

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

No. 160

February 2, 2018

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*Any statements in this issue of the Watch which are not sourced are mine and identified by “WW”.

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State of the Nation

34% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction while 60% say it is on the wrong track. [CBS News, 1/16/18]

29% of Americans are satisfied with the direction of the country while 69% are dissatisfied. [Gallup, 1/7/18]

54% of Americans believe that government should do more to “solve problems and help meet the needs of people.” 38% think the government is “doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.” [NBC/WSJ, 1/18/18]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2017 is 4.1%, this is identical to the October and November numbers and the lowest it has been since January 2001 when the rate was 3.9%.

The unemployment rate for African Americans is 6.8%. The white unemployment rate is 3.7%.

If one takes into account the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate for December 2017 is 8.1%. This is a slight increase from October and November when the rate was 8.0%. [BLS data is based on those 16 years of age and older.]

Looking at December state data, 23 states have unemployment rates that are higher than the national rate, 4 states are even with the national rate and 23 states and the District of Columbia have unemployment rates that are higher than the national rate.

Of the 23 states with unemployment rates that are higher than the national average, 12 were won by Trump and 11 were won by Clinton.

December's job growth of 148,000 jobs is the 85th straight month of job growth. The total job growth for 2017 is 2.1 million jobs added. In 2016, the number of jobs added was 2.2 million. 2.7 million jobs were added in 2015.

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82% of the world’s wealth went to the richest 1% in 2017. 42 billionaires hold as much wealth as the world’s poorest 3.7 billion people. [Time.com, 1/22/18]

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Lately, the FBI has been under “attack” by folks who are looking to undercut one or more investigations or simply distract. The public at large is not buying it.

Since 1995, the NBC/WSJ survey has regularly asked its respondents whether they have positive or negative feelings about the FBI.

In July 1995, 49% had positive feelings about the FBI and 23% had negative feelings.

In January 2018, 53% of respondents had positive feelings about the FBI and 19% had negative feelings. In fact, the number of people who have very positive feelings about the Bureau has increased from 15% in 1995 to 22% in January.

		<u>Positive Feelings</u>	<u>Negative Feelings</u>
January	2018	53%	19%
June	2017	54%	14%
December	2016	37%	27%
July	2016	40%	37%
December	2014	42%	16%
June	2013	48%	15%
June	2006	42%	20%
June	2002	40%	33%
July	1995	49%	23%

[NBC/WSJ, 1/17/18]

57% have confidence in the FBI while 39% do not have confidence in that organization. Among those having confidence/no confidence are:

	Confidence	No confidence
Democrats	63%	30%
Republicans	54%	41%
Independents	56%	41%

	Confidence	No confidence
Households making		
Less than \$50,000	53%	42%
\$50,000 or more	59%	36%
Whites	62%	34%
African American	57%	38%
Latino	52%	43%
Men	55%	42%
Women	57%	36%

[NPR/PBS Marist poll, 1/10/18]

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Americans have various levels of confidence in a variety of institutions in addition to the FBI.

	Confidence	No confidence
Military	87%	12%
The Supreme Court	59%	36%
Organized religion	58%	39%
FBI	57%	39%
Public schools	53%	44%
The courts	51%	45%
Organized labor	49%	43%
The presidency	43%	54%
Big business	39%	57%
Democratic party	36%	62%
Media	30%	68%
Republican party	29%	68%
Congress	25%	71%

[NPR/PBS Marist poll, 1/18/18]

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69% of Americans are at least somewhat satisfied with the state of the U.S. economy today. This is up from 56% in April 2017 and it compares to 28% who were at least somewhat satisfied in January 2014, one year after the first year of Obama's second term.

35% believe the economy will improve over the next 12 months while 20% think it will get worse. Of the 35% who believe it will improve, 65% believe it will

be because of Trump’s new economic policies. Among all adults, only 23% believe improvements in the economy are because of Trump’s policies.

