

Not Nitpicky

March 11, 2021

Austin, woke capital of Texas, may have some difficulty keeping its mask mandates going in the face of Governor Abbott's lifting of the statewide mask orders.

Abbott formulated this new policy last week, to nationwide controversy. Officials in Austin and Travis County responded by announcing their intent to keep the old orders in full effect until April 15.

At least.

"Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said on Wednesday that his office will take Austin officials to court," explains *The Epoch Times*, "if

The federal government is built on top of the union of states, supreme only regarding the limited number of explicitly defined powers given to it in the Constitution.

they continue to refuse to comply with an order lifting mask mandates across the state."

Austin officials may think that the pandemic gives them a special license.

It doesn't.

In these United States, the primary governmental



entities are the states.

The federal government is built on top of the union of states, supreme only regarding the limited number of explicitly defined powers given to it in the Constitution. But *beneath* that, government entities are *creatures* of the states. Cities, counties, and metro governments are *incorporated* by their respective states, which retain overriding authority.*

Yet, perhaps as a sign of the general lawlessness of trendy tyranny, a spokesperson for Austin Mayor Steve Adler told *Forbes* yesterday that the city does not intend to rescind the order and that officials "will continue to do everything within our power, using every tool available to us to reduce the spread of the virus."

Is it nitpicky to demand that our public servants *not* do "everything in their power" — but only things within their *authority*?

No, it is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* Under Abbott's new policy, Texas businesses and individuals remain free to determine mask policies on their property.