

Subject: News Headlines: 2-15-24

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

Date: 2/15/2024, 6:17 AM

To: <members@list.localgovnews.org>

News Headlines: February 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

Boys Aren't Excelling in Schools. Would More Male Role Models in Early Learning Help?

<https://bit.ly/3l0MQ16>

Our Nation's Public Schools are Failing Neurodivergent Learners. That Needs to Change

<https://bit.ly/3SYiO4r>

Apprenticeships are being added to the long list of initiatives California has undertaken in recent years to address its enduring teacher shortage

<https://bit.ly/49zEAB3>

The American Legislative Exchange Council and Other Conservative Groups Push School Choice; A conservative coalition is hoping to make private school choice universally available in half the states by the end of this year

<https://bit.ly/48k4OXh>

School vouchers must prioritize student education, not private school subsidies

<https://bit.ly/3l0vjGw>

An Atmosphere of Joy; The Chesterton Schools Network takes a parent-driven approach to reviving affordable, classical, and Catholic high school education

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

115 school districts in Kentucky offer full-time virtual learning options for students; Of the state's districts, 67% offer an online learning program

<https://bit.ly/3SZWR3Z>

The end of school closings? New York City used online learning, not a snow day. It didn't go well

<https://bit.ly/42DfUp2>

Bill seeks to reduce childhood obesity in South Carolina with required play and more PE; Teachers' advocate concerned about existing shortages in PE teachers and time from core subjects

<https://bit.ly/3OO9EoD>

The School Day When No One Eats Alone; Lots of kids feel socially isolated - especially at lunchtime. A national movement is working to change that

<https://bit.ly/3UMg2Rj>

Why Americans Suddenly Stopped Hanging Out; Face-to-face rituals and customs are pulling on our time less, and face-to-screen technologies are pulling on our attention more. The inevitable result is a hang-out depression

<https://bit.ly/3uvM9dd>

Why the Rush toward Generative AI Literacy in K-12 Schools May Be Premature; The technology changes too fast, and hurried teaching materials may be of poor quality. Here are 5 steps toward a better approach

<https://bit.ly/3OJBN07>

Report: Schools Won't Recover from COVID Absenteeism Crisis Until at Least 2030; Dire news from two separate studies require a 'hard pivot,' researchers say - and some lawmakers are starting to listen

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

CDC considers end to COVID 5-day isolation; A potential loosening of guidance comes as schools work to combat chronic absenteeism and increase academic performances

<https://bit.ly/42K1mUv>

4 strategies to spark engagement in summer programs; Partnerships with local nonprofits and other organizations are growing as school systems seek new and creative approaches to summer enrichment

<https://bit.ly/3uo42uw>

Education Department to ease FAFSA verification requirements this year; The agency is temporarily rolling back administrative requirements as colleges grapple with an abridged financial aid timeline

<https://bit.ly/49fXxJ4>

Frustrated with FAFSA? There is a paper form, but it might not be the best option

<https://bit.ly/3HYOa4v>

How Civics Can Remedy Higher Education's Decline

<https://bit.ly/42Hiz15>

Education Secretary Calls Diversity Program Cuts Latest 'Boogeyman' To Divide Schools

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

On party lines, Kentucky Senate OKs bill to curb diversity, equity, inclusion in higher education; Backers say legislation would protect 'diversity of thought,' others warn of 'ill intent'

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

Colorado lawmakers to consider bill that may curb book bans in school libraries and public libraries

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

A federal appeals court in St. Louis will hear arguments by two public school workers who say job training they received required them to support anti-racism theories, violating their free-speech rights

<https://bit.ly/4bReFH9>

Illinois to hold first high school girls flag football state championship in fall

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

Chicago Bears, IHSA clear a lane for girls flag football - now an official IHSA sport

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

Chicago Teachers Union ignores own mandate for financial transparency; The Chicago Teachers Union hasn't released an annual audit, required by its internal rules, for at least four fiscal years. What's happening with members' dues?