39% believe that 2018 will be a time of “economic expansion for you and your family” while 53% are more cautious, believing that the coming year will be a time to “hold back and save” because of harder times ahead. [NBC/WSJ, 1/18/18]

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This and That

Fox News is a megaphone for Republicans and conservatives generally.

MSNBC is a megaphone for Democrats and liberals generally.

CNN is a microphone for those in and looking for the middle. [WW]

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The following is how Americans responded when asked of which political party they considered themselves to be a member.

	NBC/WSJ (1/17/18)	ABC/WP (1/18/18)
Democrats	33%	31%
Independents	33%	40%
Republicans	28%	23%

When they were asked whether they considered themselves to be liberal, moderate or conservative they responded:

	NBC/WSJ (1/17/18)
Liberal	28%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	37%

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The Republicans in Congress want to reduce the federal government’s influence and leave as much governing as possible up to the states. This means that

individuals needing assistance who live a block apart but in different states will get a different level of assistance. [WW]

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Americans are split down the middle on whether the federal crackdown on undocumented immigrants and the reduction in the federal workforce is a good thing for the country.

By 47% to 46%, respondents think the crackdown on undocumented immigrants is a bad thing for the country and by 44% to 43% they think the reduction of the federal workforce is a good thing.

By 63% to 34%, Americans oppose building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. [ABC/WP, 1/18/18]

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There are many differences between Minneapolis, Minnesota and Washington D.C. The following is one example.

At a Minneapolis hotel, a breakfast of two eggs (any style), two pieces of toast, a selection of meat or sausage and an order of potatoes costs \$13.00, exclusive of tax or tip.

Exactly the same order at an upscale Washington hotel costs \$47.00, exclusive of tax or tip.

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45% of Americans believe that abortion should be generally available to those who want it. Another 32% believe that it should be available but under stricter limits than it is now. 21% say that abortion should not be permitted. [CBS News Poll, 1/18/18]

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81% of Americans believe that young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children should be allowed to stay. [CBS News, 1/16/18]

In an ABC/WP poll taken at the same time, 87% express that view.

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87 million rotisserie chickens were sold by Costco in 2017. [WSJ, 1/5/18]

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An embryo that was frozen on October 14, 1992 was born a healthy baby girl to a happy couple on November 25, 2017. The embryo spent 24 years on ice. [CNN, 12/21/17]

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In making a judgment about how you think the economy is doing, which of the following is most important to you? This is how Americans answered:

Personal economic issues like income, wages and cost of living - 59%

Economic figures like growth rate, inflation or interest rates - 18%

State of the job situation and the unemployment rate - 11%

How the stock market is doing - 8%

[Winston Group, 1/26/18]

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Respondents were asked to rate their feelings toward a variety of individuals and groups.

	Positive	Negative	Don't know/Unsure (< 5 unless noted)
Barack Obama	57	29	
Joe Biden	54	22	
Oprah Winfrey	48	24	
Donald Trump	36	56	
Mike Pence	33	39	11
Mitt Romney	29	30	
Robert Mueller	28	14	37
Paul Ryan	28	33	15
Mitch McConnell	13	39	27
Steve Bannon	5	49	29
The Me Too Movement	37	10	33

[NBC/WSJ, 1/18/18]

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Quotes

(Courtesy of Simma Leibman and Joel Jankowsky & other sources as noted)

“Sometimes it is not enough to do our best; we must do what is required.”
- Winston Churchill

“He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up.”
- Paul Keating

“For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare to speak their truth to the power of these men. But their time is up. Their time is up.”
- Oprah Winfrey
[At the Golden Globes, 1/7/18]

“The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King

“I’ve just learned about his illness. Let’s hope it’s nothing trivial”
- Irvin S. Cobb

“He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others.”
- Samuel Johnson

“He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination.”
- Andrew Lange (1844-1912)

“He loves nature in spite of what it did to him”
- Forrest Tucker

“Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?”
- Mark Twain

“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music.”
- Bill Wilder

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I’m afraid this wasn’t it.”
- Groucho Marx

“Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself, something that encompasses you but is not defined by your existence alone.”
- Senator John McCain

I don't care who does the electing as long as I get to do the nominating.
- Boss Tweed

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Jay Berman (no relation except by friendship) turns 80 tomorrow, February 3rd.
Happy Birthday.

