Employee; Graduate, other programs can involve work that benefits school; Whether students are also employees carries broad implications

<https://bit.ly/3PutG7W>

40 years ago, the Supreme Court broke the NCAA's lock on TV revenue, reshaping college sports to this day

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

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Illinoisans could end up paying an additional \$1.4B over the next 10 to 15 years to cover declining state

funding at Illinois' public universities, according to a new report

<https://bit.ly/3Tp0C36>

Chicago Public Schools 'hitting the gas pedal' on expanding dual language programs

<https://bit.ly/3x3c4tx>

Audience angered by Millburn D24's withdrawal from 'left-learning' program; 'Removing the whole program for three pages of a book . that made some board members uncomfortable is ludicrous'

<https://bit.ly/3TtRPg2>

Prospect Heights Elementary School District 23 tax hike request fails for second time in a year

<https://bit.ly/3Tss6Vn>

UIC to offer online program for master's degree in marketing

<https://bit.ly/3xe8xZi>

New initiative highlights UChicago's unique undergraduate experience

<https://bit.ly/49Wv1wyv>

Winston Campus Junior High Named An Illinois Horizon School To Watch

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

OPRF board member apologizes to Community Council leaders after complaint about comments

<https://bit.ly/3Tnxvx3>

Some St. Charles School District parents take issue with Richmond's core values

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

Metamora school referendum passes; Voters also say yes to Tremont, West Peoria referendums

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

No sales tax increase for extra school funding in Ogle County

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

Champaign School District switches bus tracking apps

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

Champaign principal, teacher named as new leaders for Leal Elementary in Urbana

<https://bit.ly/3TJBFR1>

Voters chose to approve two tax referendums in the Olympia school district Tuesday that will help fund renovations of its aging high school swimming pool and cut into the district's education fund deficit; doesn't mean higher overall tax rate

<https://bit.ly/4937n0a>

Residents in Hancock County denied a school sales tax proposition for the second time in Tuesday's primary election.

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

Survey: Large numbers of students using AI without professors knowledge

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Federal Reserve holds interest rates steady, projects three rate cuts later this year

<https://n.pr/3Px9h29>

The Federal Reserve held its interest rate target steady, in line with expectations that the timing of rate cuts has been pushed back by stubborn inflation

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

Fed forecasts three, quarter-point rate cuts in 2024, holds main rate steady; Central bank officials upgraded their projection for 2024 growth to 2.1% while predicting unemployment will end the year at 4%

<https://bit.ly/3Vsnm4B>

Fed sees three 2024 rate cuts and shallower path as Powell backs go-slow approach

<https://tinyurl.com/yptd4xuj>

Fed holds off on rate cuts, sees inflation on 'bumpy' path to goal

<https://bit.ly/3PSKE0f>

By any reasonable measure, the average American is better off economically than they were four years ago

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

February Retail Sales: More Here Than Meets The Eye, You Just Have To Look

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxzbvdf>

February Residential Construction: Further Upside Room For Single Family Starts

<https://tinyurl.com/ywjnu3n>

Will a more stabilized interest-rate environment lead to an increase in multifamily investment throughout the Midwest?

<https://bit.ly/4adb9oK>

Could a major lawsuit against realtors mean lower home prices? What the National Association of Realtors settlement means for buyers and sellers

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

Is Co-Buying the Future of Homeownership?

<https://bit.ly/3TJ7hq5>

The Justice Department is expanding its probe of the rental housing market, opening a criminal investigation of a top developer of property pricing software and some of its customers

<https://politi.co/3vck9M6>

Podcast: Our Financial System Favors Large-Scale Development . . . but at What Cost? Why small developers are getting squeezed out of the housing market

<https://bit.ly/43u6tJ6>

Is trouble brewing in Florida's housing market? Here's what the data says; Housing inventory levels in Florida are up the most in the nation on a year-over-year basis (34%), but the bulk of the increase is really concentrated in sections of Southwest Florida

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

States turn to Medicaid to tackle housing insecurity; Section 1115 Medicaid waivers can help states reduce health inequities by covering housing costs and providing meal support for vulnerable populations

<https://bit.ly/3vj4YRg>

Ohio's Circleville ditched the grid system. Then it got squared; A small Ohio town tried to escape America's addiction to rectangular grids. It didn't last long

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

The Once and Future Shopping Mall; Their inventor wanted them to be centers of social life. They never really achieved that goal, but the ones that remain are more than just places to shop

<https://bit.ly/3Pr6kQL>

Is There an Urban Future? To achieve a rebirth, cities must attract middle-class families, upwardly mobile immigrants, and entrepreneurs. And they must cultivate neighborhoods

<https://tinyurl.com/4zwza248>

Congressional Democrats will propose legislation to establish two weeks of paid annual leave per year for workers, which would grant the benefit to nearly 27M Americans who don't currently have paid vacation time

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

Japan's central bank raised interest rates for the first time since 2007, pushing them above zero to close a chapter in its aggressive effort to stimulate an economy that has long struggled to grow

