

When someone says they don’t want something in the newspaper, doesn’t it make you ask, “Why?”

On the heels of a monumental national election in which a majority of Americans voted to seize back their government and force it to be accountable to the citizenry, someone in the Kansas legislature has decided it’s another perfect time to try to pull the wool over the eyes of Sunflower State residents by restricting your advance notice when government plans to do something to you.

In truth the bill before the Kansas House Local Government Committee which would allow local governments to tuck their legally mandated Public Notices away on their own websites rather than pay the local newspaper to print them is probably as much about cutting the throat of the state’s pesky and starving newspaper industry as it is an attempt to obscure governmental transparency. Either way, if such a cloak-and-dagger measure ever passes the legislature, it will be the public that gets screwed.

Let’s take a revealing quiz: how many of you turned off Facebook or Instagram long enough today to cruise the summary ordinances posted on your city website? Is it part of your daily or weekly routine? How many of you logged on to your county’s site to find the deadline for filing to run for school board or city council this year? How many of you have ever even seen your city or county website?

And maybe you think those notices, with their legal jargon and their court case numbers and their deadlines and their foreclosure announcements and their protest periods aren’t really all that important after all. You probably *will* become a believer when someone wants to build a hog farm south of your house and your heads up came too late, because the zoning change proposal was buried somewhere in your county’s website.

Truth be told, public officials who understand their jobs and their obligation to be open with their citizenry about government actions that will affect those citizens already know publishing those notices publicly in the newspaper makes the most sense. Indeed, it gives them the best defense against the ire that sometimes follows crucial government decisions and actions. Good elected officials and bureaucrats know the best way to CYA is to make sure the people who hold sway over your job are well informed, often and early.

Not only that, but newspaper publication of some of those notices are an important revenue driver for government – look at the threat issued each summer by the county to expose property

REVIEW COMMENTARY



DANE HICKS, Publisher

owners who aren’t paying their property taxes in the annual delinquent tax list published every August, as well as publication of the list of properties to be sold at periodic tax sales. County officials have admitted to us how effective that pressure tactic is – and what’s even better is that the government collects a publication fee from late-paying property owners and foreclosed property buyers to offset those advertising costs when they do in fact eventually pay. Some governments resent paying any money to newspapers because newspapers that are doing their jobs sometimes report negative news about local government. Those public officials would be just as happy if their local newspaper starved to death and withered on the vine – that would make their lives much easier, or so they believe. To understand the true scope of the financial impact these paid notices have on your city or county or school district budget – take the amount they spend on public notice advertising each year and calculate the percentage it reflects of their total budget. At a tiny portion of 1 percent, it may be the most cost effective thing your local government does.

In Kansas, the argument is moot anyway, but that doesn’t keep some legislator with his or her nose out of joint about newspapers from introducing a bill to end those notices every year under the guise of saving local governments money placing their notices online. Newspapers in the state already place all their public notices online for free at no extra charge – at their own expense, mind you (you can see all the public notices for every county in Kansas at www.kansaspublicnotices.com), and it’s done without assigning the duty to someone working at city

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The Anderson County Review’s PHONE FORUM

Record your comments on the topic of your choice at (785) 448-2500. You do not need to leave your name. Comments may be published anonymously. Calls may be edited for publication or omitted.

Dane, to the people who complained about the metal building on the Garnett square, instead of complaining they should be praising those who would invest in Garnett. Sure is nice to have a president in DC instead of a beach bum.

My message concerns Mr. Dane Hicks. What I would like to say, sir, is that you are a first class jackass. Every article I’ve read that you have written has been snotty, condescending and just plain nasty. I don’t know if you know this or not but journalism does not need your opinion in its presentation. In fact a journalist is to keep their opinion to themselves and present facts and facts only.

I was wondering when the city is going to start protecting these cats and taking care of them

like they’re supposed to be?

A flashlight dinner, 2/1/25, 6:15 p.m. Flashlight dinner, out of town guests here for dinner, dinner ruined due to Garnett power outage. Again, dinner in Garnett, Ks., please bring flashlight. Thank you.

It’s pretty sad that you get asked to move out of a public parking spot on the side of the road because some 34 year-old woman is scared.

I struggle trying to comprehend why Democrats hate young people. How can they emote such self-righteousness in the face of what is an out and out war against the youth of our nation? And blatantly promote policies which harm this segment of our population. To name a few: abortion, CRT, genital mutilation, sex trafficking, pornography in our schools and libraries, vaping, fentanyl poisoning, abolishing religion and parents’ rights, etc. Perhaps I should ask a former teacher herself, Laura Kelly, our governor.

Thank you Dane. I have to wonder about this president of ours and Canada becoming the 51st state.

Trump bans transgenders from competing in women’s sports. Hallelujah! Finally a president who is smart enough to know how wrong that really is.

Tennis could lead a needed resurgence in kids athletics

Across the country, young people are dropping out of organized sports. The share of kids ages 6 to 17 who participated in a team sport dropped by nearly 5 percentage points between 2017 and 2022. The decline isn’t primarily because kids are losing interest. Rather, what they’re losing is access -- especially as the cost of participation continues to rise.

Reversing this trend is critically important for kids’ mental and physical health. So it’s worth looking at some of the barriers sports have faced, and how tennis is forward-thinking in this matter.

It’s no secret that learning and playing a sport at an early age can prove enormously valuable. Sports participation is associated with lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression in young people -- as well as better self-esteem, improved cognition, and heightened physical literacy. Physical activity releases endorphins, feel-good hormones that put you in a better frame of mind and enhances brain connections. It helps kids maintain a healthy weight and sets young people on a path to a lifetime of healthy habits.