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President Trump

On January 28, 2018, Gallup found that 38% of Americans approve of President Trump's job performance and 58% disapprove.

Beginning in 2018 Gallup is no longer providing a daily approval rating of the president. In the future, these reports will be dated weekly.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
1/28/18	38%	58%
1/14/18	38%	57%
12/31/17	39%	55%
12/15/17	34%	61%
12/1/17	33%	62%
11/15/17	37%	57%
11/1/17	38%	58%
10/15/17	38%	58%
10/1/17	37%	57%
9/1/17	34%	61%
4/1/17	38%	57%
3/1/17	43%	51%
2/1/17	43%	52%

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The following are some additional looks at the President's job performance. The numbers below are of registered voters unless followed by an "A" which means all voters. [QUPIAC = Quinnipiac]

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC/WSJ</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN/ORC</u>	<u>NYT/CBS</u>	<u>FOX</u>	<u>QUIPAC</u>
JAN '18	39/57A	38/58	43/53	37/58cbsA	45/53	36/58
DEC	41/56	xxx	36/59cnn	36/57 cbsA	xxx	37/57
NOV	xxx	xxx	38/57 cnn	xxx	xxx	38/55
OCT	38/58 A	37/59	38/57cnn	39/55cbsA	38/57	38/56
SEPT	43/52 A	42/54	37/56cnnA	xxx	42/53	36/57
JULY	xxx	36/58A	xxx	xxx	41/53	xxx
MAY	39/54	xxx	xxx	xxx	40/53	37/55
APR	40/54	42/53	44/54	43/49cbs	xxx	35/57
JAN	xxx	xxx	44/53	40/48cbs	xxx	36/44

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Trump's 39% approval rating is the lowest in the history of the NBC/WSJ poll (1/17) for any "modern president ending his first year." His disapproval rating is 57% with 51% who strongly disapprove.

	Approval
Republicans	78%
Independents	33%
Democrats	8%
Men	46%
Women	33%
Whites	45%
Hispanics	26%
African Americans	8%
18-34 years of age	35%
Seniors	41%

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The following are job approval numbers from Gallup for the last nine presidents and Trump. As you can see, Trump's job approval rating by the public

at large is the worst of any president at this point in their tenure going back to Ronald Reagan.

Job Approval – Roughly 12 months into the 1st term

GW Bush	84% (1/02)
Kennedy	79% (1/62)
GHW Bush	80% (1/90)
Eisenhower	71% (1/54)
Nixon	61% (1/70)
Carter	55% (1/78)
Obama	51% (1/10)
Clinton	50% (1/94)
Reagan	49% (1/82)
Trump	38% (1/18)

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On the economy, Trump’s approval ratings have been within a 4 point range since the spring. His disapproval rating has been within an 11 point range since the spring and within a 5 point range in the last three months.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
1/16/18	46%	49%	
12/5/17	42%	52%	
10/30/17	46%	47%	
9/24/17	43%	46%	
8/6/17	46%	45%	
6/18/17	42%	51%	
4/24/17	43%	49%	
3/28/17	44%	55%	[CBS News]

On foreign policy, Trump's approval and disapproval ratings have each been in a three point range since the spring. Trump has not been even close to a positive rating this past year.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
1/16/18	36%	60%
11/13/17	37%	58%
10/10/17	38%	58%

9/26/17	38%	57%
8/15/17	39%	58%
6/27/17	38%	57%
4/18/17	40%	56%

[Quinnipiac]

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36% of Americans have positive feelings toward Trump while 56% have negative feelings toward him. 23% of folks like Trump personally and approve of his policies while 52% don't like him personally and disapprove of many of his policies.

[NBC/WSJ, 1/17/18]

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About President Trump

In an overview memorandum on the most recent NBC/WSJ survey, Peter Hart wrote the following:

“Based on more than a half century of watching and analyzing public opinion ratings of U.S. presidents, I have found that personal feelings toward the president – not job ratings – tell us more about their acceptability....President Donald Trump’s first year in office can only be described as a year of personal alienation from voters.”