<https://nyti.ms/3x3v7Ea>

El Salvador's 'Bitcoin Beach' cheers cryptocurrency surge; The cryptocurrency has been legal tender since 2021 in the Central American nation

<https://tinyurl.com/5ej5uef6>

Uber-style pricing is coming for everything; More and more industries are adopting "dynamic pricing" - and consumers aren't happy

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

Dynamic Pricing Puts the "Fast" Back in Fast Food; Predictable pricing does not mean predictable cost, which includes things like wait times at the drive-thru

<https://bit.ly/3TK5YXR>

CosMc's opens first Texas location; The McDonald's spinoff launched its second site as it gears up for a major expansion in the Lone Star State

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

Family Unfriendly: How Our Culture Made Raising Kids Much Harder Than It Needs to Be; How can we craft a world where it's safe to have big families again?

<https://bit.ly/4cih2Tz>

The next big climate deadline is for meat and dairy; According to a first-of-its-kind survey of more than 200 environmental and agricultural scientists, we must drastically reduce meat and dairy production - and fast

<https://bit.ly/4a1G87k>

Young people don't want to farm anymore. Can Pennsylvania change their minds?

<https://politi.co/3vc1mAz>

EPA sets most ambitious rules yet to cut auto emissions and boost EVs and hybrids; The new standards will avoid more than 7B tons of planet-warming carbon emissions over the next three decades and provide nearly \$100B in annual net benefits

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

In a boost for EVs, EPA finalizes strict new limits on tailpipe emissions

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

Biden's regulators issue long-awaited rule meant to drive electric car sales

<https://politi.co/3VK1phV>

Biden Administration Imposes Strictest-Ever Vehicle-Emissions Standards in Bid to Phase Out Gas Cars; By 2030, roughly 31 to 44 percent of new cars, SUVs, and pickup trucks must be fully electric

<https://bit.ly/3x3qHgF>

How the EPA's New Emissions Rule Is Likely To Backfire; While drafted with good intentions, the rule prioritizes electric vehicles that run on batteries, even as hybrids see strong sales growth

<https://bit.ly/3Pxili5>

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council launched its Charging Smart program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office

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

Plan for zero-emission truck charging, fueling infrastructure unveiled by White House; The strategy maps interstates, intermodal hubs, ports and truck parking to show where charging and hydrogen fueling stations will be most in demand

<https://bit.ly/3xb3ybQ>

Florida approves statewide AI traffic management by NoTraffic; Smart sensors, artificial intelligence and cloud computing can help city leaders implement traffic policies and priorities

<https://bit.ly/3voj8R1>

Intel will receive \$8.5B in direct funding and \$11B in loans from the US government to expand its capacity to

make high-end chips as it seeks to reinvent itself as a national champion in the sector and compete with the likes of Taiwan's TSMC and South Korea's Samsung

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

Intel prepares for \$100B spending spree across four US states

<https://tinyurl.com/f2umn22t>

Federal Handout to Intel Will Cost \$283K Per Job, and That's Being Generous; And the real kicker is that Intel was probably going to create those jobs without taxpayers funding anything

<https://bit.ly/43pX5pK>

The federal government has issued guidance on exemptions from its Build America Buy America requirements for broadband infrastructure projects. This could help make it easier to acquire key pieces of high-speed Internet networks

<https://bit.ly/3Vx1J3r>

Earth's electronic waste is rising 5 times faster than reported; No more than one percent of demand for essential rare earth elements is met by e-waste recycling. Simply put: Business as usual can't continue

<https://bit.ly/3v8Ltul>

The World's E-Waste Has Reached a Crisis Point; A new UN report finds that humanity is generating 137B pounds of TVs, smartphones, and other e-waste a year-and recycling less than a quarter of it

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

We rely heavily on lithium batteries - but there's a growing array of alternatives; Lithium batteries are very difficult to recycle and require huge amounts of water and energy to produce. Emerging alternatives could be cheaper and greener

<https://tinyurl.com/5ac7yvay>

8 Google Employees Invented Modern AI. Here's the Inside Story; They wrote the "Transformers" paper-the most consequential tech breakthrough in recent history

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

Some of the world's largest companies and richest people are fighting over a question that will help shape the future of AI: Should firms reveal exactly how their products work?

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

GenAI Could Make Online Conversations More Civil; New research examines whether LLMs can teach people conflict-mediation techniques at scale

<https://bit.ly/4aiN7bV>

The Filmmaker Who Says AI Is Reparations; Before he used AI tools to make his movies, Willonius Hatcher couldn't get noticed. Now his AI-generated shorts are going viral and Hollywood is calling

<https://bit.ly/3IJxL4i>

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Chicago still a hotspot for data center demand; The Chicago market boasted more than 5.04M square feet of data center space as of the end of 2023. Of that space, only 405,227 square feet was vacant

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

Cubs could install rooftop signs on buildings around Wrigley Field under proposal

<https://bit.ly/3TI6M46>

Bears and school districts stop short of endorsing Arlington Heights tax proposal

<https://bit.ly/495Y27U>

MacKenzie Scott donates \$640M, more than doubling her planned gifts to nonprofit applicants

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

Will Illinois Amend the Illinois Freedom to Work Act to Further Limit the Enforceability of Non-compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements?

