

How about this for required reading? So goes the city, so goes the county.

Jason Williams: Why kiddie-menu soda ban idea is insulting to Cincinnatians

You had hopes and dreams that a new day had arrived at Cincinnati City Hall this year. New mayor. New council. New day. Yay!

And now you have to swallow your pride and admit that you were probably wrong. How about a large fountain Coke from Frisch's to wash down your pride?

Two months into the, ahem, new day and some council members have placed a red alert on [banning sugary soda on kids' menus in Cincinnati restaurants](#). The legislation, sponsored by Democrats Greg Landsman and Meeka Owens, could come up for a full council vote in the next few weeks.

Sound the alarms! Parents from Mount Washington to Mount Airy are losing sleep at night over Sprite being on the kiddie menu. Dr. Pepper might as well be Dr. Death.

Sadly, no doctor has a remedy for virtue signaling and out-of-whack priorities. Sixty-some days into the term, and this is what council is focused on. Nanny-state nonsense.

Surprised? You shouldn't be. It's what left-wing politicians who control big cities nationwide have been doing. They create fake problems so they can go through a virtue-signaling process and then "solve" the issues. (Suburban Republicans create fake problems, too. See: [City of Mason abortion ban](#).)

The kiddie-menu soda bans have been happening in Democratic-controlled cities across the U.S. Politicians aren't targeting informed consumers here. They're patronizing low-income citizens with meddling and meaningless we-know-what's-best-for-you legislation.

You can't be trusted to make decisions for your family, so we'll make them for you.

Elected officials get praise from wealthy, liberal mommies on social media for doing "great work." Praise from hardcore supporters creates a false sense among politicians that they're doing real work.

In reality, they're insulting the citizenry. And they're showing how messed up their priorities are.

No everyday Cincinnatians asked for this. There was a city election last year. Not once did I hear anything about the need to ban sugary soda from children's menus. Citizens weren't bombarding City Hall with calls about the need to address this.

The American Heart Association, which has a lot of money and clearly not enough to do, asked for it. Meanwhile, its advocates don't call for the deep-fried chicken fingers and greasy burgers to be taken off kiddie menus. I guess the threat of Junior having high cholesterol isn't a sexy political talking point. Perhaps banning fried foods is next. The slope is slippery.

I did, however, hear plenty on last year's campaign about the need to end corruption, stop the petty infighting and start focusing on issues that matter to citizens.

Look, government should be able to do multiple things at once. But this council hasn't built up any credibility to get a pass on this manufactured problem. It sends a bad message about priorities with budget season looming.

We're still waiting for some substantial work to get done. There are plenty of more important things to address.

The city did a terrible job of cleaning the streets after the recent snow and ice storm. I can't remember the last time the city did such a bad job of doing such a basic service. But council sat by mostly silent as citizens flooded City Hall with complaint calls.

Council has yet to do anything meaningful on the fire department staffing shortage. There haven't been any demands from the dais about what happened to the [police recruit who suffered a medical emergency during training in January.](#)

Cincinnati's elected officials haven't done enough to address the [uptick in youth gun violence.](#) The city has set [aside some money.](#) The politicians held a press conference last month calling gun violence a public health crisis.

This council has yet to realize that press conferences don't count as actual work. Some may say it's still early. But remember, the city is back to two-year council terms. Time's ticking on getting the important stuff done.