

Mike Berman's

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State of the Nation – page 2

America and its Institutions – page 5

Employment – page 7

This and That – page 8

* * * * *

Quotes – page 10

* * * * *

President Trump – page 11

Judges Nominated and Confirmed – page 15

Disassembling – page 16

* * * * *

2020 – page 18

What are the odds? – page 21

* * * * *

Congress – page 27

House – page 28

Senate – page 29

* * * * *

Women Will Get It Done – page 30

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Restaurants – page 33

St. Louis

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

State of the Nation

37% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 44% of men and 30% of women. 51% say it is on the wrong track including 45% of men and 56% of women. [Economist/YouGov 6/18/19]

In May 36% of us were satisfied with the way things were going in the United States while 63% were dissatisfied. [Gallup 5/12/19]

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In a number of industries, when the largest four firms are combined they control most of the U.S. market share.

<u>Search Engines</u>		<u>Wireless Carriers</u>		<u>Delivery</u>	
Google	63.2%	Verizon	35.5%	Fed Ex	43.0%
Microsoft	23.7%	AT&T	33.4%	UPS	33.0%
Oath	11.9%	T-Mobile	17.1%	DHL	20.0%
Ask	1.2%	Sprint	12.6%	TNT	1.0%
		Other	1.4%	Other	3.0%

<u>Smart Phones</u>		<u>Social Media</u>		<u>Airlines</u>	
Apple	45.3%	Facebook	42.1%	American	18.3%
Samsung	29.6%	YouTube	25.2%	Southwest	18.2%
Motorola	4.0%	Twitter	5.3%	Delta	16.8%
HTC	1.4%	Reddit	5.1%	United	14.9%
Other	90.3%	Other	22.3%	Other	31.8%

<u>Pay TV</u>	
Comcast	25.0%
DirecTV	24.0%
Charter	19.4%
Dish	15.5%
Other	16.1%

[WSJ 6/8-9/19]

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For the first time in more than 100 years, the legislatures of every state but Minnesota are dominated by a single party. [NYT/FiveThirtyEight 6/12/19]

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3.8 billion people were internet users in 2018, a full 51% of the world, up from 3.6 billion in 2017. More established American users spent 6.3 hours per day consuming digital media in 2018, up 7% from the previous year. [Rani Molla, Recode]

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127 million people live in the 775 cities in America that have a population of more than 50,000. That represents nearly 40% of the total population of the country.

The national vote has been trending away from rural areas to urban and suburban areas. The relative percentage of the vote:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rural areas	25%	17%
Suburban areas	46%	49%
Urban areas	30%	34%

[The Point/Chris Cillizza 5/23/19]

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In Rural America 26% of residents needed health care in the past few years and did not get it. Of those folks 45% could not afford it, for 23% the health care was too far away or difficult to get to, 19% could not find a doctor who would take their health insurance and 22% could not get an appointment during the hours needed.

49% of rural Americans could not handle an unexpected expense of \$1,000 based on their current financial situation. [NPR 5/21/19]

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62% of Americans say they've become more supportive toward transgender rights as compared to their view five years ago. 25% said their views have grown more opposed in that time period. 25% say they had a close friend or family member who is trans while 68% of respondents report having a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian.

Two-thirds of Americans oppose the ban on transgender people in the military. Over the last two years the number of Republicans who oppose the ban has grown from 37% to 47%. [PRRInstitute/Numlock News 6/12/19]

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Transgender people face a variety of hurdles. One of those hurdles has to do with credit cards that do not seem to match their current identity. Mastercard is leading an important change. Holders of its cards will soon be able to swap out credit, debit or prepaid cards with their old names for new ones featuring names they actually use. [WP 6/19/19]

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An estimated \$427.71 billion was donated to U.S. charities in 2018. However, donations dropped an inflation-adjusted 1.7% from 2017. This is the first drop in giving in the country since the Great Recession.

Corporate donations increased by 2.9%. Foundation gifts jumped by 4.7%. However, individual giving to foundations dropped by 3.4%. [WP 6/19/19]

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64% of Republicans say the federal tax system is very/moderately fair as compared to 32% of Democrats who share that view. Among those making \$75,000 or more, 68% of Republicans and 21% of Democrats say the system is very/moderately fair.

