

Letter to the Editor:

The *Press-Telegram*'s lead editorial (March 19th), "Pandemics and Our Still Very Free Society" was *SO* apropos. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker told the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners last week that he would *not* cancel in-person voting as they had requested. He added, "Let me tell you this: It is exactly in times like these when the constitutional boundaries of our democracy should be respected above all else. And if people want to criticize me for that, well, go ahead." May we, in the days, months, and year(s) ahead, have more leaders with the insight, courage, and historical understanding of such a governor. Curtailing democratic liberties can all too easily be(come) far more deadly than any virus yet unleashed upon humankind.

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Letter to the Editor:

Out of Touch?

What amazes me greatly, these days, is how so many individuals/entities take it absolutely for granted that "technological access is a given," even as millions, nationwide are:

- homeless, and/or
- without the Federal Communications Commission's base of 25 Mbps (Megabytes per second), the definition of broadband (141,000,000 in the U.S.), and/or
- without access to either fixed or wireless broadband (42,000,000 in the U.S.), and/or
- without a laptop, tablet, smartphone, etc., needed for distance learning, and/or
- without community alternatives, such as local libraries (were severely limited; now closed), Boys & Girls Clubs (ditto), YM/YWCAs (ditto); parks (restricted, if not closed), and/or
- excluded, due to being unaffordable (46% of families living below the poverty line don't have access), and/or
- "not logged in" to online classes--still/yet (One-third of L.A. high school students are not doing so on a daily basis; 15% not at all), and/or

- completely overburdened due to college faculty greatly increasing student workload (especially writing) in lieu of face-to-face communications, and/or
- encountering two online classes scheduled at the same time, and/or
- faced with a household whose computer demands by parent(s) or guardian(s) and their numerous offspring compete for time, space, and quiet.

I wonder just how much longer we can pretend that the Digital Divide just doesn't exist?

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Letter to the Editor(s):

The *Press-Telegram* reported on April 11th that Long Beach police chief Robert Luna said that officers could possibly cite, fine, and arrest residents not complying with the "safer at home" order.

Would someone please send Mr. Luna a copy of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which gives people the "right to assemble peaceably"? He may, of course, wish to seek a declaration of martial law, in which case the courts might just want to determine to what extent we are, presently, "at war."

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