<https://bit.ly/43pzZ2k>

Pace of electric vehicle adoption must quadruple to reach Illinois goal

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

Skokie village board proposes limits on Airbnb-type short-term rentals

<https://bit.ly/49ZI1Sg>

Lyons Township High School To Reap Windfall With Land Sale; Bought 70 acres in Willow Springs in two phases in 1955 and 1962

<https://bit.ly/49YCYS7>

Recent Chicago Mobility Collaborative meeting took place in, and discussed transportation in, Chinatown

<https://bit.ly/3vvu2nY>

UIC Urban Forum to consider Chicago's next 50 years; The forum will take place April 10

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

Governor Pritzker Celebrates Illinois' \$44B Tourism Industry at Peoria Conference

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

The Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau received two Excellence in Tourism awards at the annual Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism

<https://bit.ly/43tv945>

Pocket park with playground planned for Northfield

<https://bit.ly/3PvpLb5>

Highland Park dome to be rebuilt for pickleball, other paddle sports

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

Kenilworth's beachfront referendum coasts to approval

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

6633 Milwaukee Property Under Contract With Developer; 180-Unit Luxury Apartment Expected To Open On

Niles' South Side In May

<https://bit.ly/3TKkEX7>

Niles officials are working with Illinois and Chicago transportation department officials on a \$4.4M project to rehabilitate, widen, and make intersection improvements on Melvina Avenue

<https://bit.ly/4ajGC8M>

Joliet OKs next Route 53 warehouse

<https://bit.ly/3TKhy5m>

Federal funds to support affordable housing development in Glen Ellyn

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

Kendall County receives \$15M grant to help build broadband system

<https://bit.ly/3IM1HNu>

Raising Canes Chicken Fingers won preliminary approval for its request for a special use permit to open a restaurant in Rockford Tuesday night.

<https://bit.ly/3x4le84>

'We found some interesting facts' | SIU researcher using eclipse to study small town tourism

<https://bit.ly/3TpvWP5>

'It's been an eyesore for 10 years.' Neighboring business encouraged by demo of downtown Galesburg property

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

Western Illinois Museum converting old garage into cultural hub

<https://bit.ly/3IM2FJC>

Final stage of Interstate 70 project in Effingham County begins April 9

<https://bit.ly/4a1AYsa>

Exploring Yield Growth: US Crops in a Global 21st Century Context

<https://bit.ly/491s1O9>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Report reviews the major policy errors and lessons learned during the COVID pandemic from a balanced perspective that includes health, economic, educational, and civil liberty considerations; Outlines ten key lessons that must be learned to avoid mistaken policy responses to future pandemics and other crises

<https://tinyurl.com/bddpbu8p>

Long Tyranny A Greater Threat Than Long COVID

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

'Wait and See' Doesn't Excuse Sitting Out the 2020 Lockdowns; The simple, overwhelming truth is that people should never have their individual freedom to protect themselves taken from them, period. End of story

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

Zoonoses are infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans, with urban greening potentially altering the dynamics of pathogen transmission in urban environments. Understanding these changes is crucial for balancing the benefits of urban greening with the management of zoonotic disease risks in cities

<https://bit.ly/3TN2IRe>

Breakthrough: Scientists remove AIDS-causing virus from infected cells; Thanks to Nobel-awarded genetic scissors the scientists cut out HIV from cells and gave hope for the future

<https://bit.ly/4a2yiue>

'A landmark moment': scientists use AI to design antibodies from scratch

<https://go.nature.com/4aiUNeg>

The New 'Breakthrough' Alzheimer's Treatments Might Really Be Disappointing Dead Ends

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

How the Brain Hits the Brakes on Aging; Neurons linked to metabolic processes slow aging in mice

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

Intermittent fasting linked to higher risk of cardiovascular death, research suggests; A new analysis challenges the notion that restricting eating to a limited window of time is good for heart health

<https://nbcnews.to/4a3ULr4>

AI-generated nonsense is leaking into scientific journals; Text outputs from large language models are littering paper mills-and even some peer-reviewed publications

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

Son deepfakes dead father to save grandmother from grief; The grandson had to look through numerous photographs of his deceased father to create a deepfake film that would persuade his grandmother that her son was still alive

<https://bit.ly/43t9gC5>

Fitbit Using Google Gemini for New AI That Could Become Your Fitness Coach; Google is training Gemini on health data, and it's creating a new AI model for the Fitbit app that can give advice tailored to your needs

<https://bit.ly/49Y6hnJ>

Why the cyberattack on UnitedHealth is killing community health centers; Technology roadblocks and cash flow issues are making survival precarious for small healthcare centers