The following are some frustrations expressed by Americans.

- 62% feel that some corporations don't pay their fair share in taxes
- 60% feel that some wealthy people don't pay their fair share in taxes
- 39% feel the tax system is too complex
- 27% are bothered by the amount they pay in taxes

81% of Democrats say the economic system unfairly favors powerful interests. Only 17% of Republicans share that view. [PEW 4/4/19]

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While at least nine states have recently passed legislation strictly limiting abortions, Americans are increasingly of the view that abortions should either always be legal or legal most of the time.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>June 2019</u>
Always legal/legal most of the time	44%	40%	45%	56%
Illegal with exceptions/without exceptions	54%	53%	52%	41%

[NBC/WSJ 6/11/19]

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America and its Institutions

The most recent NBC/WSJ survey (June 8-11, 2019) had a section looking at America and its Institutions. Here are most of the findings from that section.

The Supreme Court remains a primary institution in which the public has more confidence than less. In several other significant institutions, the public has less confidence than more.

	<u>A great deal / Quite a bit</u>	<u>Very little/ None</u>
Supreme Court	38%	20%
The Presidency	23%	44%
Congress	11%	47%
National News Media	17%	48%

The Supreme Court and the judicial branch end up on the top of the heap when Americans are asked whether the co-equal branches of government have the right amount of power or too much power. Americans also say that as compared to the other three branches of government, the president and executive branch have too much power.

	<u>Amount of power</u>	<u>Too Much Power</u>
Supreme Court and Judicial branch	59%	19%
Congress and Legislative branch	48%	23%
President and Executive Branch	46%	36%

Americans are divided down the middle when asked whether democracy in America needs minor modifications or a complete overhaul.

Democracy in America Needs:

Total overhaul/major changes	49%
Minor modifications/working well	50%

60% agree that voting is the only way people like them can have anything to say about how the government runs things.

But 65% of us think the system of government does not do well at planning ahead and preparing to improve the countries long term problems.

And more than half of us disagree with the statement “even though we are polarized and divided on some issues, our political system still works to solve the problems we face as a country”.

When asked whether they are confident that America’s best years are still ahead or whether they are worried that the country’s best years may be behind us, the number of folks who think the best years are ahead is the same today as it was in 1990 while slightly more think the best years are behind us.

	<u>June 2019</u>	<u>April 1990</u>
Best years ahead	44%	45%
Best years behind	51%	45%

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The following are some potential changes that the country might consider and that at least a majority of Americans agree with as ways to improve democracy.

- Limit the number of years a Member of Congress could serve in the same elected position. (71%)
- Make election day a national holiday to encourage greater voter participation. (66%)
- Make sure every adult citizen is automatically enrolled to vote. (65%)
- Elect as president the person who receives the most votes nationally, rather than who wins in the electoral college. (56%)

43% of Americans think that all or a major part of blame for the partisanship that goes on in Washington lies at the feet of the Trump administration. 34% say all or a major part of the blame belongs to Republicans in Congress while 30% say fault lies with the Democrats in Congress.

[NBC/WSJ 6/11/19]

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85% of us say that over the last several years political debate in this country has become more negative. 85% say it is less respectful, 76% say it is less fact-based and 60% say it is less focused on issues. [PEW 5/13/19]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2019 is 3.6%. There is no change since last month.

If one considers the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate is 7.1%, as opposed to 7.3% for the last 2 months.

75,000 jobs were created in May, down from 224,000 in April. This is the worst jobs created number since September 2017 except for February 2019 when the number of jobs created was 18,000. Average hourly earnings rose by 6 cents. [BLS 6/7/19]

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The Demographics of Unemployment for May 2019

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women – 3.0% (increase since last month)

Men – 2.9% (same as last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 3.3% (increased since last month)

Black – 6.2% (decreased since last month)

Hispanic – 4.2% (same as last month)

Asian – 2.5% (increased since last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school – 5.4% (same as last month)

High School – 3.5% (same as last month)

Some college – 2.8% (decreased since last month)

Bachelor's Degree or higher – 2.1% (same as last month)

In April 2019, 24 states had unemployment rates below the national rate; 3 states had an unemployment rate that was exactly at the national rate of 3.6%; 23 states and D.C. had unemployment rates that were above the national rate.

