

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

Beware the twists of ‘transparency’ during Sunshine Week

Greg LaRose | *Louisiana Illuminator*



The sun shines brightly on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, above the University of New Orleans entrance sign on Lakeshore Drive.

(Photo by Matthew Perschall)

Sunshine Week beautifully coincides with the start of the Louisiana Legislature's three-month regular lawmaking session. It also includes National Freedom of Information Day this coming Saturday.

If you're not familiar, Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in journalism, education, government and the private sector that places an emphasis on open government and unhindered access to public records.

In Louisiana, we find ourselves at an interesting juncture where political powers want to chip away at access to public information while at the same time pursue partisan objectives under the guise of accessibility.

[Read this commentary](#)

[Senator makes dubious claim in fight over New Jersey's public records law](#)

Terrence T. McDonald | *New Jersey Monitor*

[Katie Britt and the unreality of Alabama immigration rhetoric](#)

Brian Lyman | *Alabama Reflector*

[Lawmakers messed up Oklahoma's open records law, allowing bad actors to hide. It's time to fix it.](#)

Janelle Stecklein | *Oklahoma Voice*

[Heading into the election cycle, Tennessee trends to watch for](#)

J. Holly McCall | *Tennessee Lookout*

[West Virginia's GOP supermajority somehow couldn't get much accomplished during session](#)

Leann Ray | *West Virginia Watch*

[The Florida Legislature doesn't care how hot outdoor workers get](#)

Craig Pittman | *Florida Phoenix*

People or profits: arena drama reflects a familiar struggle

Samantha Willis | *Virginia Mercury*

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