

Subject: News Headlines: 3-1-24

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

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News Headlines: March 1, 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

Standardized testing is deeply woven into the fabric of US education, but does it foster genuine learning? Shedding light on the racial biases, financial costs and limited effectiveness of this kind of testing - calling for a fundamental shift to prioritize teacher-led instruction and empower students

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

Do U.S. Public Schools Really Need 77,000 More Counselors? Schools were already staffed at record levels even before COVID-19, when enrollment fell by nearly 1.3M students

<https://bit.ly/49yue4H>

How prioritizing culture boosted attendance, academics in a Virginia middle school

<https://bit.ly/3uYO0as>

3 ways schools are taking classes outside to expand mindfulness; Giving students time outside, whether on a school trip or with a container garden to tend, can develop mindset skills that last a lifetime

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

How one school scaled up science of reading professional development

<https://bit.ly/3ljx6X7>

Don't wait until next February to improve the educational experiences of Black students; Black students should see themselves reflected in curriculum and instruction beyond Black History Month

<https://bit.ly/3uP3kqh>

As COVID-19 emergency funding dries up, some rural schools may face a steep fiscal cliff in 2024; Lower-income districts are likely to face bigger budget reductions, along with districts who spent relief aid on teacher salaries and new faculty hires

<https://bit.ly/3uJQoC6>

College presidents anxious about waning public trust in higher education

<https://bit.ly/3uRY2u5>

Pennsylvania colleges would be 'equal partners' under new system; An 11-page report offers new details about the governor's plan to unite the state's university system and community colleges

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

Elite high schools are the new model for diversity without affirmative action

<https://bit.ly/3SYbW5R>

Ohio University is "temporarily pausing" awarding race-based diversity scholarships after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down race-conscious admissions over the summer

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

Federal complaint alleges Berkeley, California, public schools allowed discrimination against Jewish children

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

School safety bills to beef up security, give teachers firearm training pass Utah Legislature

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

28 Wake County, North Carolina, schools to test Panic Button App for emergency notifications

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

An unexpected way to fight chronic absenteeism: School districts are having some success with using telemedicine and teletherapy to ensure more kids stay in school

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

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Illinois Students Asked To Confront Hate, Bigotry In Essay Contest

<https://bit.ly/3P4E7il>

The superintendent of New Trier High School District 203 pledged to focus on fighting antisemitism as part of the district's annual strategic plan following backlash to his decision to block students from distributing stickers for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

<https://bit.ly/3P51hFw>

'Disservice to all families': Chicago Catholic Schools chief rejects state scholarship study

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

Skilled trades are in high demand, from brick laying to pipe fitting, and thousands of Chicago Public Schools students got the opportunity to learn all about them, and their possible career paths

<https://cbsn.ws/3wHq240>

The Chicago Teachers Union is pushing a plan to tax "mansions." But the tax would mainly hit commercial buildings, such as the building where the union is housed

<https://bit.ly/4304w6P>

New STEM Learning Facility For Noggin Builders Completed In Northbrook

<https://bit.ly/3UZ9Oxd>

An assistant principal at Hinsdale South High School is leaving to become the principal of Lisle High School
<https://bit.ly/3SWVLpq>

Educational group calls Invest in Kids test scores report deeply flawed
<https://bit.ly/3OZjXGw>

Gov. Pritzker Announces \$2.55B Higher Education Budget Boost for Illinois
<https://bit.ly/3wD4CoT>

Higher education leaders across the state applauded Governor JB Pritzker's budget announcement, which includes a fiscal year 2025 higher education budget of \$2.55B
<https://bit.ly/3lpKyZv>

Illinois lawmakers considering a funding request to pay teachers a retention bonus expressed skepticism on whether the program is working and improving education outcomes.
<https://bit.ly/48D4m6C>

The reach of the Chicago Teachers Union combined with their anti-police ideology is putting Chicago's youth at risk. Chicago Public Schools need school resource officers, but this fall they become police-free zones
<https://bit.ly/48ywsjf>

The Chicago Teachers Union is pushing a plan to tax "mansions." But the tax would mainly hit commercial buildings, such as the building where the union is housed
<https://bit.ly/3wD4gP5>

Illinois public school students outperformed tax-credit scholarship students on state standardized tests
<https://bit.ly/3uUCJlh>

After a stressful year, four Chicago 8th graders have learned where they'll go to high school
<https://bit.ly/3Te2EUF>

Illinois Board of Higher Education Secures Grant to Spearhead College Admissions Overhaul
<https://bit.ly/3wD4G87>

The Aurora City Council Tuesday night approved a \$183,000 contract with Cities in Schools to provide summer programs for young people in the city
<https://bit.ly/3wBve9G>

Woodlawn's South Side YMCA will soon offer paid training in construction jobs and other trades thanks to a \$550,000 grant from the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program
<https://bit.ly/4bT3PjD>