Alaska, at 6.5%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. New Mexico, and D.C. had unemployment rates of 5.0% or more but less than 6.0%. 12 states had unemployment rates that were 4.0% or greater but less than 5.0%.
[Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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Adjusted for inflation the minimum wage today is 24% lower than it was in 1965. [New Yorker 5/20/19]

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The surge of migrants at the southwest border hit a 13-year high in May. The Border Patrol officers encountered more than 144,000 undocumented immigrants at the southwest border. 132,000 of them were stopped while crossing the border illegally. The rest presented themselves at legal points of entry. This is the third month in a row that more than 100,000 migrants were taken into custody.
[NBC News 6/5/19]

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Immigrants account for about 1 in 4 long-term and direct care workers.

	<u>Long term care workforce</u>	<u>Direct care workforce</u>
U.S. born	76.5%	72.5%
Naturalized citizens	11.9%	13.9%
Legal noncitizen immigrants	8.0%	9.0%
Unauthorized immigrants	3.6%	4.6%

[Health Affairs 6/19]

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This and That

For \$22,000, Pathway Church bought up \$2.2 million worth of medical debt owed by 1,600 people and forgave it. 18 churches have been able to abolish \$34.4 million in debt since 2018. [Kaiser Health News]

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The 2020 census could lead to the worst undercount of Black and Latinx people in 30 years. “Challenges threatening the upcoming 2020 census could risk more than 4 million people to be missing from next year’s national head count, according to projections from the Urban Institute.”

The Urban Institute projects that as many as 3.68% of blacks (4,000,000); 3.57% of Latinos and Latinas (2,200,000); and 63.1% children under the age of 5 (1,300,000), will not be counted. [NPR]

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52% of U.S. parents admit to spending too much time on their cell phones. 1 in 4 parents check their phone at least once per night, 1 in 3 teens admit the same. 61% of parents and 70% of teens check their phones in the half hour before bed. 39% of kids say their parents spend too much time on their phones. [Axios 5/30/19]

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Over the last five years there has been a gradual change in the relative use of TV and mobile devices. In 2014 the hours that the average American spent daily on TV rather than their mobile devices was close to 2 to 1 in favor of TV use. That has changed in 2019.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Hours:minutes of TV use	4:30	4:10	4:05	3:56	3:44	<u>3:35</u>	3:29	3:22
Hours:minutes of mobile use	2:32	2:49	3:08	3:25	3:35	<u>3:43</u>	3:49	3:54

[emarketer 4/19/19]

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By 2040, 60% of the “meat” we will eat will come not from dead animals but rather “will be grown in vats or replaced by plant-based products that look and taste like meat.” [The Guardian – 538 6/13/19]

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Nearly 3 million students in the U.S. struggle to overcome the so-called homework gap – the difficulty presented by an absence of internet in the home because of cost or availability. 17% of students do not have access to a computer at home and 18% do not have access to broadband internet. [AP/ FiveThirtyEight 6/11/19]

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Americans have received some 126 million doses of measles vaccine in the past dozen years. During that time, through a federal program created to compensate such people, 284 people filed claims that they were harmed by those vaccinations. About half of those claims were dismissed. [NYT – FiveThirtyEight 6/19/19]

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The World Health Organization’s classification of diseases and related health problems now includes video-game addiction. [USA Today/FiveThirtyEight 5/29/19]

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Political advertising in the 2020 election is projected to hit \$9.9 billion, up from \$8.7 billion in 2018 and from \$6.3 billion in 2016. [WSJ/Numlock News 6/5/19]

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Nikola Tesla predicted the Internet. In 1900, he wrote an article for Century Magazine describing a “world system” of wireless communications that could send telephone messages, news, music and pictures to any part of the world. [Weird World]

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Quotes

“As long as gay people don’t have their rights all across America, there’s no reason for celebration.”