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

Highland Park parents voice frustrations with D112 racial bullying: 'Jim Crow behavior is a reality in our district'

<https://bit.ly/3uBOeo0>

Lawmakers look to give tax credits to employees who have workers that pay student loans

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

Illinois State University Launches School of Creative Technologies: A Leap into Modern Arts Education

<https://bit.ly/3P7uC2b>

St. Charles School District spends nearly \$2M on fleet of new vehicles

<https://bit.ly/48ftq3f>

The annual July 3 fireworks show at Glen Oak Park could come to end or see major changes come as the Peoria Park District explores how the event can move forward safely

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

Ryan Hendrickson was announced as Eastern Illinois University's next provost and vice president of academic affairs

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

'We had a bad year:' How a covenant violation led Bradley University to make \$13 million in cuts

<https://bit.ly/3SGn0Vh>

Urbana School District parents call for comprehensive planning and community involvement

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why US economy is powering ahead of Europe's

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

A new survey suggests that commercial lenders expect a busier year in 2024, thanks largely to a more stable interest-rate environment

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

Associated Builders and Contractors reported today that its Construction Backlog Indicator declined to 8.4 months in January; Contractors Remain Confident

<https://bit.ly/42K2447>

Backlog dips again amid tight lending conditions; The heavy industrial sector saw large gains, while institutional and infrastructure segments dropped

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

Associated Builders and Contractors releases builders' guide to AI; The manual covers the basics of what contractors need to know about the burgeoning tech

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

Drones know the dirt: How UAVs can measure jobsite materials; A properly trained and equipped drone operator can fly over any material stockpile, generate a point cloud with Ms of data points and have actionable data to the project team within a few hours

<https://bit.ly/4bCM7AK>

The myth of the housing bubble; It's time to face facts: Sky-high home prices are here to stay; It's a savagely unhealthy housing market. But it's also a market that just had too many people chasing too few homes

<https://bit.ly/3UBfI7K>

Infill Housing Has Its Benefits but Won't Always Drive Down Costs

<https://bit.ly/48hVq6j>

Renting unaffordability has reached an all-time high, with 22.4M households spending more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities, up by 2M in just three years, canceling out increases in affordability seen in 2014 and 2019

<http://tinyurl.com/35yrsmsH>

Parking Minimums Might Be on the Way Out in Dallas

<https://bit.ly/42H2FDN>

Kroger promises to lower prices following merger with Albertsons

<https://bit.ly/3I0kdRL>

Report: Social Mobility in the 50 States

<https://bit.ly/4bv6IXD>

Why the marriage rate is falling faster for some; How America has made it harder for Black people to marry

<https://bit.ly/42E0n8e>

Most HR leaders say half of workers will need reskilling in coming years; The clock is ticking as leaders try to tackle the skills gap, emphasizing a need for skills-based talent strategies

<https://bit.ly/3SY2WyK>

Want a remote accounting or finance gig? Accounting and finance jobs collectively rose in the latest annual ranking of the strongest fields for work-from-home roles

<https://bit.ly/49hjc3E>

The East Coast Is Sinking; New satellite-based research reveals how land along the coast is slumping into the ocean, compounding the danger from global sea level rise. A major culprit: overpumping of groundwater

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

Washington House approves unemployment benefits for striking workers; Employees locked out of workplaces during labor disputes would also qualify for unemployment insurance under the proposal

<https://bit.ly/42HuR9J>

A Once Unthinkable Question: Could Electric-Vehicle Sales Decline in 2024? Growth has long been a given. But a dismal stretch for the industry has at least a few analysts wondering

<https://nym.ag/3HYiQmH>

Waymo recalls and updates robotaxi software after two cars crashed into the same towed truck

<https://tcrn.ch/42Dr4tK>

Bringing AI up to speed - autonomous auto racing promises safer driverless cars on the road

<https://bit.ly/49A7twP>

For US aerial trams, the sky's the limit; Aerial cable cars remain rare for U.S. urban transportation, but cities and private groups see them as a novel solution to traffic woes

<https://bit.ly/48f0WGR>

Michigan Is Spending \$Ms Trying To Refurbish a Ski-Flying Hill. It's Not Working; Copper Peak revitalization was pitched as an economic development project for the Upper Peninsula, which already has two working ski jumps

<https://bit.ly/3T0pgrQ>

Farm Bill tensions ramp up over conservation, fire and food aid

<https://bit.ly/49B20pD>

A new executive order asks state cabinet agencies to permanently conserve and reforest North Carolina's wetlands and to plant urban trees, activities that could replenish 3M acres by 2040

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

Fossil fuel could move through a new pipeline under the Great Lakes; Midwest tribal leaders are challenging a pipeline that pumps 1M gallons of oil daily beneath a gap between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron

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

ChatGPT is getting 'memory' to remember who you are and what you like; As its chatbot gets more

powerful, OpenAI is also letting it get more personal. But it says users are still in control

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

How Quickly Do Large Language Models Learn Unexpected Skills? A new study suggests that so-called emergent abilities actually develop gradually and predictably, depending on how you measure them

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

AI tools produce dazzling results - but do they really have 'intelligence'?