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

We're one step closer to a global cybersecurity standard for smart home devices; The organization behind Matter is launching a new product label that should make it easier to determine whether your smart home gadget is secure

<https://bit.ly/4a0UVz8>

Car makers' shady data sharing takes spotlight in GM connected car scandal

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

The World Happiness Report provides data-driven insights to the global conversation on happiness

<https://bit.ly/3wX7NHY>

The U.S. hit an all-time low ranking in the annual World Happiness Report, tumbling eight spots to 23rd; "Americans under 30 feeling worse about their lives" responsible for the steep drop

<https://bit.ly/3Px1sJY>

Meta, YouTube, and Reddit ordered to face claims they enabled white-supremacist in Buffalo massacre; The social media giants claim they merely hosted third-party content

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

How a Mississippi case of police brutality emphasizes the need for more accountability; Six former police officers tortured two Black men. They're getting sentenced

<https://bit.ly/4a802hm>

Third former Mississippi 'Goon Squad' deputy sentenced in torture of 2 Black men

<https://n.pr/3x5v22R>

NAACP calls for federal probe into police shooting of unarmed Black man in Pittsburgh

<https://bit.ly/4a1BZAn>

One Simple Criminal Justice Reform Could Solve the Prosecutor Shortage Crisis; The law, called prosecutor-initiated resentencing, is a form of "second-look" legislation that enables prosecutors to revisit old cases and propose revised sentences to the court

<https://bit.ly/3x1a454>

Undocumented Immigrants Have Right to Own Guns, Judge Rules; A judge dropped gun charges against an illegal migrant in Illinois, sparking further debate about the rights associated with the Second Amendment

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

Another Judge Says Illegal Immigrants Have Second Amendment Rights; Some supposed defenders of the right to bear arms react with alarm

<https://bit.ly/494icik>

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With appeals surging 26,806% under cashless bail, Illinois Supreme Court establishes new rules

<https://bit.ly/3x0IFAm>

\$52.75M price tag? City Council OKs settlements tied to police abuse, wrongdoing

<https://bit.ly/492m6lQ>

Chicago City Council approves \$45M settlement for teen left disabled after police chase

<https://bit.ly/499qZjc>

Judge's ruling on Chicago police discipline expected this week after court arguments

<https://bit.ly/3vrY8sv>

Hemp products often mislabeled, posing potential danger to consumers, Chicago researcher finds

<https://bit.ly/3IMEE55>

Two-Thirds of Young Children in Chicago Are Exposed to Dangerous Lead Levels in Water: Study

<https://bit.ly/3INP0By>

Chicago sues Glock over design that allows easy conversion to machine guns

<https://bit.ly/493MOR5>

AG Kwame Raoul Rounds Up 22 States in Legal Showdown for Felon Firearm Ban

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

South Suburban Police Chiefs Get \$900,000 from Feds Thanks to Robin Kelly

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

Hinsdale's fire chief plans to retire after 32 years with the fire department

<https://bit.ly/4aej9Gc>

Peoria chief criticizes release of man who allegedly pointed gun at officer

<https://bit.ly/3xd4nRt>

Boone County voters elect to keep their fire departments separate

<https://bit.ly/43u6Blc>

Raising roosters is big business. Now a push to ease penalties for cockfighting is ruffling feathers

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

The Great Plains now have 'wildfire years,' not seasons, as blazes start and spread earlier

<https://bit.ly/495RYML>

The Quincy Police Department officers involved in a January shooting will face no criminal charges following an investigation by Illinois State Police.

<https://bit.ly/4a2YZPp>

Alton meeting to address housing plan

<https://bit.ly/4aj7MfZ>

Voters in Jersey County said "NO" to a measure proposed by the Jersey County Board that would have established a half-cent increase in the Public Safety Tax.

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

More police are using your cameras for video evidence

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Justices Sympathetic to Councilwoman's Retaliatory Arrest Claims; The US Supreme Court seemed likely to side with a former Texas councilwoman in her bid to sue the mayor, police chief, and an investigator for allegedly arresting her in retaliation for trying to oust the city manager

<https://bit.ly/4anMq0S>

Supreme Court justices from both wings of the bench expressed sympathy for a former councilwoman in Castle Hills, Texas, who claims she was arrested for pushing for the removal of the city manager

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

61 Unexpected 'Forever Chemicals' Found in Food Packaging; A global study identified 61 PFAS chemicals in food packaging that are not authorized for use in such products

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

"Disabling cyberattacks" are hitting critical US water systems, White House warns; Biden administration rallies nation's governors to secure their facilities

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

US Warns of Cyberattacks Against Water Systems Throughout Nation

<https://tinyurl.com/4acpth5m>

As cyber grant program hits the halfway mark, feds laud states' progress; Two years into the \$1B program, state and local governments are better prepared for cyber attacks

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

Grant: The U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

<https://tinyurl.com/t4e4zvrp>

Communities build walking, biking trails along old railroad lines with federal grants; Active transportation projects represent over 25% of the \$3.3B grant awards the DOT announced

<https://bit.ly/43pTXu0>

How a Cold, Hilly Canadian City Became a Year-Round Cycling Success Story

<https://bit.ly/3x4dfZI>

What mayors really think about the Inflation Reduction Act; Localities want clean energy but are reluctant to cede local control to streamline permitting

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

Democratic cities that welcomed migrants are starting to roll back aid; Democratic-run cities and states have begged for more help from the federal government, including pushing for a legislative agreement to overhaul the immigration system

<https://bit.ly/492iITM>

Podcast: Planning Law Careers in Local, State, and Federal Government

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

In Vermont, 'Town Meeting' is democracy embodied. What can the rest of the country learn from it?