Governor Pritzker Celebrates State-of-the-Art Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Heartland College
<https://bit.ly/49UxCqp>

New online applications and software have significantly expanded Leyden Community High School Dist. 212's ability to communicate with families with limited to no English-language proficiency

<https://bit.ly/42WsfF1>

Olympia School District referendum 'won't increase tax rates', allows pool repair funds and more if passed

<https://bit.ly/49vS6G8>

Rockford: Goodwill to offer free adult high school. The city plans to use \$600k in COVID relief money to help bring it to life

<https://bit.ly/3P5hQAZ>

One of the largest tile-drained test plots in the country will be located at the University of Illinois, thanks to a massive investment from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Studies

<https://bit.ly/49WNXL5>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fed's key inflation measure rose in January, validating high-rate hold

<https://bit.ly/48vZRe0>

Personal income and spending were healthy in January

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

The 'great wealth transfer' might benefit women more than men, which has big implications for society

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

Millennials on course to become 'richest generation in history'; Generational transfer of wealth largely built up in property will amount to \$90T in US alone, report says

<http://tinyurl.com/ymwrhvwj>

The Economy Is Doing Way Better Than Many Believe; Despite the popular narrative, Millennials have dramatically more wealth than Gen Xers had at the same age, and incomes continue to grow with each new generation

<https://bit.ly/3T1bQue>

Two trends help make millennials seem lazy to their elders; We change how we view work as we age, and society's view of work is also shifting

<https://bit.ly/49V2xCS>

States with Highest Population Growth

<https://bit.ly/3T18Xd7>

The multi-family serious delinquency rate increased sharply in January to 0.44% from 0.28% in December, and up from 0.12% in January 2023

<https://bit.ly/49VV1Yn>

A billionaire-backed campaign for a new California city is off to a bumpy start. Again

<https://bit.ly/3lj3LMt>

Dying malls are everywhere. This Georgia town came up with an unusual way to save theirs; The county is adapting empty storefronts and an enclosed promenade into a new kind of centrally located civic center, complete with public-facing government offices and facilities, a large and air-conditioned early-voting site, and a 12,000-seat amphitheater outside

<https://bit.ly/49SZH1d>

Metro board approves Dodger Stadium gondola; Project backers hope to complete the \$500M system before the 2028 Olympics; Project announced more than five years ago by Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit

<https://bit.ly/4bXW1wW>

Podcast: How Local Businesses Can Compete with Larger Rivals; Community engagement can help to set you apart

<https://bit.ly/3UZf4kB>

Behind Apple's Doomed Car Project: False Starts and Wrong Turns; Internal disagreements over the direction of the Apple car led the effort to sputter for years before it was canceled

<https://nyti.ms/3lj6buD>

Self-flying air taxis planned for Houston-area skies

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

Congressional action on energy permitting remains stuck, but states, developers are finding solutions

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

Coastal Residents Are Right to Be Worried About Offshore Wind; All along the Eastern Seaboard, concerns about industrial wind turbines continue to grow. There are better ways to generate clean, reliable, less costly power

<https://bit.ly/3P3OYcx>

Supply chain headaches persist 4 years into pandemic; Construction input costs are up 38.7% compared to February 2020

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

EPA will allow year-round sales of higher blends of ethanol in Midwest

<https://bit.ly/3liv4qb>

American Steel Production Has Fallen to Pre-Tariff Levels; The debate is over. Trump's steel tariffs failed

<https://bit.ly/3uT4GQM>

To circumvent tariffs imposed on its exports to the United States, China is increasing its use of Mexico as a conduit. Beijing's particular focus is on its automobile export market

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

The last stand of the call-center worker; AI is poised to eliminate customer-service agents. We'll miss them when they're gone

<https://tinyurl.com/mvrtm35r>

The AI Culture Wars Are Just Getting Started; Google apologized after its Gemini model caused offense by being too "woke." Expect political fights over AI's values to worsen as the technology becomes more capable
<https://bit.ly/48wnsuV>

Bears, Sox could team up on stadium proposals; Pritzker reacts; Legislators in Springfield have advised both teams to work together on a single stadium proposal
<https://bit.ly/3OY9qLW>

Chicago leaders announce committee to revitalize downtown area, including State Street; Redevelopment of Thompson Center for Google is key to providing an anchor downtown
<https://abc7.ws/3v2J98a>

Manufacturers are pushing back after the City of Chicago filed lawsuits against oil and gas companies over climate issues
<https://bit.ly/436o1KX>

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson outlines vision for downtown revitalization
<https://bit.ly/3v2zHBL>

Mayor Johnson announces new measures to help struggling Loop business district
<https://bit.ly/3lpKPM1>

As former Uptown Catholic school redevelopment begins, Uptown parishioners worry about church's future
<https://bit.ly/48D7pvA>

ComEd payment system restored after botched upgrade left customers unable to pay bills online for days
<https://bit.ly/48yxZ9c>

