

# 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

## *Wisconsin is a major front in the war on U.S. democracy*

**Ruth Conniff** | *Wisconsin Examiner*



*Protester at the Reopen Wisconsin rally at the Capitol on April 24, 2020.  
(photo by Luther Wu)*

It was startling to read in The Washington Post this week that former President Donald Trump, following the lead of right-wing conspiracy theorists, has demanded that the Justice Department turn over “all documents” on John Nichols, whom the Post describes as “a liberal journalist in Wisconsin who rightwing media have suggested encouraged violence at the Capitol on behalf of the ‘deep state.’”

As soon as I read the story, I texted Nichols, a friend and colleague to just about the entire Wisconsin press corps. He said his daughter was amused by the suggestion that her dad was in Washington, D.C., leading the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol — since actually he was driving her to an orthodontist appointment in Madison that day. He wrote a column about it for the Nation headlined “Unfortunately for Donald Trump, I’m not his Alibi.”

Nichols, a Wisconsin writer who carries a torch for the anti-establishment, progressive populism of Fighting Bob LaFollette, is a strange target for the conspiracy theorists who claim he was working for the “deep state” by trying to frame Trump for Jan. 6.

But in some ways the right-wing blogger who formulated that theory wasn’t totally off the map when he went digging around in the Badger State for the instigators of the Capitol insurrection.

The real Jan. 6 conspiracists were, in fact, working in Wisconsin.

[Read this commentary](#)

[Ohio Sec. of State LaRose has repeatedly abused the power of his office for extreme partisanship](#)

**Marilou Johaneck** | *Ohio Capital Journal*

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[Remember learning ‘how a bill becomes law’? Well, forget it in the Kentucky legislature.](#)

**Jamie Lucke** | *Kentucky Lantern*

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[Kansas has billions of dollars in the bank. Just imagine the shopping spree ahead.](#)

**Clay Wirestone** | *Kansas Reflector*

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[Thought-policing Va.’s schools: Youngkin consolidates his grip on education’s ruling boards](#)

**Bob Lewis** | *Virginia Mercury*

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[Alabama’s low workforce participation rate is real. Legislators may not like the solutions.](#)

**Brian Lyman** | *Alabama Reflector*

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*Would we be willing to do what we did 82 years ago to win?*

**Darrell Ehrlick** | *Daily Montanan*

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*Gov.-elect Landry surprisingly chummy with New Orleans — for now*

**Greg LaRose** | *Louisiana Illuminator*

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