<https://bit.ly/4cnn2dE>

The AI-powered Segway Navimow i Series robot lawn mower can tackle yards up to a quarter of an acre in size without the need for boundary wires

<https://bit.ly/3vmpel2>

San Jose, California, has announced several steps to shape AI governance, including an open letter to stakeholders, a resource toolkit and an invitation to participate in its growing GovAI Coalition

<https://bit.ly/3Pr1SBx>

3 ways to use AI without replacing your coworkers; Leadership principles to embrace technological progress while prioritizing your coworkers' well-being - paving the way for a future where AI enhances human potential

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

How to Decide If AI Should Be Part of Your Growth Strategy; Five steps to help your company create a plan

<https://bit.ly/3lOqz7f>

Podcast: When You Make the Leap to Manager

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

Research: How Women Can Build High-Status Networks; Companies can help women overcome common obstacles they face when trying to forge powerful professional ties

<https://bit.ly/43tlEC5>

—

Mayor Brandon Johnson nods to possible loss for Bring Chicago Home, vows to continue fight

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

Voters send loud message to Mayor Johnson, his Chicago Teachers Union allies

<https://bit.ly/3lKAiv9>

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's "Bring Chicago Home" tax hike failed on March 19. Its defeat is a blow not only to Johnson, but also to the Chicago Teachers Union leadership who got him elected

<https://bit.ly/4a2UyEI>

Chicago tax increase appears to fail after Black business owners call it a 'migrant tax'

<https://bit.ly/4a2q5X9>

\$100k donation to help migrants cover rent, get on a 'pathway to self-sufficiency'; The donation, given to the Instituto del Progreso Latino, comes as the nonprofit's funds for rental assistance are running low.

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

Day 4 of Chicago migrant evictions: Alderpersons, advocates call on Mayor Johnson to end them
<https://bit.ly/4crXZpY>

Johnson Taps Official Who Greenlighted Botched Little Village Smokestack Implosion to Lead Buildings Department
<https://bit.ly/3vLLkE8>

Report: Canada's wildfires push Chicago to second most polluted major city in the U.S.
<https://bit.ly/49Yza3h>

Democratic Incumbents Rep. Jesús 'Chuy' García, Danny Davis Stave Off Primary Challenges
<https://bit.ly/43turUG>

The Democratic primary election for Cook County State's Attorney is still too close to call.
<https://bit.ly/3vkrMQx>

Elmhurst Public Library officials warned circulators of the "Right to Parent" petition to stop their efforts inside the library or police would be called
<https://bit.ly/3vv81pn>

Mental health tax in Thornton Township proposed by Tiffany Henyard fails
<https://bit.ly/3TKYbcw>

Kenilworth residents considered a \$2.5M bond referendum question as part of a larger project to revamp the decommissioned water plant and enhance beach facilities; The project's total price tag is \$8.4M
<https://bit.ly/3vjIjFA>

Referendum roundup: Thornton Township votes down mental health, Homer Glen voters support dissolving Homer Township
<https://bit.ly/4amdVII>

Chaplin unseats incumbent Carrier in Dem primary for DuPage recorder; Lukas handily wins Dem primary bid for coroner
<https://bit.ly/43uW1B4>

Round Lake Library Board heading back to drawing board after apparent \$36.4M referendum rejection; 3 other Lake County ballot questions approved
<https://bit.ly/3IJtazp>

Aurora area voter turnout trends downward during primary election, officials say
<https://bit.ly/495OYjt>

CTA adding more buses, promising return to pre-pandemic service
<https://bit.ly/4cDhL1R>

The 1 thing you can do to potentially limit the number of cicadas in your yard, according to experts
<https://bit.ly/3VmVwqD>

Historic covered bridges are under threat by truck drivers using GPS

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

City of Evanston to meet again with Wesley tenants; Trying to find new homes for residents of decaying affordable housing development.

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

An Evanston committee recommended Tuesday night that Connections for the Homeless receive \$1M to begin rehab work on the Margarita Inn homeless shelter.