When Waukegan was named one of 13 locations in Illinois to receive a \$5M grant as a CEJA Workforce Hub focusing on green energy jobs, Lake County Workforce Development and the College of Lake County began working together to seek the funds

Pace sees post-pandemic recovery, but driver shortages hinder service expansion
<https://bit.ly/3wD6lVN>

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul urges borrowers with commercial FFEL loans to consolidate before April 30 to qualify for a loan forgiveness opportunity due to past servicing errors
<https://bit.ly/4bZA7te>

Former Chicago Spire site to house two residential towers
<https://bit.ly/3V0cc7g>

State Street downtown has highest vacancy rate ever, but experts say there is hope. An expert said short-term leases, or "activations," for retail or art galleries could make a major difference
<https://cbsn.ws/3wBAIRM>

New Law Would Ban Illinois Auto Insurers From Using Race, Gender in Setting Rates

<https://bit.ly/4bUtOr4>

A new grant program launched in January by Evanston's economic development office seeks to help small businesses still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic's long-term economic impacts

<https://bit.ly/3wC6TRc>

Evanston Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander Americans plans for Asian American Art and Cultural Center

<https://bit.ly/3P2LyXi>

Committee backs deal with Volkswagen dealer that would keep the business in Evanston for 10 years

<https://bit.ly/3V0IVdr>

Evanston's Economic Development Committee recommended that the City Council approve a sales tax sharing agreement with City Volkswagen in an effort to keep the dealership in the city

<https://bit.ly/49q2SxH>

The City of Evanston has launched Enjoy Evanston, a centralized website along with dedicated social media platforms for each business district, to serve as a go-to source for what's happening throughout the city

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

Developer pauses plans for 110 rental units in Johnsburg, which also puts brakes on new water tower

<https://bit.ly/3V0xS2R>

The Plainfield Village Board reviewed a site plan proposal from Hawk Auto to construct a new car dealership

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

Illinois Seniors Encouraged to Take Advantage of Property Tax Deferral Program

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

Rail station planning begins on Peoria to Chicago line, with public meetings in Ottawa, Utica, Morris, Peru

<https://bit.ly/3V0zeuK>

State engineer recommends rejecting McLean County CO2 sequestration project

<https://bit.ly/3V0BXV0>

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

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

Committee OKs parking variation for \$25M Rockford project despite split votes

<https://bit.ly/3UVb30D>

Illinois farmers battle adversity to 2023's strong crop yield

<https://bit.ly/3P2okAA>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mounting research shows that COVID-19 leaves its mark on the brain, including with significant drops in IQ scores

<https://bit.ly/3wu2TSA>

CDC recommends spring COVID booster for people 65 and up; The shot should be taken at least four months since the last COVID vaccination

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

FDA inspectors found problems with record keeping and quality controls for animal experiments at Elon Musk's Neuralink, less than a month after the startup said it was cleared to test its brain implants in humans

<http://tinyurl.com/mr42mdsr>

Parents, Not the Government, Should Make IVF Decisions; Two-thirds of Americans oppose the Alabama ruling that claims frozen embryos are equivalent to children

<https://bit.ly/3uS2Y1Y>

A 'Stunning' Element of the Alabama IVF Ruling; A legal historian who studies the abortion battle explains why the state Supreme Court's decision is so momentous

<https://politi.co/3uS6rh0>

Alabama's GOP-controlled House voted to give doctors who provide in-vitro fertilization civil and criminal immunity for any death or damage to embryos

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

State lawmakers take a closer look at personhood laws in wake of Alabama ruling; More than a third of states consider fetuses to be people at some point during pregnancy. Any one of them could be the next Alabama

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

'Iron Man' pilots race in jet suits against a backdrop of Dubai skyscrapers

<https://bit.ly/3UUL8WV>

A wildfire scorching the Texas Panhandle has grown to the largest in state history

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

Deadly Texas wildfire torches 1M acres - the largest blaze in state history - as more infernos rage out of control

<http://tinyurl.com/4zan49ud>

Texas fires happen in the winter. Just never at this scale before

<https://bit.ly/48w105i>

E-bike batteries started 267 fires in New York City last year. These swapping stations are designed to help; The city just launched a new pilot to help delivery riders avoid charging batteries at home

<https://bit.ly/4bXAu7S>

Your Bike Just Got Stolen. These Vigilantes Will Get It Back; 'I hate thieves.' Bike theft is booming, but so is

the army of citizen sleuths fighting it

<https://on.wsj.com/3P3ZcJX>

Ultra-processed food is directly linked to 32 harmful effects to health, including a higher risk of heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes, adverse mental health and early death, according to the world's largest review of its kind

<http://tinyurl.com/23pjsv5h>

Your fast food wrappers no longer contain 'forever chemicals'; PFAS, known to harm the liver and immune system and cause certain cancers, has been removed from food packaging thanks to a joint effort by the FDA and food manufacturers