<https://bit.ly/3woUi3s>

Farm Loan Interest Rate Trends by Major Lender Groups

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

Report: It's tougher to get ahead in Illinois than in any other Midwestern state. Illinois is 11th-worst in the U.S. for upward mobility

<https://bit.ly/3UIH4Ji>

The Illinois Municipal League has a dedicated Tax Increment Financing webpage which includes a fact sheet, correspondence regarding TIF-related issues and a list of Illinois municipalities with TIF districts

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

Reshoring. The rising demand for cold storage. And Chicago's status as the hub of the country's warehousing and distribution network. These are all reasons for predicting an even stronger year for Chicago's industrial sector in 2024

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

Combined state and average local sales tax rate tallies 8.85% in Illinois for 2024. That's the highest in the Midwest and seventh highest in the nation

<https://bit.ly/42E4FMU>

Illinois will celebrate this Valentine's Day knowing it broke up with 364,443 people since 2020. While they moved out for now, lower taxes could win them back

<https://bit.ly/49hAU78>

Aurora City Council authorizes sale of \$58M in bonds for Hollywood Casino project

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

Transportation workers rally for new contract amid negotiations with state. Teamsters seek pay raise, same insurance benefits under current plan

<https://bit.ly/3wey4kN>

Groups of Illinois Department of Transportation workers represented by local Teamsters unions rallied at facilities in Collinsville and Springfield Wednesday after recently passing a strike authorization and filing complaints against the state

<https://bit.ly/4bA7Pp3>

Chicago Uber, Lyft drivers join Valentine's Day strike with thousands across country

<https://bit.ly/3I1yNIM>

Some Chicago ride-share drivers took part in Valentine's Day strike, but for many it was business as usual

<https://bit.ly/4bDF2zR>

MCA becomes latest Chicago museum to form union

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

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Wednesday announced \$2M in Chicago area funding for a program aimed at providing assistance and incentives to families struggling to achieve financial independence

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

Nearly \$30M in grant funding awarded to Chicago organizations

<https://bit.ly/3uG4nZm>

Aurora approves \$1M in Quality of Life grants. Aldermen voted for a list of 39 grants recommended by city staff out of 49 organizations that applied

<https://bit.ly/3SEG1HE>

DuPage County allocates nearly \$1M in ARPA funds to local food pantries

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

Value of Bears' Arlington Heights property stays at \$192M, Board of Review decides

<https://bit.ly/3I1zNww>

Ms of gallons of fossil fuel could move through a new pipeline under the Great Lakes

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

Chicago: St. Nicholas Cathedral Gets City Grant To Continue Extensive Renovation Of Historical Church

<https://bit.ly/3uAOV0I>

As the influx of Central American asylum-seekers in the Chicago area grows, Evanston has offered limited housing and funds to incoming migrants, instead directing them to a South Loop intake center

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

Evanston social services agency seeing increase in migrants

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

Should Evanston shield merchants from competition?

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

The City of Evanston announces the opening of the application period for the "Sustain Evanston" Incentive Program. This funding initiative aims to support local businesses in implementing sustainable practices aligned with the city's Climate Action & Resilience Plan

<https://bit.ly/42DUV5u>

Researchers generate a carbon capture breakthrough using AI, physics and supercomputers. A collaboration

between UIC and Argonne harnesses artificial intelligence to find promising new materials

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

Graceland-Webford Developer Asking For Reductions In Height, Number Of Units

<https://bit.ly/3uJUkm5>

New zoning option for Mount Morris' historic campus OK'd by trustees

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

Coming soon to Mahomet's growing east side: Prairieview Commons. 'The interstate access (to I-74) is going to be huge in attracting national tenants and people who need higher traffic counts'

<https://bit.ly/49y3ReS>

Adams County Board approves \$1M for housing incentives;