<https://bit.ly/3x5F8AL>

Election 2024: 'Yes' votes leading in McHenry County sales tax referendum

<https://bit.ly/4a3WBk>

Trustee's letter not enough to fix 'bullying behavior,' Oak Park's village president says

<https://bit.ly/3PuAz9f>

Downers Grove LGBTQ+ group survey says community must do more to denounce harassment, bullying

<https://bit.ly/3v9hNO4>

DeKalb city clerk faces office forfeiture for allegedly violating state Government Ethics Act

<https://bit.ly/3vkZu8q>

Small business owners push back on proposal to raise sales taxes in Peoria Heights

<https://bit.ly/3vln3cA>

Election 2024: 4 takeaways from La Salle and Bureau counties primary election

<https://bit.ly/3IJQv3V>

Springfield council approves settlement in discrimination complaint against former transgender employee

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

The Immigration Project, a nonprofit with offices in Bloomington-Normal and Champaign-Urbana, received a \$2M gift from the Yield Giving Open Call award.

<https://bit.ly/4ah6EtT>

McLean County GOP chair disappointed by low turnout in Illinois primary election; Dennis Grundler said he's believes there's too much division within the Republican party in McLean County as some have strayed from fiscal conservatism.

<https://bit.ly/492OUAP>

Salaries for Bourbonnais mayor, clerk increased for first time in 35 years

<https://bit.ly/3PqOm0Q>

Galesburg Transit survey asking for resident feedback now available

<https://bit.ly/4ah7dE1v>

Springfield residents frustrated after trash, yard waste not picked up

<https://bit.ly/3vrC94Y>

Edwardsville City Council approves University Drive costs, manhole and weather siren improvements

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

SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Unofficial results show voters once again rejecting plans to issue bonds in a Lockport High School District 205 referendum with about 46% of voters voting in favor of the referendum and 54% voting against it

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

Clarendon Hills \$8M Pool Measure Prevails: Unofficial Results

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

Voters OK \$35M referendum for Union Ridge School District, Harwood Heights

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

Split vote on tax hikes: Round Lake library falls short; Grayslake District 46 approved

<https://bit.ly/4a1n42>

Avoca District 37 voters gave a resounding "no" Tuesday night to the district's request to borrow \$89.8M in order to construct a new grammar school.

<https://bit.ly/3PsJg3S>

Rantoul Fire Dept. hosting open house for new fire station

<https://bit.ly/49kfhm9>

Classroom upgrade finished at Monmouth's Buchanan Center. Now it's on to the next big project.

<https://bit.ly/3x22G9J>

Decatur school board receives first structural engineering reports

<https://bit.ly/4a1NMt5>

STATE & FEDERAL

Primary election 2024 results: Illinois

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

MAP: Biden, Trump Win Illinois Primaries. Here's How Your Neighborhood Voted

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

Legislative leader says lack of races, low voter turnout caused by gerrymandering

<https://bit.ly/3TLL5vi>

Bost declares victory as Illinois congressional races come into focus

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

What the Mike Bost, Darren Bailey election results tell us about the Republican Party

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

Trump nod helps Republican Bost beat Bailey downstate; Democrats Foster, Casten win in suburbs

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

Bill seeks to end euthanasia for cats and dogs in Illinois

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

Justice Joy Cunningham expected to stay on Illinois Supreme Court, according to unofficial results

<https://bit.ly/4a1yFW4>

Illinois to Create Advisory Council for Affordable Sickle Cell Treatment

<https://bit.ly/43ouG3j>

Illinois AG announces legislation to protect workers from retaliatory employers across state

<https://bit.ly/43sNxu7>

—

How the Welfare State Fails the Poor; A bureaucratic paper chase undermines compassion and practical help; The welfare state has mutated into a bureaucratic monster with little room for the simple human kindness and personal compassion

<https://bit.ly/3ILV1yQ>

How the Administrative State Conquered America; This leviathan of unaccountable executive agencies that effectively create and enforce laws of their own is, by its very nature and existence, an attack on America's constitutional order

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

High Government Pay and High Taxes Are Laying the Economy Low; When federal-government employees make 40 percent more than private-sector ones, and when the top 1 percent pay 46 percent of all income taxes, something is out of whack

<https://bit.ly/4a7XorW>

Despite Low Unemployment, States Are Still Short of Funding Benefits; States have devoted \$Bs to replenishing their unemployment trust funds, but many are still short. Fewer states are now prepared for a recession than before the pandemic

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

Faith-based charities, hospitals, and schools have long been cornerstones of our civil society and enjoyed the rightful protection of the Constitution. Recent regulations released by the Biden administration, however, will undermine these groups' effectiveness and infringe upon their religious liberty

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

Young People Aren't Nearly Angry Enough About Government Debt; We saddle future generations with debt for present-day consumption; Boomer Benefits are Stagnating Hiring, Wages, and Investment for Young People

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

The Congressional Budget Office projects an explosive rise in federal debt, despite slight improvements in the past year, as the country faces a fiscal reckoning in the coming decades

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

The federal budget is headed for a world of pain in the coming decades, the Congressional Budget Office projected, but said things are looking a little better because of the spending cuts the GOP pressured President Biden into making last year