<https://bit.ly/3UU9srS>

States consider menthol cigarette bans as feds delay action; About 80% of Black smokers use menthol cigarettes, which are more harmful than regular cigarettes

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

Ohio has launched a \$20M research project to study the social and biological factors influencing mental health. Researchers hope the study will continue for two decades and deliver actionable insights for policymakers nationwide

<https://bit.ly/48AroL9>

Louisiana Legislature sends 'tough-on-crime' bills to governor's desk; Death penalty expansion, parole elimination bills to be discussed

<https://bit.ly/3wwlL2h>

The Georgia House of Representatives is considering a bill that would force sheriffs to report criminal illegal aliens to federal law enforcement after an illegal alien with a criminal record was charged with murder in the slaying of 22-year-old Laken Riley in a sanctuary city

<http://tinyurl.com/nhst56bt>

Georgia House OKs bill to provide gun-related tax credits, prevent tracking of firearm purchases

<https://bit.ly/3uRf4bF>

SCOTUS Ponders the Implications of Prosecuting Gun Owners for a Crime Invented by Bureaucrats; Several justices seemed troubled by an ATF rule that purports to ban bump stocks by reinterpreting the federal definition of machine guns

<https://bit.ly/3uRA0zn>

How the Supreme Court Created One Nation Under the Gun; Two years after the high court's ruling in Bruen, we now live in a world with a constitutional expectation that any firearm is a legal firearm

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

New York Police Department misconduct lawsuits have cost the city more than \$540M in the last six years

<https://bit.ly/3SW2aRW>

Could Illinois budget reduction hurt opioid fight in state? There are proposed cuts to the Substance Use

Prevention and Recovery program

<https://bit.ly/3uTjOh2>

Bill seeking to implement state gun 'buyback' program gets pushback

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

Chicago Taxpayers Pay \$99K to Ex-CPD Officer Who Said Boss Ordered Her to Protect His Bridgeport Block During 2020 Unrest

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

His conviction was overturned after 35 years wrongfully served. State law caps his compensation at 14 years

<https://bit.ly/3wCV5y9>

Illinois leads nation in overturned wrongful convictions but has one of the lowest repayment structures

<https://bit.ly/49FI9WY>

Digital court hearings cause uneasiness for young offenders

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

A Chicago Tribune investigation found multiple cases where hospital systems allowed medical providers to keep seeing patients after they were accused of sexual misconduct.

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

A U.S. medical association based in Rosemont is the latest battleground in fight over diversity programs

<https://bit.ly/48DxMS7>

Migrants report reusing soiled diapers on babies amid essential goods shortages in Chicago shelters

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

Elk Grove Village hires Barrington's police chief

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

Chicago Sheriff Dart Launches Campaign to Raise Awareness of Illinois 'Red Flag' Law for Preventing Gun Violence

<https://bit.ly/3P1qNeC>

7 men seek overturn of wrongful convictions, blame disgraced CPD detective

<https://cbsn.ws/3wANS1v>

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias backs bill for digital driver's licenses and IDs in Illinois

<https://bit.ly/3lhK3Rm>

Driver's License On Your Phone? Illinois Secretary Of State Supports Bill To Make It Happen

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

CDPH Investigating Measles Exposures in Chicago

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

Illinois DCFS leaders, advocates share recent growth, potential solutions for foster system

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

Bloomington sees spike in gunfire so far this year compared to year ago. Shootings this year are more than double the amount compared to this time in 2023

<https://bit.ly/3T1YSMK>

Boone County, North Boone fire district merger lies in voter's hands

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

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

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Massachusetts Democrats weighing tightening shelter program amid migrant influx, lack of federal help

<https://bit.ly/3lj8wpm>

R.I.P. for Welfare Reform in New York? The city's emphasis on "equity" and "benefit access" over jobs and self-sufficiency will produce chronically dependent and dissatisfied residents

<https://bit.ly/49XoEJ7>

US Cities Could Be Capturing Bs of Gallons of Rain a Day; With better infrastructure and "spongy" green spaces, urban areas have made progress but should be soaking up way more free stormwater

<https://bit.ly/3v23fPX>

How to feel confident when talking to powerful people

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

The Key to a Fulfilling Career? Variety; To avoid ennui at work, diversify how you spend your time

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

What Employees Need from Leaders in Uncertain Times; Four strategies to engage your people - even under the most unforgiving circumstances

<https://bit.ly/3uS4v8e>

Thinking about God may encourage risk taking; Here's how belief in a higher power can act like a psychological safety net

<https://bit.ly/3P14BkV>

If Governor Pritzker is successful in ending Illinois grocery tax, Peoria might add its own tax

<https://bit.ly/3OXy7Yz>

Three of Chicago's most important civic organizations are urging the City Council and Mayor Johnson to

make major ethics changes designed to keep the public informed and engaged with what the council is considering