<https://bit.ly/3wgF0xZ>

PUBLIC SAFETY

The CDC may be reconsidering its COVID isolation guidance; The current guidance advises five days of isolation. Unnamed health officials have indicated that this guidance may soon go away, a move that troubles public health experts

<https://n.pr/4bF6LR2>

It's time to admit that genes are not the blueprint for life; The view of biology often presented to the public is oversimplified and out of date. Scientists must set the record straight, argues a new book

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

An analysis of around 1,500 blood proteins has identified biomarkers that can be used to predict the risk of developing dementia up to 15 years before diagnosis

<https://go.nature.com/3P6TcQL>

Several companies are testing brain implants - why is there so much attention swirling around Neuralink? Two professors unpack the ethical issues

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

Researchers have developed a new way to grow cartilage from stem cells and guide it into basically any shape required. The breakthrough could lead to better ways to patch up injuries

<https://bit.ly/49Ex5Jb>

We designed wormlike, limbless robots that navigate obstacle courses ? they could be used for search and rescue one day

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

Kids Have First Amendment Rights Too, Federal Judge Reminds State Lawmakers; Banning people under age 16 from accessing social media without parental consent "is a breathtakingly blunt instrument" for reducing

potential harms, the judge writes

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

Artificial intelligence, real emotion. People are seeking a connection with the perfect bot

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

'AI Companions' Are a Privacy Nightmare; The chatbots collect huge amounts of data, provide vague information about how they use it, use weak password protections, and aren't transparent

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

Criminals Who Misuse AI Face Stiffer Sentences in DOJ Crackdown; The Justice Department's No. 2 official is directing federal prosecutors to try imposing harsher penalties against criminals who've used AI to advance their misconduct

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

Utah lawmakers looking to scrap lie detector tests for victims of s. assault

<https://bit.ly/48dB91H>

Anti-bias training can save Black moms' lives. New California bill would turn up heat on compliance

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

A representative from Ohio's new Department of Children and Youth set out their initial goals in conjunction with an advocacy group's push to reduce incarcerated parents and the impact that has on children

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

For faster emergency response, New York's fire department looks to AI; The FDNY is testing an artificial intelligence-driven project to help emergency vehicles avoid traffic and other roadblocks on the way to life-threatening emergencies

<https://bit.ly/42K1GTd>

Kansas House debates bill elevating penalties for injuring, killing law enforcement dogs or horses

<https://bit.ly/49APKW5>

A Plush Dog, Samurai Sword and 42,439 Guns: Inside an N.Y.P.D. Basement; In the office of the Manhattan Property Clerk, evidence and lost items arrive by the tens of thousands. A small band of officers and civilians has to manage never-ending pressure

<https://nyti.ms/3T0hMVq>

Americans want action on guns, but Republicans don't have a plan

<https://bit.ly/4bGB4Xi>

Six years after Parkland, the NRA is a 'shell of what it once was'

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

Georgia Senate advances tax break for firearm safety devices as lawmakers push gun-related incentives

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

Qualified Immunity Is Not Limited to Police Brutality. It Protects a Wide Variety of Abusive Officials; An

analysis of appeals involving the doctrine finds that less than a quarter "fit the popular conception of police accused of excessive force"

<https://bit.ly/4bH2pc7>

Oregon's decriminalization aimed to make cops a gateway to rehab, not jail. State leaders failed to make it work

<https://bit.ly/49DGe4L>

Did Decriminalization Boost Deaths in Oregon? Recent research finds "no evidence" that it did, undermining a key claim by critics of that policy

<https://bit.ly/49wR8sT>

Two of the country's largest retailers, Walmart and rival Target, are backing a ballot measure that would roll back California's Proposition 47, the state's criminal justice reform statute that has been blamed for a spike in retail theft and has forced big-box chains such as theirs to close location

<https://bit.ly/3OIV41z>

—
A newly introduced bill in Illinois could make the state the latest so-called "right to die" state in the U.S. The proposed legislation, SB3499, would create end-of-life options for the Terminally Ill Patients Act in Illinois

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

Has the move to cashless bond impacted safety?