--Marsha P. Johnson, a central figure in the gay liberation movement who was part of the Stonewall uprising

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“It’s never too late to do something you love.”

--Suzelle Poole, a 78-year-old ballet instructor and dancer

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“We know there is no tool for development more powerful than the education of girls and the empowerment of women. “

--Kofi Annan, 2003

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“Give a person a fish, they eat for a day. Teach a person how to fish, they can feed their family for a lifetime.”

[origin of quote is contested]

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“Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.”
--Robert Brault

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“This is an excitement to us, a feeling of being in on it, and whichever part of the Washington milieu we come from, we want to play a part. That’s why we are here.”
--Lloyd Cutler, an extraordinary lawyer on his work in Washington

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“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.”
--Mahatma Gandhi

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“War has to be spoken about bluntly, especially when leaders are talking with members of families who have sacrificed everything for their country...At every important moment of the wars during my time as Sec Def, I gave a speech explaining to the troops what they were doing and why it was important...I wanted them to have a clear notion of what their mission was in my words...”
--Ash Carter

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President Trump

On June 11th the NBC/WSJ survey found that 44% approve of the job that Trump is doing as president. 53% disapprove of the job that he is doing. Those approving of the job he is doing include 84% of Republicans, 36% of women, 32% of Latinos, 17% of African Americans but only 11% of Democrats. [NBC/WSJ 6/11/19]

On June 12, 2019, Fox News found that 45% of Americans approved of Trump’s job performance and 53% disapproved.

(Gallup no longer provides a daily or weekly approval rating of the president. Gallup now assess presidential job approval on a monthly basis.)

I now include a periodic polling summary—Registered and Likely Voters—by FiveThirtyEight. Note that year over year there has been little or no change in Trump’s approval among Reg/Likely voters.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gallup (All Adults)</u>		<u>FiveThirtyEight (Reg/Likely voters)</u>	
	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
6/16/19	43%	55%	42.6%	53.0%
5/12/19	42	51%	42.4%	52.4%
4/9/19	45%	51%	42%	52.7%
3/10/19	39%	57%	41.8%	53.4%
2/10/19	44%	52%	40.2%	55.1%
1/27/19	37%	59%	40.4%	55.6%
12/22/18	39%	55%	42.2%	52.8%
11/4/18	40%	54%	42.2%	52.6%
10/14/18	44%	51%	42.1%	52.4%
9/30/18	42%	53%	41.5%	52.7%
9/2/18	41%	53%	40.3%	54.5%
7/29/18	40%	55%	41.2%	53.2%
7/1/18	42%	53%	41.8%	52.3%
5/12/18	43%	52%	42.1%	52.0%
1/14/18	38%	57%	--	--

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” or “L” which means “likely voters”.

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC/WSJ</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>CBS</u>	<u>FOX</u>
JUNE’19	44/53	xxx	xxx	xxx	45/53
MAY’19	46/51	xxx	43/53	41/52	46/53
APR’19	xxx	42/54	44/53	xxx	45/51
MAR’19	43/53A	xxx	43/51	xxx	46/51
FEB ’19	46/52A	xxx	42/54	xxx	46/52
JAN ’19	43/54A	38/58	37/57A	36/59A	43/54
DEC ’18	43/54A	xxx	39/52	xxx	46/52
JAN ’18	39/57A	38/58	43/53	37/58A	45/53
DEC ’17	41/56	xxx	36/59	36/57A	xxx

Note: Total approval of 44% in the June NBC/WSJ survey is the same as the strongly disapprove 44% in that survey.

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The following are job approval numbers from Gallup for nine of the last twelve presidents, roughly 29 months into their first term. Since Gallup is no longer providing a steady stream of approval ratings WW will use various other surveys to include approval numbers on the current president.