<https://bit.ly/3wBgHe8>

Chicago Mayor Johnson's Incompetence Spiral; Johnson's incompetence and doctrinaire progressivism - could have been predicted about a creature of the notorious Chicago Teacher's Union long before he was elected, so nobody here has any excuses

<https://bit.ly/49W6oQ3>

Chicago Ignored Dozens Of Warnings Of Migrant Shelter Conditions Before Child's Death; Despite warnings, numerous hospitalizations and dozens of reports, Chicago officials continuously funneled thousands of migrants into an industrial warehouse that was never meant to house people

<https://bit.ly/49V9vI4>

Mayor Johnson looking to help house Chicago's homeless population; Chicago has about 68,000 people experiencing homelessness even while the city dedicates \$77M in direct funding to address the issue

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

Schaumburg Board Faces Backlash for Rejecting Gaza Cease-Fire Resolution Request

<https://bit.ly/49Va9Fu>

Explosive meeting in Evanston raises speech issue; Commenters over Zoom made anti-Semitic statements, while a young man sporting sunglasses and a baseball cap bearing the logo of an organization characterized as a "hate" group by the Anti-Defamation League spoke in person

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

Low tax collection rate in south suburbs shows need for development, changes in Springfield; Only 86.4% of billed taxes owed by residents were collected by local governments in the south suburbs, according to the analysis of the recently concluded 2022 tax year, far below the average tax collection rate in Cook County of 96%

<https://bit.ly/3P41yZ4>

Dolton mayor denies involvement in her namesake charity

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

Thornton Township is again asking voters to approve a referendum that would levy a tax to support mental health services

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

Idea to ship Chicago garbage downstate has been scrapped; Abandoned an idea to send garbage down the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal to the city of Henry

<https://bit.ly/4c7S49k>

Johnson urged to deliver on transparency, public access promises for Chicago City Council

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

Chicago civic groups call on mayor, aldermen to enact City Council ethics reforms

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

Proposal to ship tons of Chicago garbage down the river is dead in the water

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

What's Next For Bring Chicago Home? What You Need To Know About The Controversial Referendum

<https://bit.ly/3P3nOCi>

Naperville 2023 end of year budget report shows modest transfer tax revenue, deficit in electric utility fund

<https://bit.ly/49x09CM>

Low tax collection rate in south suburbs shows need for development, changes in Springfield

<https://bit.ly/49R2yl4>

Chicago still stalled on free public toilet pilot

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

After 17 Years, Strip Club's Legal Fight for Broadview Site Fizzles

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

Illinois towing laws: Your level of protection is dictated by where you live

<https://bit.ly/48JRE6c>

Northlake Public Library Asking Residents To Vote 'Yes' For 'Zero Tax Rate Increase'

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

Potential pause to Evanston's gas and propane leaf blower ban stirs up controversy

<https://bit.ly/3wB7D9b>

For the past two years, Environmental Justice Evanston has been working on a prototype of a map based on environmental equities data in partnership with the city. The geographic information system mapping tool will identify the places in Evanston facing significant environmental disadvantages

<https://bit.ly/4c05nbU>

\$1M donation comes in to support Highland Park's permanent memorial

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

Public lashes out at Oak Park library over management of Palestinian culture event. Many are criticizing the library for mishandling the event and eliminating at least one DEI position

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

DuPage County crews will plant oak trees along a stretch of the Illinois Prairie Path near West Chicago thanks to a \$10,000 grant

<https://bit.ly/3V0yh5t>

Sanctuary status for Kane County already decided by state law

<https://bit.ly/3OYcCa3>

Prospect Heights City Council approved using Special Service Area 8 (SSA) funds to cover a portion of the

cost for ongoing Levee 37 flood wall storm sewer remediation

<https://bit.ly/3Tg1V5t>

La Salle residents testify at Illinois Pollution Control Board hearing about wastewater agreement

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

Lee County court gets \$1.016M grant for tech upgrades

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

Peoria agency offers help for people struggling to pay their electric bills

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

Normal Public Library will be shutting down in a few weeks for some much-needed upgrades. The \$5.1M project will remove asbestos and renovate the library's carpeting, flooring, lighting, internet and walls

<https://bit.ly/3SR41aw>

Gibson City retention pond project 'a good start' in tackling city's drainage issues

<https://bit.ly/3V2bAxW>

The City of Bloomington and Town of Normal will spend about \$101M over the next decade to remove lead water pipes leading to people's homes, most of that in Bloomington

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

Geneseo council OKs \$100K on land for fifth well

<https://bit.ly/4bYc2TD>

SPACE NEEDS - NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Four fire station design best practices

<https://bit.ly/3lp0ECF>

Proposed state budget includes \$40M National Guard facility for Peoria

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

\$20M YMCA Building Project, Indoor Pool, Coming To Shorewood?