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

Real criminal justice reform requires that we provide quality education and occupational training alternatives to incarceration while also offering such services to those returning from incarceration

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

Chicago Weekly Crime Tracker

<https://bit.ly/3I3abzK>

Chicago Mayor Johnson Knows Exactly How Much of a Hypocrite He Is on Crime; If Johnson believes ShotSpotter is a racist blight on the city, then he should do the right thing and cancel it now instead of renewing it for a few months

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

Analysis: What Chicago Mayor Johnson's decision on ending ShotSpotter says about his leadership; If Johnson was so determined to honor his campaign promise to get rid of the controversial gunshot detection system, why did he wait until the last minute to timidly announce the decision?

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

ShotSpotter use could end early after extension rejected: aldermen

<https://abc7.ws/3SxUJQo>

Pay raises sought for prosecutors and public defenders in McHenry County court amid recruiting struggles

<https://bit.ly/3I0TjJt>

State Senator Rachel Ventura is leading a measure that would increase fines to hospitals that fail to implement a written staffing plan amidst continuous nurse negotiations at the St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet
<https://bit.ly/42Kpiaj>

A budget establishing 23 new positions for the Lake County Health Department was approved by the county council - a necessary first step before it can tap \$4.87M in new state dollars allocated to improve public health
<https://bit.ly/4bB19qO>

Chicago Police Department Confronts Mental Health Challenges Amid Officer Wellness Program Scrutiny and \$3M Setback in Crisis Incident
<https://bit.ly/49xTEiA>

A Chicago-based "innovation hub" affiliated with the University of Chicago got a \$160M boost for the development of a technique to remove harmful chemicals from the Great Lakes, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation
<https://bit.ly/3wpJbqZ>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

How trusted are state and local governments? Confidence in lower levels of government may be better than in the federal government, but it's still not nearly good enough. And that stands in the way of state and local leaders' ability to get things done
<https://bit.ly/3SWtLUB>

Some worry California proposition to tackle homelessness would worsen the problem; Proposition 1 would require counties to spend 60% of designated funds on housing and programs for homeless people with serious mental illnesses or substance abuse problems
<https://bit.ly/49Bf6Du>

Podcast: Shifting Your Focus from Short-Term Efficiency to Long-Term Resilience; There are downsides to pursuing efficiency at all costs
<https://bit.ly/3SxxiGU>

Podcast: How the Best Leaders Drive Innovation; They learn how to take on three key roles: architect, bridge, and catalyst
<https://bit.ly/3SEhP8i>

People Probably Like You More Than You Think; A research-backed argument for why we underestimate the impression we make on others
<https://bit.ly/3OM4wS6>

6 Rules for Actually Changing People's Minds; If you're in the business of trying to change the world around you, sooner or later you'll need to be a persuasive communicator-but being persuasive isn't just about getting your facts right

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

Illinois American Water seeks rate hike that would add \$24 a month to average bill; Has filed a request with the Illinois Commerce Commission to increase rates by \$152.4M

<https://bit.ly/4bxfyo1>

Illinois American Water, which provides water and sewer service to some neighborhoods in the Northwest suburbs, recently filed a rate request with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), that if approved, would increase the amount of money residential customers would pay by approximately \$30 per month

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

Illinois American Water is pushing for another rate hike. What to know

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

Judge weighing Chicago Mayor Johnson administration's intervention in transfer tax lawsuit; Ruling on real estate trade groups' attempt to invalidate ballot language for March 19 referendum expected in coming days

<https://bit.ly/3T1w60d>

Judge hears arguments in Johnson homelessness referendum lawsuit

<https://bit.ly/3T0Qjmw>

The Wheaton Sanitary District will receive \$2.6M in funding via the Environmental Protection Agency to help with improvements to its wastewater treatment program

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

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's drivers accumulated 14 traffic tickets for speeding or running red lights - with 12 still unpaid - totaling \$1,640.