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“The state of racism will never die, but what we cannot do is allow it to conquer us as people. The guy in control has given people and racism and negative racism, an opportunity to be out and outspoken without fear. And that’s the fearful thing for us because it’s with you, and it’s around every day, but he’s allowed people to come out and just feel confident about doing negative things...” [LeBron James, 1/15/18]

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In further evidence of his attraction for authoritarian leaders, and in particular Putin, President Trump’s administration has announced that it will neither announce nor implement new sanctions against Russia. To justify this lack of action, the State Department announced that the sanctions currently in place

were acting as a “deterrent” against Russian aggression and that therefore new measures will “not need to be imposed” even though it is required under the law.

This action or lack thereof is consistent with the administration’s failure to fully implement a measure that passed the Congress with large bi-partisan majorities in response to Russian meddling in the 2016 election. [The Daily Beast, 1/29/18]

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How actual smart people actually talk about themselves

“If you report long enough on politics and public life, even there you will see examples of exceptional strategic, analytic, and bargaining intelligence, along with a lot of clownishness.

“Here are three traits I would report from a long trail of meeting and interviewing people who by any reckoning are very intelligent.

“They all know it

“Virtually none of them (need to) say it.

“They *know what they don’t know.*”

[James Fallows, 1/6/18]

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Our moral authority in the world has been drastically diminished. [Matthew Dodd, ABC News]

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Sam Nunberg, a former campaign adviser to President Trump, on Trump’s management style: “**The misconception** is that the president does not know what he does not know. In my experience, the reality is that the president knows what he does not know and does not think he needs to know.” [NYT]

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“But let us not allow the fevered cries of conspiracy to distract us from the chilling fact: We live, for now, in a country whose president chafes at the independence of the Justice Department. To Trump, this is not a feature, but a bug”
[Ruth Marcus, WP, 1/25/18]

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Who do you trust more?

	Your favorite News Source	Donald Trump
January 2018	58%	29%
October 2017	65%	26%

[NPR/PBS/Marist poll, 1/10/18]

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President Trump said about the recently enacted tax cut, “It’s the largest tax cut in the history of our country.” In fact, as a percentage of the size of the economy, it is not among the top six tax cuts according to Steve Rattner on Morning Joe. [MSNBC, 12/22/17]

Here are the tax cuts based on percentage of GDP.

Reagan 1981	2.9%
Truman 1945	2.7%
Truman 1948	1.9%
Obama 2013	1.8%
Johnson 1964	1.6% (proposed by President Kennedy)
Obama 2010	1.3%
Trump 2017	1.1%

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Disassembling

“The White House has drafted a proposal to scale back environmental requirements in an effort to make it easier to construct roads, bridges and pipelines across the country...

“The plan would change things such as how officials decide a pipeline route, how a proposed border wall with Mexico would be built...

“Critics of the administration said the proposal as outlined in the documents would gut key environmental protections enshrined in laws dating back to the 1970s, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clear Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

“The Forest Service will no longer prepare a full-scale ‘environmental impact statement’ (EIS) on the effects of mining in Minnesota’s Boundary Waters. Instead the Interior Department will conduct a less rigorous ‘environmental assessment’ (EA) on how blocking mining would impact the surrounding wilderness.”

[WP, 1/26/18]

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“Health care workers who want to refuse to treat patients because of religious or moral beliefs will have a new defender in the Trump Administration.