Barriers to sport involvement, especially financial ones, have been growing ever more formidable. The average cost of playing youth basketball was over \$1,000 a year in 2022. Soccer was almost 20% more expensive, at \$1,188 a year on average. No wonder nearly two-thirds of families say the cost of youth sports is a financial strain.

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



BRIAN HAINLINE – U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Tennis is one of the few sports to counter the trend of inaccessibility. Since 2019, the number of Americans ages 6 and older playing tennis has increased by 34 percent -- and currently stands at 23.8 million.

Part of this success is tennis’s relatively low barriers to entry, especially compared to more equipment-heavy games like hockey, football, or skiing. All you need to get started is a racquet and a few balls -- maybe \$30 worth of equipment in total -- and access to one of the nation’s roughly 270,000 tennis courts, which are typically free to use.

Modest equipment costs are only part of tennis’ growth. The game has found ways to adjust to people of all ages and abilities, including individuals who are too often told they cannot

participate in sports because of physical, mental, or age-related challenges.

Tennis recognizes that not everyone needs to play on the same size court and by the same rules.

All the way down to beginner youth (and all the way up to the elderly), adaptations are available, ranging from the speed and size of the ball, the size and weight of the racket, the size of the court, rules of service, scoring, and the length of a match. Importantly, wheelchair tennis has made a major breakthrough and is an exciting variant of the game that’s widely available.

Tennis is also a game young people can play into adulthood. There are leagues and competitions across the country for players 18 and over, 40 and over, and even 95 and over.

Sports remain one of our best tools for combatting the crisis in youth health. All sports need to look for opportunities to expand their reach through custom tailoring to meet players where they are.

–Brian Hainline, MD is Chair of the Board and President of the United States Tennis Association and recently transitioned from the NCAA as their Chief Medical Officer. He co-chaired the International Olympic Committee Consensus Meetings on both Pain Management in Elite Athletes and Mental Health in Elite Athletes. Brian is Clinical Professor of Neurology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. This piece first appeared in the Boston Herald.

NATIONAL COMMENTARY



RICH LOWRY, King Features Syndicate

In the first Trump administration, Trump adviser Peter Navarro boasted of doing things on “Trump time,” or faster than anyone would have thought possible absent the impatient proddings of his boss. “Musk time” is more rapid still.

A common charge against Musk is that he’s unelected. “Nobody Voted for Elon Musk,” the progressive publication Mother Jones huffed. Well, yes, but no one voted for any other Trump adviser, either. The president is elected to run the executive branch and then relies on myriad people in different positions with varying degrees of power and influence — none of whom are elected — to do it.

There is a long history of presidents tapping informal advisers to assist them. The originally derisive term “kitchen cabinet” dates back to Andrew Jackson in the 1830s.

It is also rich to complain about Elon Musk’s unelected status when no one in the vast federal apparatus that he’s grappling with was elected,

either. The difference is that Musk is operating with the approval of a newly elected president.

Of course, the legalities matter. Musk is a so-called special government employee, which makes him more than just a billionaire who has walked in off the streets, but his powers are limited. As long as federal officers are acting on his advice rather than Musk issuing orders directly, his influence should pass legal muster.

In general, Musk’s DOGE would be well-advised to take account of potential legal obstacles and “move less quickly than it might like and break things” rather than “move fast and break things” and get blocked by the courts. One way or the other, though, the Trump administration’s vision of executive power is on a collision course with the congressional spending power that will inevitably create politically fraught, highly consequential litigation.

As for the Democrats’ campaign against Musk, they may well succeed in making him a hate figure. If the Democrats take the House, presumably, their first act will be to launch an investigation of Musk and issue a 1,000-page report with an hour-by-hour account of the moves of every 23-year-old working for him on DOGE. But by then, Musk already may have made meaningful changes to how the federal government works and be on to his next project — say, mining meteorites or making cold fusion practical.

In the meantime, becoming such an enormous lightning rod that he diverts some of the political heat from Trump himself is another one of Elon Musk’s seemingly impossible achievements.

–Rich Lowry is editor of The National Review

Forget Trump; the era of Musk Derangement Syndrome is upon us

Democrats have finally found someone they hate more than Donald Trump.

Elon Musk, who is currently running roughshod over the federal bureaucracy with a sleep-deprived team of brilliant young tech geeks, is the public enemy of the hour.

After a devastating election loss and three weeks into a whirlwind Trump administration, what most animates a leaderless Democratic Party is the collective shock and horror occasioned by Elon Musk and his handiwork.

If Trump Derangement Syndrome has abated somewhat, Musk Derangement Syndrome has arisen to fill the vacuum.

Democrats are braying at rallies in the street for Musk to get arrested.

They’re trying to subpoena him.

They want to know if his DOGE team is guilty of breaches of national security.

They are targeting him with a bill they’ve dubbed, embarrassingly, the Eliminate Looting of Our Nation by Mitigating Unethical State Kleptocracy (ELON MUSK) Act.

The greatest entrepreneur of our time is bringing a Silicon Valley ethos to the task of pruning and rationalizing federal agencies, a job that Democrats long assumed was so gargantuan and complex that no one would ever dare to seriously attempt it, let alone accomplish it.

The German leftist Rudi Dutschke is associated with the idea of “the long march through the institutions,” or a slow takeover of society by co-opting political and cultural centers of power. In Washington, Musk is attempting a very short march through the institutions — trying in a matter of weeks to reorient the federal bureaucracy and axe waste long targeted by Republicans.

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