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SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026 | BUCYRUS, OHIO | BUCYRUSTELEGRAPHFORUM.COM

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2026 NFL season preview: Rams look unstoppable

Early access to Trump posts raises concern

Lawsuit says sale of government news illegal

Daniel de Visé
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s social media company is charging clients up to \$100,000 a month for priority access to Trump’s own official announcements as well as other “market-moving” government news such as new tariffs and military actions.

Just a few years ago, the idea would have been unimaginable.

“I wonder if anyone ever envisioned a time when the head of a country would do something like this,” said Jessica Tilipman, associate dean for government procurement law studies at the George

Washington University Law School. Presidents, government agencies and corporate America used to announce news in releases posted on official websites and sent out as emails or, years ago, rumpled faxes.

More recently, however, governments and companies have taken to announcing news over social media.

In his first presidential term, Trump became the most prolific Twitter (now X) poster in presidential history. One Boston Globe report counted 2,417 Trump tweets in the first 11 months.

But Twitter banned Trump in the final days of that term, citing a risk for “incitement of violence” after a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Facebook, Instagram and other

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President Donald Trump’s social media company is charging select clients up to \$100,000 a month for priority access to Trump’s Truth Social posts.
JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS



Flock cameras stir concerns

Opponents worry about privacy, police misuse

N’dea Yancey-Bragg | USA TODAY

License plate readers have been shot at in Tennessee, hit with a truck in California, beaten with a baseball bat in Virginia, cut down with a saw in Texas and splattered with paint in New York. And they’ve been regularly blocked by a protester in Florida.

There also has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that continues trying to track the movements of vehicles.

People are raising privacy concerns as well as others about misuse, mistakes and road safety in city council meetings, lawsuits and a planned national week of action in late August.

Chad Marlow, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union who focuses on privacy, surveillance and technology issues, said the technology triggers concerns about government overreach on the right and worries about who is being targeted on the left.

“For people in the center or the nonpolitically engaged are even like, ‘I don’t want to be tracked everywhere I go,’” he said. “And so there’s different reasons, but everyone is arriving at the same position, which is mass government surveillance in this country has gotten completely out of control and needs to be reined in immediately.”

See CAMERAS, Page 2A

There has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that tracks the movements of vehicles and creates a searchable database for law enforcement agencies. COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER/COLUMBUS DISPATCH FILE

Ohio pushes to regulate Flock cameras

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Ohio senator wants to crack down on people who misuse Flock cameras as pushback against the technology grows statewide.

Sen. Al Cutrona, R-Canfield, will introduce legislation to prevent police and government officials from selling or sharing information with third parties and require them to delete data after 10 days. Anyone caught using Flock cameras or other automatic license plate readers for personal use would face a fourth-degree felony.

“This takes a snapshot in time,” Cutrona told the statehouse bureau. “If there’s enough snapshots in time, it creates a timeline and it creates a mosaic display of a person’s life. That’s where it has now crossed a line.”

Cutrona said police could still work with other government agencies, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as long as it’s part of an active investigation.

Flock Safety is one of several companies providing automatic license plate readers to law enforcement, including in Ohio. And it’s not just police departments. The Ohio attorney general’s office and Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections are among several state agencies that contract with Flock, Signal Ohio reported.

Proponents say the AI-powered surveillance technology can help police solve crimes and find missing people. But critics from Cleveland to Columbus have raised concerns about privacy and whether local agencies are using Flock to aid in immigration enforcement.

In Reynoldsburg, two police officers resigned amid allegations of misuse. One officer repeatedly searched the name of a current or former female partner, according to allegations.

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