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# News From The States

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## THIS WEEK IN COMMENTARY

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*Later this month, we will be switching to a new platform for delivering our newsletters. It should look the same on your end, but adding our email address to your contact list is the most surefire way to keep us at the top of your inbox. If you notice any disruption to service, please reach out directly. Thanks, and wish us luck!*

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](#).

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TOP COMMENTARY OF THE WEEK

## ***Hammering Alabama elections in search of a nail***

by **Brian Lyman** | *Alabama Reflector*

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*Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen walks toward a podium during inauguration ceremonies at the Alabama State Capitol on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 in Montgomery, Alabama.*

*(Stew Milne/Alabama Reflector)*

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen doesn't want to make voting easier. He's always been clear on that.

Take an interview Alabama's elections chief did a few weeks ago. Allen said he opposed automatic voter registration (AVR), a program where a qualified voter gets registered when they do something like renew a driver's license.

"Registering to vote is a First Amendment issue in my mind," he told a conservative radio host. "You're exercising your speech. And I think that's a slippery slope you go down when the government just automatically tells somebody that they're going to be registered to vote. As long as I'm secretary of state, we're not going down that path."

[Read this commentary](#)

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[\*\*Scalise's bid for U.S. House speaker involves all the drama we expected it would\*\*](#)

by **Greg LaRose** | *Louisiana Illuminator*

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[\*\*Test scores for 'recovering' Wisconsin public schools far outpace voucher schools\*\*](#)

by **Ruth Conniff** | *Wisconsin Examiner*

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[\*\*Governor: We still have questions about that lectern\*\*](#)

by **Sonny Albarado** | *Arkansas Advocate*

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[\*\*Some of Oklahoma's most vulnerable residents face stark shift in care as harmful law takes effect\*\*](#)

by **Nicole McAfee** | *Oklahoma Voice*

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[\*\*The Nazis among us\*\*](#)

by **J. Holly McCall** | *Tennessee Lookout*

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[\*\*The little law that could make a big difference in Rhode Island public schools\*\*](#)

by **Julia Steiny** | *Rhode Island Current*

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[I apologize, Kentucky.](#)

by **John David Dyché** | *Kentucky Lantern*

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