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5 pieces worth reading

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The Supreme Court rejected a dangerous elections theory. But it's not all good news.

Legal scholar Richard Pildes discusses the Supreme Court's recent decision to reject independent state legislature theory by a 6-3 margin in *Moore v. Harper* in this commentary. Had the Court upheld this view, state legislatures would have been permitted to regulate federal elections in any way they chose. However, Pildes cautions that while the Court did not accept North Carolina's extreme position to give its legislature free reign in such terms, the majority nonetheless failed to provide guidance on when a state has exceeded its regulatory authority. In Pildes view, therefore, a significant danger to democracy still remains to be addressed.

Pildes, R. (2023, June 28). "The Supreme Court rejected a dangerous elections theory. But it's not all good news." *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/28/opinion/supreme-court-independent-state-legislature-theory.html>

\$23 million goes to Virginia localities in first round of Opioid Abatement Fund Grants

In this *Cardinal News* piece, Susan Cameron describes the first round of \$23 million in grants that will go to 76 Virginia cities and counties for opioid abatement and remediation efforts as approved by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's board of directors. Funded projects are based on the specific needs of each community and range from recovery housing to expansion of treatment programs.

Cameron, S. (2023, June 27). "\$23 million goes to Virginia localities in first round of Opioid Abatement Fund Grants." *Cardinal News*. <https://cardinalnews.org/2023/06/26/23-million-go-to-virginia-localities-in-first-round-of-opioid-abatement-fund-grants/>

The end of Roe, one year later

This *Vox* story sketches the fallout from the Supreme Court's choice to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and a constitutional right to abortion on the one-year anniversary of that decision. During the past year 14 states with more than 25 million women between the ages of 15 and 44 have imposed severe restrictions on abortion access. This piece reports that, as a result, many doctors

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

are concerned that U.S. maternal mortality, which was already the highest of any developed country before the Court's decision, will continue to increase as a result of the many state policies it has allowed since.

Zhou, L. (2023, June 23). "The end of Roe, one year later." *Vox*.

<https://www.vox.com/2023/6/23/23771804/roe-dobbs-abortion>

Planned in plain sight': Senate report finds intel agencies failed in the lead-up to Jan. 6

This *NBC News* story addresses a recent report released by Democrats on the Senate Homeland Security Committee that concludes that the FBI and Department of Homeland Security downplayed intelligence that they received indicating the potential for violence on January 6, 2021, the day Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election was officially certified by Congress. As a result, the federal government did not ensure sufficient security for that day, which saw a murderous riot at the Capitol.

Nobles, R., & Reilly, R. (2023, June 27). 'Planned in plain sight': Senate report finds intel agencies failed in the lead-up to Jan. 6." *NBC News*.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/planned-plain-sight-senate-report-finds-intel-agencies-failed-lead-jan-rcna91166>

Canadian wildfire smoke reaches Europe as Canada reports its worst fire season on record

This *CNN* piece describes the unprecedented wildfire season Canada is currently experiencing, with more than 19 million acres having already burned in locations throughout that country. The smoke from a share of those fires, which has already negatively affected air quality in several regions of the United States in recent weeks, has now also made its way to Europe. Scientists expect that wildfire seasons in Canada and elsewhere will continue to escalate in severity, as droughts and extreme heat become more common globally.

Sutton, J., Ward, T., & Sottile, Z. (2023, June 27). "Canadian wildfire smoke reaches Europe as Canada reports its worst fire season on record." *CNN*.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/26/americas/canada-wildfire-season-worst-2023/index.html>