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

South Shore Voters to Weigh Need for Protection From Gentrification Sparked by Obama Presidential Center

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

Members of Evanston's Finance and Budget Committee -- asked to discuss financing options for new city facilities -- instead complained that they weren't consulted about the City Council's decision to lease downtown office space

<https://bit.ly/3SIKt8g>

Most Evanston alders open to more housing density. Vote on efficiency homes may foreshadow zoning code reform

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

Amid resident backlash, Wilmette Village Board makes Ryan Field deal final

<https://bit.ly/42I9BAy>

Oak Park OK's more money for migrants' rental housing in split vote. Aiding the 132 asylum seekers in Oak Park casts divisions among the board

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

City of Aurora, Nicor Gas Unveil New Exhibit on Smart Cities at City Hall

<https://prn.to/49eta5L>

Bureau County Board declares 'nonsanctuary' to migrants with 11-6 vote, citing limited resources

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

\$5-\$10M Starved Rock Breakwater Project breaks ground. The Starved Rock Breakwater project is a habitat restoration effort designed to restore submerged aquatic vegetation in the Illinois River, Starved Rock Pool

<https://bit.ly/3OMhTI7>

Springfield: Two amendments that would have addressed a proposed water rate increase by City Water, Light and Power over the next two years both failed Tuesday meaning the full city council will vote on the ordinance "as is" next week

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

Springfield City Council is poised to adopt a \$196M corporate fund budget for the next fiscal year - \$4.7M lower than the current year's budget - that includes increased spending for police salaries and more than \$12M in federally funded infrastructure improvements

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

SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Villa Grove: Tri-City Country Club President John Schweighart said the club board is "getting close" to hiring an architect for the renovation of the current clubhouse and the building of a new one

<https://bit.ly/4bDn00M>

Are you the owner of missing money? Illinois has more than \$5B of it

<https://bit.ly/42E9cPq>

STATE & FEDERAL

Task Force to Explore Ranked Choice Voting in Illinois Criticized for Partisanship

<https://bit.ly/42DU3xK>

Illinois bill would give tax credit to residents fleeing states with abortion, gender-affirming care bans

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

Illinois has experienced a spike in out-of-state visitors seeking reproductive health services as neighboring states enact abortion restrictions and outright bans. Now, the state legislature is considering providing tax credits for those that relocate for those services

<https://bit.ly/3l1VgWg>

GOP challenges Illinois' judicial policies on female, minority attorneys; Three federal judges in Illinois adopted policies in 2020 that could allow female and minority attorneys extra time to make arguments in various court proceedings

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

One of former Illinois House Speaker Madigan's main men goes down for the count

<https://bit.ly/3l1ePOk>

A federal jury has convicted a former Illinois state senator of tax-related charges that include filing false individual tax returns for two years

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

Government expects to rest its case against ex-state Sen. Sam McCann on Thursday

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

A State Senator proposed a bill that would implement gender-neutral terms in certain sections of civil law

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

State senator proposes gender-neutral terminology in Illinois property law sections

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

—

How Self-Invented Rights Undermine the Common Good; Rigid rules imposed by public employee unions have made it practically impossible to dismiss incompetent or unmotivated workers for anything short of violent crime

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

As Presidents Day nears, survey finds more than 7 in 10 voters failing Civics 101

<https://bit.ly/48jl3ne>

Real-world experiments in messaging show that getting low-income people the help they need is more effective when stigma is reduced

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

A bipartisan group of lawmakers has reintroduced a bill that would establish a task force to examine the conditions and experiences of Black women and girls in America

<https://bit.ly/42HNk5U>

New Jersey's Plastic Bag Ban Backfires Horribly; The massive increase in plastic consumption was driven by the popularity of heavy-duty polypropylene bags, which use about fifteen times more plastic than polyethylene plastic bags

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

A test vote in the House on whether to advance legislation to double the state-and-local tax deduction cap is SALT Republicans' last chance for a win for a while

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

Republicans admit it. Kevin McCarthy has never looked so good; House GOP insiders view the new speaker as a man perpetually without a plan

<https://politi.co/49EdV6d>

House Speaker Johnson goes into 'survival mode' dealing with \$95B aid legislation

<https://bit.ly/3OJgr2Q>

GOP Speaker Johnson says House won't be 'rushed' to approve aid for Ukraine as \$95B package stalls

<https://bit.ly/42F8KA7>

Feds deliver stark warnings to state election officials ahead of November; AI, ransomware attacks and malicious mail could disrupt voting

<https://bit.ly/3OHZ5DD>

Biden v. Trump: The battle over who's too old, too forgetful or too confused

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

Yes, Democrats Can Still Replace Biden (But They Won't)

<https://bit.ly/3T8Q0GJ>

What Is Joe Biden Doing on TikTok?