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

The Debt: Another Gray Rhino; The CBO isn't looking for a financial crisis until 2053. That looks optimistic, but setting a precise alternate date is unwise

<https://tinyurl.com/t5n2rv2s>

The Right Has Luxury Beliefs, Too; Support for industrial policy and protectionism are supposed to help the working class. Instead, these ideas elevate the already privileged

<https://bit.ly/43qX1pz>

Nostalgic for the Trump years? That's because his draconian budget cuts never passed

<https://bit.ly/4ajHUK6>

Biden and Trump notch more wins Tuesday as primary voters urge them to keep up the fight; With many Americans unenthusiastic about 2024's choice for the White House, both Biden and Trump's campaigns are working to fire up their bases by tearing into each other and warning of the perils of the opponent

<https://bit.ly/3TsNxG1>

The two types of voters who will decide 2024; Analysis: Call them the "aspirationalists" and the "transactionalists." They will have a lot to say about whether Biden or Trump gets a second term

<https://nbcnews.to/4958Gf8>

Who's afraid of RFK? It's eminently clear already that while RFK may not win the presidency - or even a single state - he can certainly play a crucial role in the eventual results

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

How could a third-party candidate put Trump in the White House?

<https://tinyurl.com/yh42eumn>

The Anti-Trump Protest Vote Should Have Republicans Worried about November; Roughly one in five GOP voters cast a ballot for someone other than Trump in Tuesday night's primaries

<https://bit.ly/4cs27pC>

Hunter Biden's decision not to testify before the Republican impeachment inquiry against his father made the hearing remarkably dull by recent standards

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

Ocasio-Cortez demands GOP specify actual crimes in Biden impeachment inquiry

<https://bit.ly/3Tns0hT>

Hunter Biden hearing goes off the rails in opening moments as Democrats take shots at GOP witness

<https://bit.ly/3IJ8h7g>

Shouting, accusations, a Putin mask: GOP's Hunter Biden hearing erupts into bickering

<https://bit.ly/3TlfWO2>

A former Biden family business associate said President Biden's son referenced Chinese President Xi Jinping's desire for a partnership between the Biden family and a Chinese energy company in 2017

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

Hunter Biden's former business partner Tony Bobulinski accused the president of breaking racketeering and corruption laws through his participation in his son's foreign business dealings

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

SCOTUS Threatens to Legitimize the Censorship Industrial Complex

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

Government's 'Thinly Veiled' Social-Media Censorship; Biden officials weren't merely trying to persuade tech platforms to take down Covid posts

<https://on.wsj.com/4codUW4>

Will federal censorship be the pandemic's biggest legacy?

<https://bit.ly/43oZ2CS>

Supreme Court should affirm that government complaints are not freedom of speech violations

<https://tinyurl.com/ywwjfu94>

The Supreme Court Should Reject Clandestine Government Censorship of Online Speech; The Biden administration's social media meddling went far beyond "information" and "advice"

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

Free-speech cases shouldn't neuter critical power of the government's voice; The court should leave space for the government to participate in a free-speech marketplace dominated by powerful companies and interest groups

<https://tinyurl.com/svbyb9cx>

Censorship and the Digital Public Square; Perhaps we are all victims of the certain censorship that comes from our personalized social media feeds, in which we are fed only information we want to hear. Each side thinks the other is brainwashed

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

What to know about SB 4, the Texas immigration law in the courts now

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

The Supreme Court Just Gave Texas a Green Light to Harass Every Latino Person in the State

<https://bit.ly/4a2qpFI>

The Supreme Court's confusing new border decision, explained

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

As Texas border arrests law teeters in court, other GOP states also push tougher immigration policy

<https://bit.ly/496BJPt>

House Republicans demanded answers on what led to a Justice Department order that a union of immigration judges get supervisor approval before speaking publicly about the heavily backlogged courts

<https://bit.ly/3x0kuls>

The Arkansas National Guard will send about 40 guardsmen to Texas to support border control efforts along the nation's southern border

<https://bit.ly/3TJnA6I>

The Biden administration has released "over 300,000" unaccompanied immigrant children into the United States after they crossed the border illegally, the head of the Department of Health and Human Services admitted

<https://bit.ly/3Pvfl5R>

The federal Department of Homeland Security released its first artificial intelligence road map, which includes three AI pilot projects to test the technology's impact

<https://tinyurl.com/4r5t2ud3>

How FDR Made Republican Isolationists Look Silly with a Simple Rhyme; FDR's answer to the America Firsters in 1940 was a simple and memorable rhyme

<https://politi.co/3xccf5J>

House Speaker Johnson promised Democratic support in ouster fight if he puts Ukraine loan on floor

<https://bit.ly/4cs9GN6>

If We Call Ukraine Aid a 'Loan,' Can the GOP Support It? The key to unlocking desperately needed lethal aid for Ukraine in the GOP-led House seems to be finding a formulation that Trump can accept