GHW Bush	71% (6/91)
Eisenhower	70% (6/55)
GW Bush	64% (6/03)
Kennedy	61% (5/63)
Nixon	48% (6/71)
Clinton	47% (6/95)
Obama	46% (6/11)
Trump	45% (6/19) – Fox News
Reagan	43% (6/83)
Carter	29% (6/79)

On economic policy, Trump’s approval ratings have remained consistently positive since April.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
6/11/19	53%	43%	Econ/Yougov RV
5/14/19	48%	46%	Fox News (RV)
4/16/19	47%	46%	Reuters/Ipsos (A)
3/26/19	50%	45%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
3/4/19	49%	45%	Quinnipiac (RV)
2/2/19	49%	45%	CNN (RV)
1/1/19	47%	46%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
12/6/18	48%	42%	CNBC (A)
9/9/18	51%	53%	CNN (RV)
7/18/18	50%	34%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	46%	49%	NBC/WSJ

On foreign policy, Trump’s approval ratings remain in negative territory.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
6/11/19	46%	50%	Econ/YouGov (R)
5/14/19	43%	49%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
4/16/19	39%	52%	Reuters (A)
3/26/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
2/19/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
1/1/19	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
12/11/18	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
9/9/18	38%	56%	CNN (RV)
7/18/18	38%	45%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	36%	60%	NBC/WSJ

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Trump ripped into the Federal Reserve saying that the Fed is “very disruptive” and made a “big mistake” in raising interest rates. He described the officials at the central bank as “not my people”, notwithstanding that four of the five current Fed members are his nominees. [Politico Morning Money 6/11/19]

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“A lot of my journalist friends would strongly disagree, but Trump doesn’t get much slack from the media. When his backers say he is not treated fairly, they are not entirely wrong. But to think that is the sole reason for his historically low poll numbers is an exercise in denial. Often, when Trump is right or does something well, the way in which he does it keeps him from getting any credit outside his base of 35 percent or so. They love what he does and how he does it, but this style grates on or outright offends many outside his base. In so many ways, he is his own worst enemy.” [Charlie Cook 6/11]

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President Trump said he would consider accepting information on his political opponents from a foreign government, despite the concerns raised by the intelligence community and special counsel Robert S. Mueller III over Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

In an Oval Office interview with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, Trump said he wouldn’t necessarily alert the FBI if a foreign country approached his campaign with “oppo research” about his Democratic challenger.

“I think you might want to listen; there isn’t anything wrong with listening,” Trump said. “If somebody called from a country, Norway, ‘We have information on your opponent,’ oh, I think I’d want to hear it.”

When Stephanopoulos asked the president whether he’d want that kind of “interference” in American politics, Trump pushed back on the word.

“It’s not an interference, they have information — I think I’d take it,” Trump said. “If I thought there was something wrong, I’d go maybe to the FBI, if I thought there was something wrong.” [WP 6/12/19]

Nine days earlier the President’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, had taken a similar position in an interview with Jonathan Swan for “Axios on HBO.” Kushner was asked whether he’d call the FBI if he were to receive an email today like the one before the campaign’s Trump Tower meeting. (WW - much has transpired since that day.) Kushner said, “I don’t know. It’s hard to do hypotheticals, but the reality is that we were not given anything salacious.”

Subsequent to his June 12th interview with Stephanopoulos, the president partially back tracked saying he would report to the FBI if a foreign official gave him damaging information on a campaign opponent. However, the president said he would review the information first. [Bloomberg 6/14/19]

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The Department of Justice has issued an opinion saying that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin does not need to turn over President Trump’s tax returns to Congress. [WP 6/14/19]

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Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

Because the U.S. Senate remains in Republican hands and the filibuster is no more, the President can continue unchecked his goal of remaking the federal judiciary.

Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>
Trump – thru 6/21/19	123	2	41	80
Obama – 8 years	329	2	55	268
GW Bush – 8 years	327	2	62	261

Clinton – 8 years	378	2	66	305
GHW Bush – 4 years	193	2	42	148
Reagan – 8 years	383	3	83	290
Carter - 4 years	262	0	56	203

There are currently several nominations awaiting Senate action: 2 seats on the Courts of Appeals, 63 seats on the District Courts and 2 seats on the Courts of International Trade.

