

THE
WATCHDAWG
REPORT

AMERICA FIRST CONSERVATIVES in CAMDEN COUNTY

MAGA Battles Onward

Donald Trump will be inaugurated on January 20th, and it cannot come soon enough. I know you share my anxiety about getting this done and stopping the destructive ways of the Biden administration.

Increasingly we see common sense emerging. Large corporations are leaving the Net Zero Initiative, and DEI programs are being abandoned. Smart governors and mayors are getting on-board with Tom Homan's mission to arrest and deport illegal gang members. Trade schools are emerging as strong alternatives to the overly expensive indoctrination centers we call Universities.

Thankfully, we in Missouri can have confidence that our Senators will vote to confirm the President's Cabinet as nominated. These are exciting times if we calmly accept the fact that the war against the Deep State will continue through our lifetime.

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some americans worry vaccines will have microchips to track them

their phones:



Camden County

Drama is never in short supply in Camden County. We figured the most exciting thing going on week one of 2025 would be the official engagement of the new 2nd District Commissioner and the new Sheriff. For the present, it seems these will take a back seat to the worry that our Presiding Commissioner may be charged with felony theft by the State of Missouri.

It appears that on December 31st, Presiding Commissioner Ike Skelton allegedly traveled out on Hwy 54 west of Camdenton and removed a License Plate Reader (LPR) camera from its pole that sits on state highway property. The LPR has been operated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol on a lease from Flock company.

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Law Enforcement likes the LPRs for fighting crime. They are helpful for Amber Alerts and watching for alleged criminals on the run. In contrast, many citizens see this tool as an infringement of their rights.

I asked AFC-CC members to send their views about Commissioner Skelton's alleged action, and the LPR's in general. For context, the responses were elicited by me sharing my opinion that the Commissioner made a reckless error. AFC-CC members came through with a lot of excellent feedback. Here is what they had to say:

"I vehemently disagree with you regarding Commissioner Skelton's actions. You should have called out Tony Helms for not removing it himself"

"Ike definitely likes the spotlight, but I feel his passion for protecting freedom is genuine. I support him on this"

"I applaud him for taking action and handling it himself instead of getting others involved and making a scene. Who is the victim in this crime? I believe we are the victims while the camera existed."

"I agree these should not be allowed, I believe it would have been prudent to have allowed the new sheriff to address the issue and exhaust whatever options that path would have afforded prior to even considering the physical removal of the camera; especially since the beginning of Chris' administration was so near." (Sheriff Chris Edgar)

"Ike Skelton should not have tried to remove the LPR himself."

"...this was a childish 'I'll show you' act. As such, his legal issues should be his to shoulder, not Camden County. This is not the behavior of a mature Presiding Commissioner"

"I agree with the Commissioners that the cameras have to go, and I believe we should support him as presumed innocent until proven willfully guilty"

"18 months after the end of contract [the contract between Flock and MSHP], well over 30 days after being contacted and the Camden County Commission did send out letters the Hwy Patrol and Flock decided it was fine to ignore a county ban. Those are key relevant facts that should be considered."

The City of Lake Ozark has LPRs within their city limits. Osage Beach allows for them, but we could not confirm if any were up and running. Following 9/11 and under the Patriot Act, surveillance cameras owned by Homeland Security were positioned to surveil Bagnall Dam down the strip and rumor has it, on a hill above Tunnel Dam. They provide a continuous feed to local police and to the offices of Homeland Security. If there is indeed one above Tunnel Dam, it may well be on County property. Is it legal to remove LPRs sitting on state owned property, but not federally owned full time surveillance cameras sitting on what is possibly county owned land? The hierarchy of authority is unclear. It would be great if that could be clarified by the Commission in the ordinance.

Some responses to my email focused more on information about the LPR's themselves, and it is so interesting I am compelled to share. The company that owns and leases the cameras is Flock. One member provided more. Flock appears to be a part of Axon which started out as Taser. Taser has been known to store its data on Amazon servers, "which get hacked every year."

The single biggest threat to your liberty is your cell phone. According to knowledgeable respondents and confirmed by local law enforcement the details about your life that can be found when they confiscate your phone are considerable and beyond. I was told that when you connect your cell phone to your newer vehicle, everywhere you go and how long you stay there is recorded and stored. Think of the giant NSA data centers that Eric Snowden revealed. From a reader: "He created the software that basically databases everything. Even your car and home insurance is computer generated based on how you buy items on your credit card and which social media you use and sign up for. The email you use (unless encrypted) is read every day by government sources. Yes, a computer does it, but with AI coming on this is only going to get worse. The concern about the plate readers is small compared to the overall data dump most folks do with their phone and online accounts."

Thank you to all the team members that participated.

Sunshine Requests-

I sent two Sunshine Requests to the county on Jan 1. The first was a request for a list of any lawsuits pending that the county is in any way involved in. Attorney Jeff Green guided me to use Case Net. I was hoping for a county perspective on these but will complete that research for the February issue. I hope to find many are closed.

The other request was for 2024 Accounts Payable data that shows total paid by vendor. I was surprised to learn that this report had to be assembled. It is on the way, I hope.

The Missouri General Assembly is in session. Jon Patterson, the Representative from Jackson County whose own Central Committee issued a Resolution pointing to his poor voting record and recommending against him, was elected the Speaker of the House. He was challenged by Rep. Justin Sparks who received votes from 10 brave representatives who chose to buck the system and suffer the consequences. The conversion to MAGA Republicans will take a while in Missouri. Texas is experiencing similar issues.

Cindy O’Laughlin was elected President Pro Tem in the Senate. Cindy is a well-known establishment figure who does not appear to support MAGA/America First solutions.

The Republicans retained their two-thirds super majority with 111 seats in the House and 24 seats in the Senate. It would be lovely if voting tendencies moved toward MAGA Conservative values in this session based on legislators noticing the mandate from the November 5 election. Do not hold your breath.

There were 770 bills prefiled, and 103 have been introduced. The Republican Caucus said they will focus on bills that restrict Amendment 3 (the Abortion Amendment), IP reform (changes to requirements to make it more difficult to amend our State Constitution) and removing the sunset provision on the SAFE Act. I doubt that Speaker Patterson will move forward much on the Amendment 3 work as he appears to support it as is. IP Reform, or lack thereof, is the perfect example of how ineffective our Republican super majority is. Establishment Republicans need a push from their constituents. Until they fear voters more than lobbyists and donors we will not win.

As I ran through the descriptions of the new bills and proposed amendments. I am seeing many that have to do with reconfiguring how the Department of Transportation is managed. I spoke with one of my extra smart friends, and apparently this department has become very independent and may lack sufficient oversight. We will keep an eye on these bills and see how they progress. Thank you, extra smart friend.

AFC-CC continues to have strong communication with Representative Jeff Verneti. Many in the group were disappointed by his vote for Speaker, but instead of having a temper tantrum like some, we calmly reached out for an explanation and it was received. We choose to maintain this important communication channel and will continue to provide input from the America First perspective.

Our next State Senator will be elected in 2025 and serve beginning January 1, 2026. We hope to see a candidate surface that speaks of and fully owns America First ideals.