



Memorandum

To: Interested parties

From: Future Majority

Subject: This week in the states

Three things to know this week that happened outside the Beltway:

- The nationwide collapse of the dairy industry has hit **Wisconsin** hard. Last year, almost 700 Wisconsin dairy farms went out of business. According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, this equals two dairy farms closing every day and threatening the state's \$88 billion farm economy and hundreds of local communities across the state. ([link](#))
- The Marquette School of Law in **Wisconsin** released the results of a Jan. 16-20, 2019 statewide survey of 800 registered voters in which 27 percent of Wisconsin voters said they would "definitely vote for Trump" in 2020 while 49 percent said they would "definitely vote for someone else". Of the 24 percent who were uncommitted, the poll found those voters largely leaned Republican/conservative, indicating that Trump has lost some ground with conservative voters in a key battleground state that voted for him in 2016. ([link](#))
- Republican **South Dakota** Gov. Kristi Noem says her state, which is dependent on agriculture exports, has been "devastated" by Trump's ongoing trade disputes and urged the Trump administration to quickly wrap up their trade negotiations with China. In Washington for the National Governor's Association Winter Meeting, Noem spoke at a State Solutions Conference hosted by Politico and she appeared on [Morning Joe](#) where she cautioned that the impact of trade disputes on farmers can also impact "every main street business, everybody that has another entity out there that relies on a successful ag industry." ([link](#)) ([link](#))

Elsewhere in the states:

Wisconsin voters cool on Trump and a key voting block for Trump in Northeastern **Ohio** faces the reality that the jobs Trump promised aren't coming back as the future of the GM plant in Trumbull County remains in limbo. In **Illinois**, two prominent Black women advance to Chicago's April 2 mayoral runoff election.

- In Northeast **Ohio**, Trumbull County was once a Democratic stronghold but voted for Trump in 2016 based in part on his promise to return manufacturing jobs to the region and revive the Mahoning Valley. Now, as the General Motors Co.'s Lordstown Assembly Plant is "unallocated" – not quite closed, not quite open – and the region braces to lose its economic engine. ([link](#))
- Democratic **Wisconsin** Gov. Tony Evers issued an executive order recalling the state's 112 National Guard troops from the border with Mexico saying, "*There is simply not*



ample evidence to support the president's contention that there exists a national security crisis at our southwestern border. Therefore, there is no justification for the ongoing presence of Wisconsin National Guard personnel at the border. I cannot support keeping our brave service men and women away from their families without a clear need or purpose that would actively benefit the people of Wisconsin or our nation." ([link](#))

- The **Wisconsin** National Guard may discipline Republican Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who belongs to the Wisconsin Guard detachment, after he criticized Evers' decision to recall the state's National Guard troops from the Southern border in Arizona. Kinzinger is a pilot and Lt. Colonel with the Wisconsin Air National Guard. On Monday, he harshly slammed Evers on Twitter and Fox News. According to Wisconsin statute, any commissioned officer who uses "contemptuous words against the president, the vice-president, members of congress, the secretary of defense, the secretary of a military department, the secretary of homeland security, or the governor or legislature of the state of Wisconsin shall be punished as a court-martial may direct." ([link](#))
- **Chicago** is poised to elect its first ever Black female mayor as former federal prosecutor Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle advance to an April 2 runoff. Chicago will become the largest city in the country led by a Black woman, and if Lightfoot prevails, she will be Chicago's first openly LGBTQ mayor. ([link](#))
- **Colorado** joined 11 other states (CA, CT, MA, MD, NJ, NY, HI, IL, RI, VT, WA) and the District of Columbia in the [National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#). The compact, which now encompasses 172 electoral votes, would bypass the Electoral College by guaranteeing the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ([link](#))
- Embattled Republican Mark Harris announced that due to health concerns, he will not run in the new election that has been called in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District by the **North Carolina** State Board of Elections. ([link](#))
- The Republican political operative at the center of the **North Carolina** 9th Congressional District election fraud scandal, Leslie McCrae Dowless, Jr. has been arrested on charges of illegal ballot handling and conspiracy. ([link](#))
- Republican **Kentucky** Governor Matt Bevin, up for reelection this fall, voiced his support for President Trump and his trade policies during the same Politico State Solutions Conference, and said he would be "delighted" to have Trump and Pence stump for his reelection. Bevin, with a 51% disapproval rating, has the dubious distinction of being the least popular governor in the country, according to a [Morning Consult poll](#) released in January. ([link](#))
- In **Pennsylvania** Republican Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman said this week it is time to discuss an increase in the state's \$7.25 an hour minimum wage, which has not



had an increase in a decade. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, first elected in 2014, has pressed each year for an increase to the state's minimum wage and has called for increasing Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025. ([link](#))

- An Iowa Poll finds Senator Chuck Grassley's approval rating at 58% and in the same range at other statewide Republicans. According to the poll, 59% of **Iowa** adults 18 and over approve of Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds' job performance, and 57% approve of Republican Sen. Joni Ernst's. The poll of 803 Iowa adults was conducted Feb. 10-13 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.5%. ([link](#))

2020 presidential race key state travels & news:

- The Des Moines Register has a handy 2020 candidate tracker for all announced and prospective Democratic and Republican candidates visiting **Iowa**. On the Republican side, the Register is tracking Trump, Tom Cotton, Ben Sasse, Adam Kinzinger, and Mike Pence. As for Democrats, the Register is tracking everyone...oddly including Alec Baldwin. ([link](#))
- Democratic Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has a guest column in the Des Moines Register focused on the importance of revitalizing rural communities. He says he looks forward to his visit to **Iowa** in March and that he hopes to learn more about "how Iowa has diversified its economy to claim the nation's lowest unemployment rate." ([link](#))

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