“The top civil rights official at the Department of Health and Human Services is creating the Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom to protect doctors, nurses and other health care workers who refuse to take part in procedures like abortion, or treat certain people – especially transgender patients – because of moral or religious objections.” [NPR, 1/18/18]

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Tourism to the U.S. is down across the board, a dip that began after President Trump’s inauguration and may be tied to his anti-immigration language and policies. All told, the latest data from the National Travel and Tourism Office shows a 3.3 percent drop in travel spending and a 4 percent decline in inbound travel since the president took office. That translates to an economic dent of \$4.6 billion in lost spending and 40,000 jobs. Perhaps a slightly more welcoming tone may have been the one to take for a country that — until this report — ranked as the second most popular travel destination on earth. [NBC News /The New York Daily News]

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The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, now led by the anti-CFPB ex-Congressman Mick Mulvaney (also the head of OMB) has put a hold on regulations restricting high-interest rate loans from payday lenders. The agency also dropped a lawsuit against internet lenders charging 900 percent interest rates. [NPR]

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The EPA under the Trump administration is making it easier for manufacturers to introduce new chemicals, under pressure from chemical industry lobbyists who say

the process is too slow and cumbersome. But experts and advocates say the agency is skipping vital steps to protect the public from hazardous chemicals, undermining regulations passed in 2016 by Congress. [NBC, 1/17/18]

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The Trump administration has ended Medicaid as we know it, allowing states to enact work requirements as part of their Medicaid programs. This decision has put the health insurance of 6.3 million Americans at risk, the vast majority of whom are caregivers, students or retirees. [Progress Report, 1/16/18]

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The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Monday it will terminate a temporary protected status program for nearly 200,000 Salvadorans in September 2019. [Public Policy Law 360, 1/8/18]

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The number of federal workplace safety inspectors has fallen under the Trump administration, raising questions about the government efforts to protect workers and the long term impact of the White House's move to slow hiring. OSHA lost 40 inspectors through attrition last year. [NBC, 1/8/18]

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The Trump administration plans to allow drilling in all U.S. waters. The President has long backed expanded drilling along the nation's coasts as part of his energy plan. Coastal communities that rely on fishing and tourism have opposed drilling, and the plan faces bipartisan criticism.

Subsequent to the initial announcement on 1/4/18, Interior Secretary Zinke announced that the new rules would not apply to drilling around Florida after visiting with Governor Scott who is considering a run for the U.S. Senate.

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2020

The following is a list of people who have been mentioned (by either themselves or others) as potential candidates in 2020. Folks are on the list whether or not they have claimed or disclaimed any interest in running.

The list of people without government experience is followed by a list of current or past government officials who have been mentioned or have done something to suggest they are thinking about running for president.

Dwayne Johnson – Actor

~~Bob Iger – Disney~~

Howard Schultz – Founder & Exec. Chairman, Starbucks

Mark Cuban – Businessman and Owner, Dallas Mavericks

Kanye West – Entertainer

Mark Zuckerberg – CEO, Facebook

~~Oprah Winfrey – CEO, OWN (Only half struck out)~~

Andrew Cuomo – Governor of New York

John Hickenlooper (D) – Governor of Colorado

Steve Bullock (D) – Governor of Montana

Jerry Brown (D) – Governor of California

Martin O'Malley (D) – former Governor

Terry McAuliffe (D) – former Governor

Deval Patrick (D) – former Governor

Congressman John Delaney (D) – Announced 7/22/17

Congressman Luis v. Gutierrez (D)

Congressman Tim Ryan (D)

Congressman Seth Moulton (D)

Cory Booker (D) – U.S. Senator

Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator

Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator

Bernie Sanders (D) – U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand (D) – U.S. Senator

Elizabeth Warren (D) – U.S. Senator

Chris Murphy (D) – U.S. Senator

Sherrod Brown (D) – U.S. Senator

Lincoln Chafee (D) – former Rhode Island mayor, governor, and U.S. Senator

~~Al Franken (D) – former U.S. Senator~~

Joe Biden (D) – former V.P., former U.S. Senator

Eric Garcetti (D) – Mayor of Los Angeles

Mitch Landrieu (D) – Mayor of New Orleans

Julian Castro (D) – Obama Secretary of HUD

Jason Kander (D) – former MO Sec of State/failed U.S. Senate candidate

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Oprah Winfrey previously announced that she was not interested in running for president and then she gave a highly acclaimed speech at the Golden Globes. On the very evening of the speech, a variety of people encouraged her to run. Shortly thereafter a survey was conducted by Morning Consult from the 4th thru the 9th day after her speech. Here are the results.