<https://bit.ly/495GAAv>

Ukraine races to build weapons at home; Factories spit out shells, mortar rounds, military vehicles, missiles and other items crucial to the war effort. Production tripled in 2023 and is expected to increase six-fold this year

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

Russia said that it knew about U.S. intelligence efforts to use commercial satellite operators such as SpaceX and cautioned that such moves made their satellites legitimate targets

<https://tinyurl.com/u6f7vu3t>

Biden Continues to Imperil U.S. Troops in the Middle East; As the Israel-Palestine crisis twists and turns,

Washington risks being borne back ceaselessly into the past

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

What Biden Would Do if He Were Serious About Ending the War in Gaza; A former Israeli peace negotiator says the president's response has "failed to meet even the lowest of low expectations"

<https://bit.ly/3vocw59>

The U.S. will advise Israel to secure the Gaza-Egypt border as part of a series of alternatives to an all-out invasion of Rafah

<https://politi.co/3vmO7wY>

House Speaker Johnson is considering inviting Prime Minister Netanyahu to address Congress amid rising tensions between Democrats and the Israeli government leader - a sign of the partisanship edging into the Gaza war

<https://bit.ly/3vkY0uS>

Netanyahu tells Republicans Gaza war will continue, days after Schumer speech

<https://tinyurl.com/yp77mpb2>

'Part of My Core': How Schumer Decided to Speak Out Against Netanyahu; In an interview in his native Brooklyn, America's highest-ranking Jewish elected official said he felt obligated to call for new leadership in Israel

<https://tinyurl.com/4p7r2v4j>

Chuck Schumer's recent comments about Israel exhibit arrogance and ignorance; Senate majority leader Schumer has long claimed to be a shomer-Hebrew for guardian or watchman-of Israel and the Jewish people

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

Democrats push Biden to recognize a non-militarized Palestinian state

<https://bit.ly/4a2mSa3>

Senate Democrats press Biden to establish two-state solution for Israel, Palestine

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

Podcast: "We have to start thinking in terms of decolonization"; A Palestinian human rights lawyer on Israel's ongoing nakba and the fight for freedom from Gaza to the West Bank

<https://bit.ly/43veq0n>

Foreign intervention won't save Haiti. This is what America can do instead

<https://bit.ly/3TI2BAQ>

U.N. Has Flown More Than \$2.9B in Cash to Afghanistan Since the Taliban Seized Power, Diverting U.S. Funds; The U.S. State Department has previously said that no U.S. funds went to the militant group, but a new federal report indicates that some taxpayer money has ended up in the Taliban-controlled central bank of Afghanistan

<https://bit.ly/3VqCQX2>

Who did Biden hold accountable for his botched Afghanistan withdrawal?

<https://bit.ly/3VoU0nO>

Nuclear Subsidies Galore; Will the latest government attempt to revive nuclear, driven by global warming concerns, succeed?

<https://bit.ly/3Pz18Kz>

Oil Execs Happily Admit They're Not Worried About Climate Policy; For once, they're being honest: They don't expect fossil fuels to be phased out anytime soon

<https://bit.ly/3x2RkCh>

A 15- to 20-fold bond-price increase proposed by the Biden administration's Bureau of Land Management would raise the cost of oil and gas exploration, driving small companies out of the oil business and limiting exploration opportunities for larger companies

<https://tinyurl.com/mubm9kuy>

The heat index - how hot it feels - is rising faster than temperature; A 3-degree F rise in temperature due to global warming may seem endurable, but it can actually feel like 10-degree F

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

Global temperatures "smashed" heat records last year, as heatwaves stalked oceans and glaciers suffered record ice loss, the United Nations said - warning 2024 was likely to be even hotter

<https://tinyurl.com/mw8p7f2k>

UN weather agency issues 'red alert' on climate change after record heat, ice-melt increases in 2023

<https://bit.ly/3TsA0Os>

Can Climate Cafes Help Ease the Anxiety of Planetary Crisis? The groups, which are springing up across the country, allow people to talk through their emotions around environmental change

<https://nyti.ms/3TLWrQi>

Even as the Fusion Era Comes Into View-We're Still in the Steam Age

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

The Man-Made Miracle of SpaceX; Failure is, as those who've tried something hard know, a stone on the road to success. For SpaceX in particular, it was the company's keystone strategy for the past twenty years: learn from iterating quickly on failures until you can repeat success

<https://bit.ly/3TkprU2>

The next phase of China's Moon program began with the launch of a new data relay satellite to link lunar landers and rovers on the far side of the Moon with ground controllers back on Earth

<https://bit.ly/4cosb50>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I may wish to be free from torture, but if the time comes for me to endure it, I'll wish to bear it courageously with bravery and honor. Wouldn't I prefer not to fall into war? But if war does befall me, I'll wish to carry nobly the wounds, starvation, and other necessities of war. Neither am I so crazy as to desire illness, but if I must suffer illness, I'll wish to do nothing rash or dishonorable. The point is not to wish for these adversities, but for the virtue that makes adversities bearable."

--Seneca

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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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