

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

## — News From The States —

# EVENING WRAP



By [Kate Queram](#)

I am oddly tired, for reasons I cannot even begin to explain. (Going to bed 15 minutes too late? The general reality of being a human in the world?) When this happens I usually just shrug and blame politics, which is perpetually exhausting and thus always a plausible explanation. Actually, this — providing a reliable excuse for my own fatigue — may be the only thing at which politicians consistently excel.



### The Big Takeaway

I am here for all of your substantive policy questions, and that is why we are going to talk about maple syrup — the *real* kind, as opposed to the sugary slime that restaurants try to pass off as authentic, only to disappoint you *after* you've based your *entire breakfast order* on the premise of maple syrup that actually comes from maple trees. It's a massive bummer, said Wisconsin state Sen. Kelda Roys, who totes a bottle of maple syrup around in her purse just to avoid this upsetting situation.



*Wisconsin is the fourth-highest producer of maple syrup in the country.*

*(Photo by Henry Redman/Wisconsin Examiner)*

“One of my pet peeves is when I go to a restaurant and I ask ‘do you have real maple syrup?’ And they say yes,” Roys, a Madison Democrat, [told the Wisconsin Examiner](#). “And then I order based on that information, and then you can just see when they’re walking towards the table, that’s not real maple syrup, and I’m just like, ‘I should have ordered the omelet.’”

**She’s hoping to spare fellow Wisconsinites the pain of a disappointing breakfast order.**

Last week, Roys teamed up with state Rep. Dave Considine to introduce [a bill](#) that would prohibit “public eating places” from identifying products as maple syrup if they are not, in fact, maple syrup. It’s not a particularly controversial move, Considine said — the state already has similar provisions for butter (it’s different than margarine) and honey (no added sweeteners, thanks), and the bill doesn’t include an enforcement mechanism or a penalty for restaurants that continue to hoodwink their customers with artificial syrup. Instead, the legislation aims to establish a “standard” for maple syrup in hopes of supporting in-state producers.

“The whole idea is setting a standard so that consumers know that they have the right to do what Sen. Roys said she wanted to do: go to a restaurant and say, ‘Wait a minute, I want maple syrup.

You said maple syrup. I want maple syrup,” said Considine, a Democrat. “I think the industry will respond to that.”



*Meanwhile.*

*(Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)*

**Lawmakers in Florida are aiming to dismantle a far more serious regulation:** A three-day waiting period for gun purchases that was approved in 2018 after a deadly mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. [A bill to repeal the measure](#), filed in August by Republican state Rep. Joel Rudman, is currently awaiting a hearing before a criminal justice subcommittee, [the Florida Phoenix reported](#).

[Under the law](#), gun buyers must wait a minimum of three days (excluding weekends and holidays), or until the completion of a records check, to acquire a firearm. (Exceptions include trade-ins, buyers with concealed carry permits, and rifle or shotgun purchases by law enforcement or corrections officers.) Eleven states have [similar policies](#), which can serve as a de facto cooling-off period for people seeking firearms in response to heightened emotions. [Research has shown](#) that delaying those purchases by even a few days can reduce gun homicides by as much as 17%, according to research.



Officially, I have no idea why Rudman wants to repeal this law. But a cursory Google search has yielded some clues, like the fact that he was inspired to sponsor legislation that would prevent venues from canceling shows over politics and social media posts after his cover band's "God, Guns and Less Government" tour was [allegedly waylaid](#) by "the woke mob liberals." His other legislative priorities include [expediting firearm background checks](#) and forcing businesses, including hospitals, [to accept cash](#), so take from that what you will.

The legislation comes as gun safety groups push for *more* restrictions, including updates to the state's [safe storage law](#) and funding for community-based violence intervention programs, which last year received \$5 million from lawmakers that [was later vetoed](#) by Gov. Ron DeSantis.



*U.S. Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.) and some kind of tractor.*

*(Photo by Aaron Sanderford/Nebraska Examiner)*

**A political group aiming to keep DeSantis-like Republicans from becoming speaker of the U.S. House** is pushing 18 GOP lawmakers in competitive districts to oppose Trumpy candidates in the upcoming vote, [the Nebraska Examiner reported](#). The choice between Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), "MAGA in a suit," and Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who "proudly displays his MAGA party number," is "no real choice" at all, the Lincoln Project said in [a news release](#) targeting a group of lawmakers it dubbed the "Biden 18."

"Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE2) and the rest of the Biden 18 must make a choice: Will they

stand with the American people, decency, and democracy here, and around the world, or will they choose Trumpism, and chaos?” said Reed Galen, the group’s co-founder. “They have a responsibility to their constituents to support the institution by finding other choices for speaker. It’s time for these 18 to put America before politics and finally say enough is enough. Election deniers, conspiracy theorists, and unprincipled autocrats should not rule over the U.S. House of Representatives.”

Each of the 18 lawmakers mentioned in the release hail from districts with roughly equal amounts of Republican, Democrat and unaffiliated voters. Each district voted for President Joe Biden in 2020 but elected GOP lawmakers to Congress, which theoretically incentivizes moderation. But only theoretically. Bacon, for example, endorsed Donald Trump twice, but still found himself in the former president’s crosshairs after daring to criticize his role in inciting a would-be coup on Jan. 6, 2021. That, coupled with his vote for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, led Trump’s camp to begin recruiting Trumpier Republicans to challenge Bacon in the primary.

Bacon, a big fan of Kevin McCarthy, hasn’t revealed who he’ll support in the speaker contest. But he was happy to whine about the Lincoln Project, which made its name by opposing Trump but is now also opposing his lackeys, which, according to Bacon, is basically the same thing as voting for socialism.