There are currently 5 vacancies on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 109 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts and 4 vacancies on the U.S. Court of International Trade. [USCourts/Wikipedia]

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Disassembling

President Trump announced to reporters, “I’ve had tremendous Republican support. I have a 90 percent – 94 percent approval rating as of this morning in the Republican party. That’s an all-time record...I love records.”

Among the seven Republican post-World War II presidents, Trump ranks sixth in terms of the highest approval rating achieved. Only Ford was lower. The record-holder is George W. Bush who earned a 99% approval rating among Republicans and second place goes to his father George H.W. Bush with a 97% approval rating. [WP 6/7/19]

The Trump administration rejected requests from U.S. embassies to fly the rainbow flag during June, LBGTO Pride month. The flag can be flown elsewhere on embassy grounds. Leading the request to fly the flag is Germany; the U.S. Ambassador to Germany is Richard Grenell who is openly gay. [NBC News]

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President Trump claimed during a CNBC interview, “I’m a budget cutter and I have cut the budget.” Trump’s proposed budget this year is \$4.75 trillion, the largest in American history. [CNBC 6/19]

President Trump has made eliminating federal regulations a priority. His administration has targeted environmental rules it sees as burdensome to the fossil fuel industry and other big businesses.

The list below is based on research from Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School and other sources. The list represents two types of policy changes, rules that were officially reversed and rollbacks still in progress.

	<u>Completed (49)</u>	<u>In process (35)</u>	<u>Total (84)</u>
Air pollution & emissions	10	12	22
Drilling & extraction	9	9	18
Infrastructure & planning	12	1	13
Animals	8	2	10
Toxic substances and safety	3	6	7
Other	3	6	9
			[NYT 6/3/19]

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The Trump administration is proceeding to limit LGBTQ rights:

- It is planning to make it easier for federally funded adoption agencies to reject same-sex couples
- Rolled back an order allowing transgender people to openly serve in the U.S. military
- Proposed rolling back protections for transgender people established under the Affordable Care Act
- Told the Supreme Court last year that federal law doesn't protect transgender people from workplace discrimination
- Will make it easier for religious health care workers to object to providing care and procedures that conflict with their religious beliefs, potentially putting gay and transgender patients at risk.
- Removed Title IX protections for transgender youth ensuring that they had access to bathrooms and facilities of their choice.

[Axios PM 5/24/19]

62% of Americans (including evangelical Christians and Trump supporters) describe themselves as being more supportive of transgender rights. [PRRI 6/17/19]

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The number of workplace safety inspectors is decreasing under the Trump administration. [Politico 6/18/19]

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The Trump administration has announced new rules that will sharply reduce and possibly end government funding for studies that use tissue from aborted fetuses. Such research has been instrumental in developing treatments for polio, cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and other conditions. [HuffPost]

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If you're poor or low-income in the U.S. and use government safety net programs, you could be affected by a number of new rules and actions proposed by the Trump administration. Most of the changes are still pending, and anti-poverty groups are trying to stop them from going into effect. Some of the proposals already face legal challenges.

President Trump has said repeatedly that he wants to get more people off government aid and into the workforce so they can become self-sufficient. To help do that, he issued an executive order last year to reduce poverty "by promoting opportunity and economic mobility."

In it, Trump called on federal agencies to streamline existing welfare programs, strengthen work requirements and make sure that taxpayer money is spent on "those who are truly in need."

But anti-poverty advocates say the administration's proposals would hurt, rather than help, poor Americans. They say it will make it more difficult for those trying to become self-sufficient by denying them food, housing and medical assistance when they need it most. [NPR 6/11/19]

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The Trump administration plans to freeze federal fuel-efficiency requirements for six years and end California's authority to set its' own standards.