59% of respondents say she should not run while 26% say she should.

Oprah bests Trump in a match up 40% to 36%.

And when she is matched against other potential nominees she beats the women and loses to the men.

Oprah 44%	Gillibrand 23%
Oprah 39%	Warren 35%
Oprah 37%	Sanders 46%
Oprah 31%	Biden 54%

Survey Monkey took a look at a portion of the field and found that if the democratic primary were held in January the result would have been the following: Biden 22%, Sanders 17%, Warren 16%, Winfrey 16%, others 8%, Harris 7%, Gillibrand 4%, Booker 3%, Steyer 1%. [1/10-11]

Paired against Trump, the early results are:

Biden 57%/Trump 40%

Sanders 55%/Trump 42%

Winfrey 51%/Trump 42%

[CNN, 1/10/18]

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Congress

Congress' approval rating continues at a subterranean level.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Fox News 1/23/18	15%	70%
CNN 1/18/18	16%	78%
CBS News 1/16/18	18%	75%
Quinnipiac 1/16/18	16%	78%
Quinnipiac 12/4/17	12%	80%
Reuters/Ipsos 11/28/17	19%	69%
Reuters/Ipsos 10/31/17	22%	69%
Reuters/Ipsos 9/26/17	20%	69%
Monmouth 9/19/17	15%	73%
Fox News 8/29/17	15%	74%
Quinnipiac 8/23/17	10%	83%
CBS News 8/6/17	19%	73%
CNN/ORC 4/25/17	22%	75%
Quinnipiac 3/6/17	18%	20%
NBC/WSJ 2/22/17	29%	60%

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Of people who are registered to vote and certain to vote in 2018, 54% say they plan to vote for the Democratic candidates and 39% say they will support the Republican candidates. Non-whites favor the Democrat in their congressional district by a 59 point margin. The same is true of 64% of women, and 51% of independents. [WP/ABC, 1/18/18]

There is a general preference for a Congress controlled by Democrats as opposed to Republicans by 49% to 43%. This six point spread is down from a positive Democrat spread of 11 points found in December. [NBC/WSJ, 1/18/18]

Prospects for a Democratic takeover of the House is improving but it is far from guaranteed. One obstacle Democrats face is that their primary message seems to be opposition to Donald Trump.

[WW uses David Wasserman and the Cook Political Report for the House chart below.]

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

	Democrats	195
	Republicans	240
	Democrats	Republicans
Safe in 2017	174	175
Likely	11	26
Lean	9	20
	Tossup	
	4	16

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THE SENATE

The average U.S. Senator’s approval rating dropped 6% points between the 1st and 4th quarter, 52% to 46%, and disapproval went up 2% points from 30% to 32%. [Morning Consult Q4 – 2017 Ratings]

The number after the name of incumbent Senators up for election in 2018 reflects the drop in their approval ratings from the beginning to the end of 2017.

[WW used a combination of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections to create the Senate chart below with Sabato as a tie breaker.]

	Republicans	51
	Democrats	47
	Independents	2
	Democrats	Republicans
Seats not up in 2018	23	43
Safe in 2018	14	5
Likely	6	1
	King	Tennessee (open)
	Menendez (-16)	
	Tester (- 18)	
	Casey (-9)	

	Smith – (appoint 1/4/18)	
	Baldwin (-6)	
Lean	3	0
	Brown (-6)	
	Nelson (-8)	
	Heitkamp (-8)	
Toss-ups	3	2
	Donnelly (-6)	Heller (-9)
	McCaskill (-8)	Arizona (open)
	Manchin (8)	

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Women Will Get It Done

Women are stepping forward to run for Congress in unprecedented numbers. As of the end of the first week in December, 354 women have announced they are running for the House (291 Democrats and 63 Republicans) and 38 women are running for the Senate (25 Democrats and 13 Republicans). [NYTimes, 12/5/17]

In addition to the above, 75 women have set their sights on running for governor.

