



Memorandum

To: Interested parties

From: Future Majority

Subject: This week in the states

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

- A pro-gun constitutional amendment that goes further than the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed both chambers of the **Iowa** legislature this week. The amendment passed the Iowa Senate 33-16 and the Iowa House 53-46, and it would again need to be passed by the legislature and then approved by voters before becoming law.

The amendment reads: *"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny."* Full text of the amendment is [here](#). ([link](#))

- Trump is trying for a third year in a row to kill funding for the Great Lakes – this time proposing to slash \$270 million from the \$300 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The popular initiative funds wetlands restoration and projects to improve water quality across the **Upper Midwest**. The proposal in Trump's budget is part of his plan to cut the EPA budget by \$3 billion – more than 30 percent of its current budget. ([link](#))
- *The New York Times* takes a look at how "Trump's brand of grievance politics" played out in this week's special election to fill a vacant **Pennsylvania** statehouse seat representing Lackawanna County. Democrat Bridget Malloy Kosierowski defeated Republican Frank Scavo III, the son of immigrants, 62 percent to 37 percent in the Democratic-leaning area. Scavo drew heavy criticism for a series of old Facebook posts, in which he referred to Muslims as "infidels" and propagated the "pizzagate" conspiracy theory. Scavo, his wife and his supporters fret about the end of their white American "culture" and lament that instead of apologizing for his posts, Scavo should have "doubled down." They argue that Democrats are "rats," that Scavo is being maligned by the "fake news media" and the "deep state" and they believe he is the victim of a "witch hunt" much like their "poor president". They fear the onslaught of socialism and immigration. In the Old Forge, PA community where the Scavos live, the mayor is embroiled in a scandal surrounding a Facebook post in which he said Gov. Cuomo, Speaker Pelosi, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer are "treasonous" and "should be shot". ([link](#))



Elsewhere in the states:

- **Delaware** and **New Mexico** are the latest states to officially vote to give their Electoral College presidential votes to whomever wins the national popular vote. If Governors John Carney (D-DE), Jared Polis (D-CO) and Michell Lujan Grisham (D-NM) sign the bills before them, the national popular vote compact would have 189 of the 270 electoral college votes needed to elect the president. ([link](#)) ([link](#)) ([link](#))
- A new “ag-gag” bill is headed to **Iowa** Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds’ desk, and she’s expected to sign the measure into law. The bill threatens legal action against agricultural whistleblowers even though a federal judge ruled a similar law passed in 2012 was unconstitutional. ([link](#))
- **Iowa** and **Kentucky** are two states where felons must apply to the governor’s office directly to request restoration of their voting rights once their sentences are complete and restitution paid. Previous Democratic governors in Iowa have signed executive orders restoring the voting rights of felons, but Reynolds favors a constitutional amendment to avoid each new governor from having to sign an executive order. Since a constitutional amendment could take years, this week Reynolds simplified the application process and eliminated the processing fee, though Democrats still want her to sign an executive order. ([link](#))
- More restrictive anti-abortion bills pass in **Kentucky**, **Utah** and **Arkansas**. The ACLU has filed suit in Kentucky to block the new measure, leading Republican Gov. Matt Bevin to declare: "Bring it! Kentucky will always fight for life." Both Arkansas and Kentucky passed bills to ban abortions after 18 weeks. ([link](#)) ([link](#))
- Hundreds of immigrants and their allies lobbied **Wisconsin** lawmakers to support Gov. Tony Evers’ proposal to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers’ licenses. ([link](#))
- And in **Kentucky**, Republican Gov. Matt Bevin signed into law a bill that makes it legal to carry a concealed weapon without training or a permit. ([link](#))

2020 Presidential Battleground State Travels & News:

- A recent EPIC-MRA poll in **Michigan** has bad news for President Trump – 49 percent of respondents said they will definitely vote to replace Trump in 2020, while only 31 percent said they would definitely vote to re-election Trump. Sixteen percent said they will consider voting for someone else. Trump’s numbers among self-described Independents are also grim – 44 percent said they will definitely vote for someone else, 27 percent say they will consider backing another candidate and only 18 percent say they would



definitely vote to re-elect. The poll also finds Trump continues to decline with women voters, and while 80 percent of Republicans surveyed think Trump is doing a good/excellent job, only 67 percent say they will vote to re-elect him. ([link](#))

- A new **Iowa** Poll shows that 81 percent of registered Republicans in the state approve of Trump's job performance but are split on whether Trump should have a challenger to the nomination in 2020. Forty percent say they hope Trump will have a challenger, 41 percent hope he won't and 19 percent are unsure. The poll of 400 registered Iowa Republicans has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. It was conducted by Selzer & Co. on March 3-6. ([link](#))
- Another **Iowa** Poll finds Biden (27 percent) and Bernie Sanders (25 percent) still at the top of the heap for Democrats, followed by Elizabeth Warren (9 percent), Kamala Harris (7 percent), Beto O'Rourke (5 percent), Amy Klobuchar (3 percent) and Cory Booker (3 percent). The poll was conducted before O'Rourke's surprise announcement and visit to Iowa this week. It finds that 64 percent — including a majority of likely caucus-goers in every demographic group — think Joe Biden's experience is an asset while roughly one-third think his time has passed. ([link](#))
- Beto O'Rourke kicked off his presidential campaign with a three-day swing through **Iowa**. ([link](#))

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