



## 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 new **Iowa** Poll shows support for Trump's border wall has increased during the past year, though Iowans remain divided on the issue. The new Iowa Poll shows 37% of Iowans say the wall should be funded, which is an increase of 7 % since January 2018. ([link](#))
- Michigan's first Democratic Secretary of State in 24 years creates an Election Modernization Advisory Committee comprised of local and national election experts and voting rights advocates to implement Prop. 3, which was passed in November with 67% support. Prop 3 makes significant changes to Michigan's election laws, including the ability to register up to and on Election Day. ([link](#)) And voting by mail got easier today in **Michigan** with the "no-reason" absentee voting option allowed by Prop. 3 starting today in advance of May elections. ([link](#))
- **Ohio** Republican Governor Mike DeWine has proposed an 18-cent per gallon state gas tax that will generate \$1.2 billion annually and help maintain roads and bridges. This amounts to a 64% increase in the state's current 28-cent gas tax. ([link](#))

Elsewhere in the states:

States react to Trump's national emergency declaration. Fifteen states run by Democratic governors, and one (MD) with a Republican governor, sue to stop it and some Republican lawmakers express doubts while some tow the White House line on the wall.

- **Michigan** and **Minnesota** are two of the 16 states suing to stop Trump's use of an emergency declaration to build a wall. ([link](#)) ([link](#))
- **Wisconsin** Republican lawmakers, including Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner and Sen. Ron Johnson, express unease with Trump's national emergency declaration. ([link](#))
- **South Carolina** Sen. Lindsey Graham is in lock step with Sen. Mitch McConnell that **Kentucky** school children need Trump's wall more than they need \$62 million for Fort Campbell Middle School, which is part of the \$3.6 billion in military construction funds Trump wants to raid to build his wall. ([link](#))



Governors and state legislatures get down to business.

- **Iowa's** new Democratic Gov. Kim Reynolds signs into law “historic” investments into pre-K-12 education. ([link](#))
- A bill moves through the **Iowa** House that would allow guns near courthouses, schools and workplaces. ([link](#))
- A battle over middle-class tax cuts is brewing in **Wisconsin**. Gov. Tony Evers (D) issued his first veto this week when he rejected a Republican plan to cut income taxes for middle-class families using money leftover in the current state budget. Evers said he was not comfortable using surplus money not guaranteed in the next state budget to fund tax cuts. He will instead offer his own 10% tax cut for the middle-class when he releases his first budget next week. ([link](#))
- The Minneapolis Star-Tribune editorializes that Democratic **Minnesota** Gov. Tim Waltz's first budget “aims high” but “comes with a big price tag” and says it is “too big” in their view by increasing spending by more than \$2 billion and taxes by \$1.2 billion. ([link](#))

The North Carolina State Board of Elections called for a new election in the contested NC-09 on the heels of a shocking admission by Republican Mark Harris' son and Harris himself calling for a new election.

- The unanimous vote by the State Board of Elections came after four days of testimony, which included Harris' own son admitting he had warned his father about McCrae Dowless' potentially illegal absentee ballot tactics and culminated with Harris himself calling for a new election. ([link](#))

2020 presidential race key state travels.

- Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) is planning a trip to **Iowa** as he considers a bid for the Democratic nomination. ([link](#)) And Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) made her second trip to the state this week. ([link](#))
- Sen. Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke visit **Wisconsin** both with a message that they will not ignore the state as they seek the Democratic nomination for president. ([link](#))
- Sen. Klobuchar tells Wisconsin she stands by her recent vote for Trump's spending bill that includes border barriers. ([link](#))

Early local praise for Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN); Pittsburgh still seeing aftermath of government shutdown; and Philadelphia heats up.



- Newly elected **Minnesota** Rep. Dean Phillips is called a “breath of fresh air” by Hennepin County leaders who appreciate his proactive outreach to them to discuss their federal priorities. ([link](#))
- The **Pittsburgh** Synagogue massacre is cited in new hate group report by the Southern Poverty Law Center that shows rising level of hate groups and deadly hate crimes. ([link](#))
- **Pittsburgh** area food pantries are continuing to see a surge due to the lingering impact of the 35-day federal government shutdown. ([link](#))
- A coalition of 17 education organizations in **Pittsburgh** are organizing a Vote School Board First! initiative to encourage more city residents to register and vote in the upcoming school board elections in May. ([link](#))
- A new report by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science says **Philadelphia** could be as hot as Memphis, TN by 2080 due to climate change. ([link](#))

Tell us what’s happening in your state. Email us at [political@futuremajority.org](mailto:political@futuremajority.org).