<https://bit.ly/3v2oMYN>

Lyons Township High School Goes With Same Appraiser For Willow Springs Land; School officials hope to use the proceeds from the land to pay for improvements to both campuses

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

Chicago investing \$4.3M in Cornell Square Park. The park and its facilities are more than 100 years old

<https://cbsn.ws/3wCY0a5>

Wilmette's village board this week reviewed preliminary plans for a new 60,500 square foot police headquarters building, with indoor parking and a price tag of around \$55M

<https://bit.ly/49zaUo2>

Oak Park Village Hall remodel could include glass addition

<https://bit.ly/3SX4TdD>

A Downers Grove-based nonprofit is fundraising for a \$300M underwater education and research facility in North Chicago envisioned as a worldwide attraction

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

Renovation projects in the works at Lyons Township High School

<https://bit.ly/3T6Myv0>

Residents push for new Sycamore Park District pool

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

Quincy School Board cleared the way Wednesday night for \$7.2M in summer projects at Quincy High School, Quincy Junior High School and Flinn Stadium

<https://bit.ly/42Yuzv2>

Quincy School District will spend nearly \$700,000 on new turf and track at Flinn

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

STATE & FEDERAL

A Cook County judge decided former President Donald Trump's name should be removed from the Illinois primary ballot, but put a hold on the order expecting an appeal. Trump's campaign said it will "quickly appeal"

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

Illinois GOP legislators react to judge ordering Trump's removal from ballot

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

Donald Trump's lawyers seek reversal of ruling that dropped former president from Illinois GOP primary ballot

<https://bit.ly/3uGZP5i>

Is Trump still on Illinois ballot? What to know after judge rules to remove his name

<https://bit.ly/3v2zEWB>

A federal judge put the sentencing of four former utility executives and lobbyists on hold Thursday until after the U.S. Supreme Court decides a case involving the federal bribery statute this summer

<https://bit.ly/3SQHYk4>

ComEd bribery sentencings postponed while Supreme Court reviews Indiana corruption case

<https://bit.ly/49Tm5rr>

Illinois Embraces Future with Pritzker's Budget: Education, Seniors, and Economic Growth at Heart

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

Illinois Governor Pritzker stands firm concerning push to end state grocery tax

<https://bit.ly/3uT4i4G>

For some, the American dream requires lots of paperwork

<https://bit.ly/3ll0Xyq>

Illinois' ban on book bans may infringe literary freedom, advocates say

<https://bit.ly/49V0wa0>

State Rep. Carol Ammons wants descendants of slaves in Illinois to have access to free DNA testing

<https://bit.ly/3V0Elef>

Illinois may soon require all businesses to charge only the advertised price for goods and services, thanks to a new bill in the statehouse

<https://bit.ly/3P5tADD>

Pritzker encourages families that want to have children through IVF to come to Illinois

<https://bit.ly/3ThE45f>

—

What a Tricky Economic Cycle Means for State Budgets; Revenues are coming in slower, creating some shortfalls. Following recent boom times, even a bit of belt-tightening is going to come as a shock

<https://bit.ly/3SY2CPp>

The U.S. set a new record for \$B climate disasters in 2023. State budgets are increasingly shouldering the costs of more frequent and expensive weather events

<https://bit.ly/3P25TfE>

Minnesota lawmakers gave nonprofits \$1.1B last year. Will we know if it's well spent? Hundreds of nonprofits that used their legislative connections to win funding from lawmakers last year, sidestepping the onerous process of competing for grants from state agencies

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

Is Now the Right Time for a Ransomware Payment Ban? Experts have long debated a nationwide ban on paying cyber extortionists. But any ban must be paired with measures to help targets improve defenses, cybersecurity experts say

<https://bit.ly/3wyMkF7>

Florida House approves legislation requiring disclaimers on AI political ads

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

The US is bracing for complex, fast-moving threats to elections this year, FBI director warns

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

Inside Mitch McConnell's Season of Losses; The GOP leader is frustrated and vexed but as clear-sighted as ever in his strategy

<https://politi.co/3uQw4Pq>

Both Sides Hated McConnell, and It Had Nothing to Do with Trump; It was McConnell's efficacy as a leader of the Senate conference that irritated both his Democratic and Republican critics

<https://bit.ly/4c7TDUK>

McConnell's Replacement Must Preserve the Filibuster at All Costs; The much-criticized parliamentary maneuver is our most potent guardian of political diversity, local control, and democratic pluralism

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

McConnell Built Today's Supreme Court. Will He Come to Regret It? Mitch McConnell went to extraordinary lengths to transform the federal judiciary. But did he win the day for conservatism or for Trump?