<https://bit.ly/42K0oYn>

TikTokers Have Some Advice For Joe Biden's New Account

<https://politi.co/48hhUo7>

Hunter's Former Partner Says China Tried to 'Infiltrate and Compromise' Biden Family, Obama White House

<http://tinyurl.com/4wxrs9v5>

Biden ID'd as 'chairman' in son's Chinese business agreement; president has met most of foreign execs

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

Special counsel Weiss unveils Hunter Biden laptop evidence in gun case

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

Five reasons Republicans might start to panic about increasingly Trump-centric Republican National Committee

<https://bit.ly/42CZ2if>

MAGA Can't Lose, It Can Only Be Betrayed; Trump has become proficient at deflecting blame for his party's electoral losses away from himself and his movement

<https://bit.ly/42FKrm4>

The Tangled Fates of Fani Willis and Her Biggest Case; Will the Fulton County D.A.'s "clandestine" relationship derail her effort to prosecute Trump?

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

A Georgia judge is set to consider whether to remove Fani Willis from the election interference case

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

Former Democratic National Committee chair: Fani Willis 'showed bad judgment' as prosecutor

<https://bit.ly/3UG2K8T>

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas personally declined a request from presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for Secret Service protection last July

<http://tinyurl.com/msx5jnrx>

The Supreme Court Could Permanently Break the Government. Liberals Have a Chance to Stop Them; The administrative state is squarely in the high court's crosshairs. But public pressure has successfully kept the justices from going over the brink before-and it might work again

<https://bit.ly/42Hi1Iz>

One but not done: Top Republican promises more impeachments are on the way

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

Have Republicans Opened the "Pandora's Box of Perpetual Impeachment"?

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

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas Was Impeached. What Happens Next?

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

Senate Democrats eye speedy conclusion of Mayorkas impeachment articles

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

Illegal border crossings from Mexico plunge after a record-high December, with fewer from Venezuela

<https://bit.ly/48q8Uxa>

After border bill failure, Immigration and Customs Enforcement considers mass releases to close budget gap

<https://bit.ly/3unL6fq>

Why are so many Chinese crossing the southern border?

<https://bit.ly/3OLTMD7>

Decline in White Recruits Fueling the Military's Worst-Ever Recruiting Crisis, Data Shows

<http://tinyurl.com/5e4hbxxs>

A spending Rubicon crossed; A Congressional Budget Office report says Washington will spend 3.1% of gross domestic product on interest in 2024, and just 2.9% on defense

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

Speaker Johnson tempers concerns about classified national security threat; 'There's no need for public alarm,' House Speaker says

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

What we know about the 'disturbing' Russia intel roiling the Hill; The intelligence is related to Moscow's

weaponization of its orbital systems, one of those informed about its content said

<https://politi.co/3uBPYh2>

US fears Russia preparing to put nuclear weapons in space

<https://bit.ly/3wjO459>

Air Force, Space Force unveil major retooling to confront a rising China; Restructuring aims to up readiness, increase power projection ability

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

White House to brief lawmakers on 'serious national security threat' related to Russia

<https://nbcnews.to/42Hhjen>

House Intel Chairman announces 'serious national security threat,' sources say it is related to Russia

<http://tinyurl.com/bdhfzcze>

GOP chair urges Biden to declassify intel on "serious national security threat"

<https://bit.ly/48j5FqY>

Senate Prioritizes Ukraine Over Americans' Interests; Americans are increasingly, and with very good reason, worried about issues like rising the rising debt, the border, the failed wars, and military interventions

<http://tinyurl.com/2shp6w85>

Why the U.S. Has the Most to Gain From Supporting Ukraine

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

New NATO member Finland elects a president set to keep up hard line on neighboring Russia

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

Poland, France and Germany vow to make Europe stronger as fears grow over Russia and Trump

<https://bit.ly/49dp520>

How serious is Trump about pulling out of NATO? Very

<http://tinyurl.com/53b8cd6m>

Trump Had a Point About NATO Free-Riding Off American Defense; It's true that the U.S. pays too much of the continent's defense bills even as it's going broke

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

Biden Is Slowly Losing the NATO Argument to Trump; The former president was crude but effective when it came to the alliance's burden-sharing

<https://bit.ly/3OIW99V>

Same old story: Media recycles Russia-Trump hysteria from 2016 with NATO flap; Only this time, ex-president has a record in office to refute false accounts