[Meet the Press: First Read, 1/29/17]

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A new study by McKinsey finds that companies with diverse executive teams posted higher profits than those with more homogeneous leadership. To those of you who thought, "duh!" while reading the last sentence, there is one thing that makes this research unique—and important: scale. McKinsey examined the financial data of more than 1,000 major companies across 12 countries. [Broadsheet, 1/22/18]

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For the first time in its more than 1,000-year history, Oxford University offered more British women undergraduate admission than men. Among the UK

18-year-olds taking undergraduate places in Autumn 2017, 1,070 are women and 1,025 are men. [[The Guardian](#)]

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There were 1,223 directors on 1,100 films released from 2007-2017. Women accounted for only 4 percent of them. [Annenberg Inclusion Initiative]

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Of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies on the Russell 3000 index, 624 companies have not one woman on their board of directors. On the whole, women occupy just 16% of available board seats. [Quartz]

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Gender bias goes away when grant reviewers focus on the science:

“Women lose out when reviewers are asked to assess the researcher, rather than the research, on a grant application, according to a study on gender bias. Training reviewers to recognize unconscious biases seems to correct this imbalance, despite previous work suggesting that it increased bias instead.” [GA Blog, 1/29/18]

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If you are not a subscriber to GenderAvenger, you should be:
www.genderavenger.com

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Restaurants

The Bachelor Farmer
50 2nd Avenue No
Minneapolis, Minnesota
612-206-3920
Thebachelorfarmer.com

The Bachelor Farmer was opened in 2011 by two brothers, Eric and Andrew Dayton. They happen to be the sons of Minnesota’s governor, Mark Dayton. (An old friend of mine.)

The restaurant is housed in an old timber and brick warehouse that the owners purchased in 2008.

Debbie and I dined here with Lynda and Paul a couple of nights before Walter Mondale's 90th birthday party.

To begin, we ordered Warm Popovers with honey butter. These popovers were particularly large.

Debbie started with Salanova lettuce, aged goat's milk cheese, cider vinegar and walnuts. For her entree she chose Sea Scallops, braised black turtle beans, sautéed greens, pancetta, parsnips and lemon aioli.

Lynda chose as an appetizer Smoked Hamachi, fingerling potatoes, Swiss chard, crème Fraiche with Ostetra caviar. She also had the Sea Scallops as well as an order of Pork fat-fried sweet potatoes with maple butter, a dish shared by all.

Paul opened with Celery root soup, roasted celery root, king trump mushrooms, Regent apples and tarragon. He then had Red wattle port, mashed root vegetables, marinated kale, caramelized cabbage with ham broth.

I started with Shaved red and green cabbage, pain de mie croutons, toasted almonds, chopped egg, and cheddar vinaigrette followed by Duck confit, broccoli, cauliflower, butternut squash, toasted almonds and sage.

For dessert we shared Peppermint Semifreddo cake, and fudge with toasted almonds.

There is a two sided banquette running down the middle of the restaurant.

On one side of that banquette are a series of 2 tops and 4 tops as well as several large booths that can easily seat 6 or 8 people. On the other side of the banquette are a series of tables that can be joined in several ways.

The restaurant has a rooftop farm in which it grows its own herbs and vegetables. The restaurant also practices whole-animal butchery and uses traditional techniques to preserve spring and summer produce for the leaner months.

Mike was our server. I asked him what it was like to work at the restaurant. He said he had been there for some time and it is a cool place to work and noted that people who come to work there don't leave. As I recall he had been there for about three years.

At capacity the restaurant has 92 seats.

The restaurant is only open for dinner. Its hours are 5:30 to 9:30 pm Monday thru Thursday and Sunday. It is open until 10:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. There are a series of private rooms on the second floor.

During the day there is a café in the basement of the restaurant which offers breakfast and lunch. It becomes a separate bar at night.

There are three unisex restrooms, one is set up for handicapped use and is so marked on the outside. The walls are green and the floors are have small white hexagonal tiles. There is a white ceramic commode and white ceramic sink with a wood framed mirror above. The restrooms are small but serviceable.

Mike

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