<https://politi.co/3ThRH4u>

How Trump's Enablers Are Making Authoritarian Rule More Likely; Mitch McConnell's real legacy? He consistently enabled Trump and MAGA for years-then failed to act against Trump when it really could have counted

<https://bit.ly/3wu3940>

The head of the hardline House Freedom Caucus is bashing the nascent funding agreement hashed out by leaders of both parties, warning that conservatives would be willing to force a government shutdown to secure steeper cuts and policy preferences

<https://bit.ly/3wB5lqw>

House Speaker Johnson quipped that the reports Congressional leaders ganged up on him during this week's meeting at the White House are "pretty accurate"

<https://bit.ly/3wBma4K>

HealthCare-dot-gov enrollees will also receive voter registration emails, vice president says

<https://bit.ly/42W9bXq>

Biden Amasses Cash Stockpile as Trump Bleeds Money in 2024 Fight

<http://tinyurl.com/4ycx9kyv>

Biden Is Too Old But Trump Is Dangerous, Swing-State Poll Shows

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

Biden critics look to replicate Michigan's 'uncommitted' vote in other states

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

Washington State's Biggest Union Backs "Uncommitted" Democratic Vote; The 50,000-strong chapter said it's worried about Biden's ability to beat Trump, and demanded a ceasefire in Gaza

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

The Media Is Overhyping the "Uncommitted" Threat to Biden

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

Republicans Are Basically Admitting the Hunter Biden Deposition Was a Bust

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

Hunter Biden derided the House impeachment inquiry as "MAGA-motivated conspiracies about my father" in an opening statement during his deposition before congressional investigators

<http://tinyurl.com/4tfd28h7>

Defiant Hunter Biden defends business moves, invokes Kushner deals; Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of former President Trump, secured a huge investment agreement from Saudi Arabia shortly after leaving the White House

<https://bit.ly/4bQ8Qtv>

House Judiciary Committee Chair Jordan defended former first son-in-law Jared Kushner after Hunter Biden, during testimony with House lawmakers, raised questions about his foreign dealings

<https://bit.ly/49y4WDX>

'Outrage' That Once Fueled Democrat Voters Is Slowly Fading as Another Trump Election Looms; Liberal voters are expressing a sense of fatigue in their ongoing resistance against former President Donald Trump as the 2024 election approaches

<http://tinyurl.com/sxmfv7y>

Want to fight Trump's lies? Consider these lessons from Black educators

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

How the Supreme Court just threw Trump's 2024 trial schedule into turmoil; Trump is now unlikely to face criminal charges for election subversion until late summer or fall, at the earliest

<https://politi.co/3lj0zR5>

The Supreme Court's decision to consider whether former President Trump should be immune from prosecution in his federal 2020 election interference case could push a trial close to Election Day - or even beyond this year

<https://bit.ly/49K00vo>

Supreme Court hands Trump a huge win before it even hears his case

<https://bit.ly/3Tfg42P>

Trump Has Already Won His Immunity Case at the Supreme Court; While the justices may ultimately rule against the former president, they've just handed him the legal victory he craved

<https://bit.ly/3wCUI6H>

Why Is Trump Getting Special Treatment from the Supreme Court? The justices are handling Trump's case far differently than most criminal defendants

<https://politi.co/3TgL9TB>

Florida Governor DeSantis Signs Legislation to Release Epstein Docs

<https://tinyurl.com/vwm7neuj>

Florida says it will soon release the grand jury proceedings in Jeffrey Epstein's 2006 s. abuse case

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

Biden is trying to fix Trump's broken immigration system; Biden "has removed a higher percentage of arrested border crossers in its first two years than the Trump DHS did over its last two years"

<https://bit.ly/3wyTb1j>

Trump vs. Biden on immigration: 12 charts comparing U.S. border security

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

\$113.4B vs. \$37.8B: Congress Spent 3 Times as Much on Ukraine as on Customs and Border Protection

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

Judge blocks Texas law that gives police broad powers to arrest migrants who illegally enter US

<https://bit.ly/3IDA9Kd>

This is Texas hold 'em - why Texas is fighting the US government to secure its border with Mexico

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

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas gets subpoena over DHS interference with Texas border-security efforts

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

Representative Democracy Remains a Popular Ideal, but People Around the World Are Critical of How It's Working; Many say their country would be better off if more women, people from poor backgrounds and young adults held elective office

<https://pewrsr.ch/42WjMBs>

Representative democracy remains a favorite system of governance around the globe, but its appeal is slipping on the eve of elections in much of the world, according to a survey of 24 democratic countries

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

Democracy faced sharp, widespread setbacks worldwide in 2023 with violence and manipulation marring a series of elections, Freedom House said

<http://tinyurl.com/e4yk9yx4>

Americans Remain Committed to NATO, Critical of UN; Two-thirds want to see U.S. increase or maintain commitment to NATO

<https://bit.ly/3uQC3Uo>

US adults fracture along party lines in support for Ukraine military funding, poll finds

<https://bit.ly/3OYa7F2>

Republicans used to back Ukraine. Then came middle fingers in Alabama; To many Republicans here and across the country, "Support Ukraine" is now a liberal cause - a costly diversion from more pressing domestic issues, such as securing the southern border

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

Why Is Trump Trying to Make Ukraine Lose? Trump and the people around him are clearly not isolationists in the old-fashioned sense

<https://bit.ly/49OgfY8>

What Is the Plan for Ukraine? Supporters of Ukraine aid have gone hoarse shouting 'Putinist,' but now what?

