

5 pieces worth reading

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What inflation means for state and local budgets

With inflation now at a 40-year high, renowned economist Mark Zandi discusses that fact's multiple effects on state and local government budgets and predicts a 1 in 3 chance of a recession. He highlights three critical factors to watch: the continuing economic disruption caused by the pandemic, the economic fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and how effectively the Fed is ultimately able to address inflation by calibrating interest rates.

Greenblatt, A. (2022, April 25). *What inflation means for state and local budgets*. Governing. Retrieved from https://www.governing.com/finance/what-inflation-means-for-state-and-local-budgets?utm_campaign=Newsletter+-+GOV+-+Daily&utm_medium=email&hsmi=210858145&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9BA06SVbU-cKX_4O0Ob6plmqsm7d4MX4Nv5MW7VH1317ueSLVVsx3xfZCXR93HRIJyLta4vtVYCsLtDw2QzS9Nm-MbLg&utm_content=210858145&utm_source=hs_email

Ron DeSantis is following a trail blazed by a Hungarian authoritarian

Beauchamp argues that Florida Governor's Ron DeSantis's recently signed "Don't Say Gay" bill is in line with Hungarian President Viktor Orbán's law to prohibit instruction on LGBTQ topics in sex education. DeSantis appears to be working to turn what had previously been considered to be far-right ideas into policy realities in an attempt to appeal to Trump's base supporters.

Beauchamp, Z. (2022, April 28). *Ron DeSantis is following a trail blazed by a Hungarian authoritarian*. Vox. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2022/4/28/23037788/ron-desantis-florida-viktor-orban-hungary-right-authoritarian>

Will Elon Musk save Twitter or destroy it?

With news of Elon Musk's reported acquisition of Twitter for \$44 billion, Spencer Bokot-Lindell analyzes the pros and cons of the world's richest man buying perhaps its most popular social media platform. A potential advantage is that Musk could help elevate the platform as an avid user himself. However, critics worry that as a strong proponent of unrestrained speech, true or false, reasoned or inflammatory, he could also [reinstate](#) Twitter accounts that have been banned

for their espousal or transmission of dangerous rhetoric, such as those associated with former President Donald Trump.

Bokat-lindell, S. (2022, April 27). *Will Elon Musk save Twitter or destroy it?* The New York Times. Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/27/opinion/elon-musk-twitter-debatable.html?fbclid=IwAR1FJPDaRrIn5CerdCn8AR7tyezvfSfgLccN3u_R_QL4RmrClLkOJQ4eLZI

France is still in trouble

Despite President Emmanuel Macron becoming the first French president to win reelection in 20 years, Professor Philippe Marlière argues that France's democracy has never been in worse health. He cites the collapse of two major political parties, endless culture wars, and the rise of Marie Le Pen's far right movement as reasons for continuing concern.

Marlière, P. (2022, April 26). *France is still in trouble*. The New York Times. Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/26/opinion/macron-france-le-pen.html?fbclid=IwAR3y1P7nsCQVaoC1kFp2FgdYyLvJ_tkZvCIJ8qeuD4jHw7g8IGugAHP-GQs

Is democracy failing? Xi Jinping says it is, and he's not entirely wrong

Los Angeles Times Columnist Nicholas Goldberg cites a range of factors for America's failing democracy, including an inability to fight climate change effectively and various structural challenges, including gerrymandering, filibuster rules, and an Electoral College that arguably undermines the notion of majority rule. He concludes that Americans have to understand that democracy is a long-term project, and must be willing to fight for it. Democratic institutions cannot maintain themselves.

Goldberg, N. (2022, April 28). *Column: Is democracy failing? Xi Jinping says it is, and he's not entirely wrong*. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved from <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-04-28/autocracy-democracy-marine-le-pen-xi-jinping-vladimir-putin-joe-biden>