“The Lincoln Project used to be a Republican group that opposed Trump,” Bacon said. “It’s now become a full appendage of the Democrat Party. It’s doing the bidding of the Far Left and doing best to make Hakeem Jeffries the Speaker.”

**Seems like a stretch:** [With Israel at war, Tuberville urged anew to give up holds on military nominees](#) ... [In response to Hamas attack on Israel, DeSantis calls for expanded sanctions against Iran](#) ... [With Maryland committee chair’s resignation, Ferguson makes changes to Senate leadership](#) ... [Raskin: ‘We’re still in a political and constitutional emergency’](#) ... [Michigan judge fast-tracks lawsuit to force Trump off the ballot in Michigan](#) ... [DFL lawmaker arrested on suspicion of DWI by sheriff’s office, former employer](#) ... [Missouri attorney general vows to complete 2022 public records requests by end of this year](#) ... [Former Montana Governor Ted Schwinden dies at 98](#) ... [New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham extends and adds to controversial public health order on guns](#) ... [Gerry Leonard climbed a mountain. Now he’s set his sights on Capitol Hill.](#) ... [Will Hurd drops out of 2024 presidential race](#) ... [What to know about Nick Fuentes, the white supremacist who was just hosted by a major Texas PAC leader](#) ... [Virginia’s Senate District 16 race: Democrat VanValkenburg vs. Republican incumbent Dunnavant](#) ... [Fair maps advocates hold ‘public telling’ to air opposition to Wisconsin GOP redistricting plan](#)

## Also Trending

The nation's first Catholic charter school could open next year in Oklahoma after a state board on Monday voted 3-2 in favor of its contract. Barring a court order, the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Charter School, created by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa, is expected to open for the 2024-25 school year with a first-year enrollment goal of 500 students, [the Oklahoma Voice reported](#).



*"Whatever, let's just approve it."*

*(Photo by Nuria Martinez-Keel/Oklahoma Voice)*

The school would provide free online education to students across the state in service of the Catholic church's evangelizing mission. Despite its firm basis in Catholicism, the school will not deny admission based on religion, lack of faith, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, according to its contract.



That contract — which sets the terms of operation as well as the regulations schools do and do not have to obey — is the first to be approved without a clause requiring non-sectarian operations. That’s seemingly in defiance of both state law and the Oklahoma constitution, which both explicitly forbid any school receiving public funding from affiliating with any religious sect. The board’s decision to approve the contract opens the door for other virtual charter schools to request similar terms, officials said.

The approval is a major win for Catholic officials, who have long contended that charter schools were never public schools — even though they derive a majority of their funding from state and federal money — and should be free to adopt a faith, just like private schools. This is what’s known as “having your cake and eating it too,” if cake were public money and “eating” it just meant using it to push religion even though that’s like the one thing you are not supposed to do with this particular cake.

That’s the premise of an ongoing lawsuit against the Catholic charter school, which argues that diverting state funding to a religious education program is a “clear violation of Oklahoma law and the state’s promise of church-state separation and public schools that are open to all.” The suit, which seeks a court order to prevent the school from opening, was filed in July by Americans United for Separation of Church and State but was still awaiting a judge’s ruling as of Tuesday.

There could be additional legal action from state Attorney General Gentner Drummond, who said previously there is zero legal precedent to support the claim that publicly funded charter schools are somehow private. A spokeswoman said Monday that Drummond would “review the details of the approved contract and determine the appropriate next steps.”

Drummond, she added, “has consistently expressed his disapproval of forcing taxpayers to fund religious teachings.”

**Class notes:** [As migrants arrive, some schools need more buses, books and bilingual teachers](#) ... [ASU paid \\$11k in security costs for a white nationalist who spoke on campus in 2022](#) ... [Idaho schools can seek rebates to buy zero-emission electric school buses](#) ... [Legislature’s curbs on Louisville school board unconstitutional, appeals court rules](#) ... [UL System President Jim Henderson to be sole interviewee for Louisiana Tech job](#) ... [Distractions in the classroom: Maryland school districts sue social media giants over mental health crisis](#) ... [‘You’re breaking up a family’: Hundreds attend community meeting about proposed Mississippi school closures](#) ... [As the science shifts, New Hampshire lawmakers consider changing how students are taught to read](#) ... [Judge’s ruling on lawsuit targeting segregation in New Jersey schools frustrates plaintiffs, activists](#) ... [Serving breakfast in Pennsylvania’s schools sometimes takes creative thinking](#) ... [Texas special session on school vouchers begins with Republicans in disarray](#) ... [Texas schools chief took over Houston district, but has let underperforming charter networks expand](#) ... [In](#)



## From The Newsrooms

- [Pushback continues against genetically modified salmon being raised at Indiana farm](#)
- [New Jersey prisons flagrantly flout law limiting solitary confinement, watchdog finds](#)
- [Economic impact: Ohio could potentially see millions more in tax revenue if marijuana legalization passes](#)
- [‘Trauma associated with not knowing’: Uncovering the history of Rapid City Indian School](#)
- [Georgia aims to boost low literacy rate, in part by copying Mississippi’s successful blueprint](#)



## One Last Thing

Apparently Jerry Seinfeld might [bring back “Seinfeld”](#) to redo the ending, because why do anything original when you could just bank on the power of nostalgia? (P.S. It’s not even that funny! I’m not even sorry!)

## News From The States

A PROJECT OF STATES NEWSROOM

Did someone forward you this newsletter?

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEWSROOMS](#) | [FOLLOW](#)

Share this post:





*You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or Facebook signup form.*

TO MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT, CLICK ON "UNSUBSCRIBE" BELOW

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)