<https://bit.ly/430u8AD>

Ukraine Sees Risk of Russia Breaking Through Defenses by Summer

<http://tinyurl.com/mstk4bfn>

Putin warns the West risks nuclear war with Russia if NATO troops go to Ukraine

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

Putin Needs to Feel the Pain; Sanctions are a good start but the White House needs to embrace the risks required to tighten the screws on the Kremlin

<https://politi.co/3IkUC6m>

What the Pentagon has learned from two years of war in Ukraine; With hundreds of thousands dead or wounded and still no end in sight, the conflict has revealed that U.S. battlefield calculations must evolve

<https://wapo.st/42Ysn6K>

Senator Rand Paul has a resolution that aims to block a weapons sale worth \$23B to Turkey

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

Shouldn't You Get a Say on the Yemen War? Even Biden's fellow Democrats understand that Congress remains the final authority on authorizing the use of military force

<https://bit.ly/3v2qpWp>

Pentagon Chief Stumbles Over The Number Of Palestinians Killed By Israel; Defense Secretary Austin told Congress that Israeli forces had killed 25,000 women and children, but the Pentagon then said Austin was citing Gaza health ministry numbers on the total number of Palestinians killed

<https://bit.ly/3T0W4iY>

Palestinian deaths in Gaza pass 30,000 as witnesses say Israeli forces fire on crowd waiting for aid; Israeli officials acknowledged that troops opened fire, saying they did so after the crowd approached in a threatening way

<https://bit.ly/3V2jgA3>

Palestinians say Israeli troops fired at people seeking food. Israel says scene was deadly stampede

<https://bit.ly/3V2jgA3>

100-plus killed as Israeli soldiers open fire on Palestinians waiting for aid: Gaza officials

<https://bit.ly/3P1GUsx>

Israel-Gaza war: More than 100 reported killed in crowd near Gaza aid convoy, Hamas-run health ministry says

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhsvr8x>

Biden Says North Gaza Killings At Aid Convoy Will Complicate Negotiations

<https://bit.ly/3V022Dn>

Fears grow in Israel of war with Lebanon's Hezbollah

<http://tinyurl.com/2mv2zacp>

'Lebanon will be next': Iran greenlights Hezbollah attack on Israel - report

<https://bit.ly/3TeHMG6>

China's nuclear expansion is 'breathtaking' in number of weapons and pace, Stratcom general says; Nuclear war dangers seen growing from military links between China, Russia, North Korea and Iran

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

U.S. launches investigation into Chinese-made 'smart cars' for national security threats

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

A big boost to Europe's climate-change goals; A new policy called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will assist Europe's ambition to become carbon-neutral

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

A project in North Dakota wins a \$350M Energy Department grant despite emitting three times more carbon dioxide than it captures and stores

<http://tinyurl.com/53jd72ed>

Half a dozen states registered their highest February temperature on record, as did more than 130 cities and towns, including Minneapolis, Milwaukee, St. Louis and Detroit. Multiple locations also posted their highest temperatures ever observed during any of the winter months

<https://bit.ly/430w9wn>

Scientists find 'fastest known large-scale breakage' along Arctic ice shelf

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

Antarctica: Are we awakening a sleeping giant?

<https://bit.ly/49Vq32C>

Scientists are building tunnels under South Dakota for a \$3B experiment that could solve some of the universe's grandest mysteries; The project DUNE (Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment) is led by scientists at the US Department of Energy's Fermilab

<https://bit.ly/3uTqtb2>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you can't imagine how things are going to change, that doesn't mean that nothing will change. It means that things will change in ways that are unimaginable."

--Bruce Sterling

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: Is written correspondence addressed only to a Mayor a public record available for copying under FOIA?

A: Possibly not. This question was recently addressed again by the Illinois Appellate Court in Shehadeh v. City of Taylorville, where the court reviewed the City's denial of a FOIA request for a copy of the requester's own letter to the Mayor. The most interesting result of the case arises from the Appellate Court ruling that the requester's letter addressed to the Mayor did not qualify as a public record under FOIA because it was not "received by, in the possession of, or under the control of a public body." After analyzing FOIA's definition of a "public body" and prior Illinois cases concluding that an individual alderperson was not a "public body" under FOIA, the Appellate Court concluded that the Mayor is not a "public body" under FOIA. The Court rejected the requestor's argument that an individual Alderperson should be distinguished from a Mayor, noting that even though a Mayor (unlike an individual Alderperson) has legal authority to make certain unilateral decisions and actions, that distinction does not transform a Mayor into a "public body" under FOIA. It is important to note that there is mixed precedent regarding this question.

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

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