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

The Establishment Plan to Handcuff Trump to NATO; Notorious Trump apostate John Bolton just gave away

the game on efforts to quash NATO reform

<https://bit.ly/3SY0HeZ>

Trump's Distorted NATO 'Delinquent' Comments

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

NATO's top leader said 18 of the 31 alliance members are expected to spend at least 2% of their gross domestic product on defense this year, a six-fold increase since 2014 when only three NATO countries met the target

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

The NATO Secretary-General has admitted that former President Trump's criticism about member states not paying enough into the strategic alliance is valid

<https://bit.ly/3l0hZln>

UK Foreign Secretary and former Prime Minister David Cameron: Pass Ukraine funding for the sake of global security

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

Ukraine, Struggling on Land, Claims to Deal Blow to Russia at Sea

<https://bit.ly/42Ht3gJ>

An Israeli and a Palestinian talk peace, dignity and safety; Listen for a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the belief that, despite entrenched conflict, a shared commitment to dignity and justice is possible

<https://bit.ly/3uz1KbT>

Sorry, but There Is No Two-State Solution; Pretending there is an agreement to be done with the Palestinian leadership only opens the door to another October 7. Israelis won't be fooled

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

The mirage of the two-state solution

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

Inside the US Navy's frontline fight against the Houthis in the Red Sea

<https://bit.ly/49D2BXJ>

To apply pressure on Iran, the US must sever the 'Shia Crescent' in Syria

<https://bit.ly/3OJ0Osr>

Biden's climate change reparations will bankrupt America; The reparations regime will only aid the wealthy and privileged, not those most in need

<http://tinyurl.com/6acdxbuJ>

Virginia House, Senate OK bills to advance development of small modular nuclear reactors

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

Federal Funds Could Supercharge State Efforts to Preserve Nuclear Power; A plant in Michigan might

become the first to reopen after closing

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

EU climate policy is dangerously reliant on untested carbon-capture technology; Europe's ambition for emissions reductions is to be welcomed - but look at the detail, and significant hazards emerge

<https://go.nature.com/4bE7IsD>

The Thorny Ethics of Planetary Engineering; Whenever someone waxes poetic about terraforming alien worlds, it's worth taking a moment to consider the ethical implications of the proposal

<https://bit.ly/42BBCK9>

CORPORATE SPONSORS - ANCEL GLINK

Please take a few moments to visit the website of ANCEL GLINK and the rest of our corporate sponsors. Their support helps underwrite the cost of bringing you this publication.

<http://www.localgovnews.org/corporatesponsors.html>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Knowledge isn't power. The ability to act on knowledge is power."

--Michael Schrage

ASK ANCEL GLINK...the question changes each Friday. Information submitted to Ancel Glink through this service is not considered confidential, nor does the service create an attorney-client relationship with Ancel Glink.

Q: Do we have to notify any State agency when we engage an independent contractor?

A: As of January 1, 2024, Public Act 103-0343 creates an obligation to report to the Illinois Department of Employment Security engagements with self-employed independent contractors. While the Unemployment Insurance Act has always applied to newly hired employees, the Act expands the obligation to also include an individual under an independent contractor arrangement who (i) has not previously been employed by the employer or (ii) who was previously employed by the employer but has separated from that prior employment for at least 60 consecutive days. Note that the new reporting obligation does not seem to extend to employees of vendors an employer contracts with for work performed by the vendor's own employees. Instead, the intent of the law is to capture those independent contractors who are not subject to reporting by their employers because they are self-employed and working under a 1099 form.

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

More Ancel Glink FAQs and 10 Pamphlets at: <http://www.ancelglink.com>. You can also visit: Municipal Minute at: <http://municipalminute.ancelglink.com> and The Workplace Report at: <http://workplacereport.ancelglink.com>

SERVICE DELIVERY

In order to ensure you receive our Daily News Headlines, you should add our email address info@list.localgovnews.org to your address book. You should also have your Information Technology professional "White List" info@list.localgovnews.org.
<http://www.localgovnews.org/innovation/LGNWhitelist.pdf>

STOP SERVICE

If you prefer not to receive this service, please reply to info@list.localgovnews.org with the word 'remove' in the subject heading.

P.O. Box 541
Downers Grove, IL 60515