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## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **Our democracy's greatest threat isn't Trump-it's the Electoral College**

Columnists Paul Goldman and Mark Rozell argue for the abolition of the Electoral College in this essay. They assert that former President Donald Trump's path to victory in 2024 rests in winning via the Electoral College and not in the popular vote. The authors note that the Democrats have won the popular vote in a presidential election four times in the two-party era, but nonetheless lost the Electoral College and consequently those elections, including Trump's 2016 victory. Goldman and Rozell argue that the current system could result in a constitutional crisis in 2024 should such a scenario recur.

Goldman, P., & Rozell, M. (2023, March 7). "Our democracy's greatest threat isn't Trump - it's the Electoral College." *The Hill*. Retrieved from <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3885208-our-democracys-greatest-threat-isnt-trump-its-the-electoral-college/>

### **Ron DeSantis's plan to strip First Amendment rights from the press, explained**

In this article, Ian Millhiser describes Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's plans to weaken First Amendment protections for the press. Those include advocating for repeal of the Supreme Court's *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964) decision, which established that the government and, in many instances, private litigants may not seek to censor the media, political advocates, and the general public through defamation suits aimed at silencing opposing views. Republicans in the Florida legislature have already introduced bills that attack this precedent, which Millhiser argues is the foundation of free speech in America. Millhiser notes that a DeSantis presidential win in 2024 could lead to his selection of federal judges who support overturning this principle.

Millhiser, I. (2023, March 8). "Ron DeSantis's plan to Strip First Amendment rights from the press, explained." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/politics/23622299/ron-desantis-first-amendment-press-new-york-times-v-sullivan>

### **Congress's attempt to overturn a crime law makes the case for DC Statehood**

*Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)*

Li Zhou describes a move in Congress to overturn criminal justice reforms approved by Washington D.C.'s city council in this story and argues that this decision is the latest to highlight D.C.'s subject status. Zhou contends that approval of statehood for D.C. is unlikely in the near future, as any such measure in Congress would have to clear a 60-vote filibuster threshold and thus require Republican support and that Party is opposed to such action.

Zhou, L. (2023, March 7). "Congress's attempt to overturn a crime law makes the case for DC Statehood." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/politics/2023/3/7/23629158/congress-crime-law-dc-statehood-city-council>

### **Modi's final assault on India's press freedom has begun**

*Kashmir Times* executive editor Anuradha Bhasin recounts her personal experience with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to use the army to lock her newspaper's staff out of their offices due to their willingness to question his policies. She argues that such repressive media policies could be enacted on a national scale. Bhasin argues that Modi's efforts to suppress the media and stifle dissent in Kashmir have highlighted the perilous status of press freedoms in the world's largest democracy.

Bhasin, A. (2023, March 8). "Modi's final assault on India's press freedom has begun." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/08/opinion/india-kashmir-modi-media-censorship.html>

### **Larry Hogan won't run in 2024's imaginary GOP 'moderate lane'**

Ed Kilgore discusses former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's decision not to seek the Republican presidential nomination in this essay. He contends that a so-called 'moderate lane' to that nomination in the GOP is unrealistic given how far the party has shifted to the right in recent years. Kilgore argues that Hogan had no chance to win the nomination given his liberal leanings on social policy and suggests that analysts and journalists should focus on candidates who reflect the current party's stands and composition, rather than imagine possibilities that simply do not reflect those realities.

Kilgore, E. (2023, March 6). "Larry Hogan won't run in 2024's imaginary GOP 'moderate lane'." *Intelligencer*. Retrieved from <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2023/03/larry-hogan-wont-run-in-2024s-imaginary-gop-moderate-lane.html>