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— News From The States —

THIS WEEK IN COMMENTARY

Welcome to the best opinion pieces of the week from **News From The States**. Our commentary includes our own journalists from across our extensive network as well as outside voices to bring a wide range of perspectives and ideas. In addition to the sampling below, [you can look through all our commentary here](#).

TOP COMMENTARY OF THE WEEK

We are facing a sustained, historic assault on democracy in Ohio and across America

David DeWitt | *Ohio Capital Journal*



*The Ohio burgee waving along with the national flag of the United States of America.
Getty Images.*

The textbook definition of democratic decline includes the weakening of democratic institutions like the peaceful transition of power or free and fair elections, and the violation of rights that underpin democracy.

Ohio is in the middle of a sustained, historic assault perpetuating just such a decline, and so is America. Due to events that have been in motion since 2019, the U.S. was added to an annual list of “backsliding” democracies for the first time in 2021.

Democracy refers to the power of the people in our constitutional republic — the power of our vote and our ability to cast ballots, and relatedly, whether we enjoy accountability over our government, whether our rights are protected, whether our elected representatives are responsive to our interests, whether we receive equal protection and enforcement of the law, whether our government has been corrupted by private interests.

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[Under DeSantis, FL has become the bellwether state for voter disenfranchisement](#)

Michael Moline | *Florida Phoenix*

[That redistricting argument sounds familiar](#)

Brian Lyman | *Alabama Reflector*

[Clearing up the WVU misinformation](#)

Leann Ray | *West Virginia Watch*

[Why I'm very worried about a Gov. Cameron](#)

Perry Bacon Jr. | *Kentucky Lantern*

[Defending democracy in Wisconsin](#)

Ruth Conniff | *Wisconsin Examiner*

[Graying politicians across Kansas, U.S. hoard power. A volatile world warrants youthful leadership.](#)

Clay Wirestone | *Kansas Reflector*

[Arkansas' FOIA is The People's Law, not government officials' law](#)

Joyce O. Ajayi | *Arkansas Advocate*

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