"The new rule comes as many companies and dozens of states wrestle with how to curb greenhouse gas emissions..." "Several of the industry's biggest players have pledged to cut emissions anywhere between 40% and 60% by 2030, including American Electric Power, DTE, Duke Energy and Southern Company." [WP 6/8/19 & 6/19/19]

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2020

The 59th presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020,
493 days from today

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Richard Nixon, in 1968, is the last presidential challenger from either party who was a front runner from the beginning to the end of the campaign without dropping from first place. All others had a hiccup or some stumble in which they had to comeback from a setback. [source unidentified]

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As of June 17, 2019, 745 people have filed with the Federal Election Commission to run for President; 260 Democratic candidates, 97 Republican candidates, 31 Libertarian candidates, 14 Green candidates, 43 Independent or other party candidates. [Ballotpedia]

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There are efforts in a number of states to make voter registration as difficult as possible. Leading examples are Texas and Tennessee. [Brookings 6/13/19]

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Running in The Democratic Primary
25 candidates as of 6/24/19

Michael Bennet (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54
Joe Biden (D) – former Vice President, former U.S. Senator – Age 76
Cory Booker (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 49
Steve Bullock (D) – Governor of Montana – Age 53
Pete Buttigieg (D) – Mayor of South Bend, Indiana – Age 37
Julian Castro (D) – Former HUD Secretary – Age 44
John Delaney (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 55
Bill DeBlasio (D) – Mayor of New York, New York – Age 58
Tulsi Gabbard (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 37
Kirsten Gillibrand (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 52
Mike Gravel (D) – former U.S. Senator – Age 88
Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54
John Hickenlooper (D) – Governor of Colorado – Age 67
Jay Inslee (D) – Governor of Washington – Age 68
Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 58
Wayne Messam (D) – Mayor of Miramar, Florida – Age 44
Seth Moulton (D) – U.S. Representative – 40
Beto O'Rourke (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 46
Tim Ryan (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 45
Bernie Sanders (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 77

Eric Swalwell (D) – U.S. Representative – 39
Joe Sestak (D) – former U.S. Representative - 67
Elizabeth Warren (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 69
Marianne Williamson – Spiritualist, teacher – Age 66
Andrew Yang – Entrepreneur – Age 44

* * * * *

Stepping back from the 2020 race

Howard Schultz, Founder & Exec. Chairman of Starbucks (Age 65), has announced that he is suspending his campaign for president – at least for now.

Schultz has told his staff that he is letting everyone go except a few of those who are in senior leadership positions.

Schultz also explained that he needed three separate back surgeries and will spend the summer recuperating.

Schultz said to his staff, “if Biden does not appear to be the nominee, he would think about jumping into the presidential race after Super Tuesday.” Super Tuesday is March 3, 2020. [Politico]

* * * * *

The following are the Morning Consult survey results collected from June 17-23, 2019.

	<u>Entered the race</u>	<u>Morning Consult 6/16/19</u>
Joe Biden	4/25/19	38%
Bernie Sanders	2/19/19	19%
Elizabeth Warren	12/31/18	13%
Pete Buttigieg	1/23/19	7%
Kamala Harris	1/21/19	6%
Beto O'Rourke	3/14/19	4%
Cory Booker	1/1/19	3%
Andrew Yang	11/6/17	2%
Amy Klobuchar	2/10/19	1%
Julian Castro	12/12/18	1%
Tulsi Gabbard	1/11/19	1%

Kirsten Gillibrand	1/15/19	1%
John Hickenlooper	3/4/19	1%
Tim Ryan	4/4/19	1%
Michael Bennett	5/2/19	1%
John Delaney	7/28/19	1%
Marianne Williamson	11/15/18	1%
Steve Bullock	5/14/19	1%
Bill de Blasio	5/16/19	1%
Jay Inslee	3/1/19	1%
Wayne Messam	3/13/19	0%
Seth Moulton	4/22/19	0%
Mike Gravel	4/2/19	0%
Eric Salwell	4/8/19	0%
Joe Sestak	6/23/19	0%

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What are the odds?

Given the relative unreliability of ordinary polling this far in advance of the election (See FiveThirtyEight on this subject on page 25), WW is adding a new element to its' review of the primary election as well as the general election.

Rita introduced me to Scott Cooley who runs a public relations firm called Cool Media Public Relations. His client, SportsBetting.ag, produces odds on a variety of things; two of them are the Democratic primary and the November 2020 General election.

Here are the odds for who is likely to win the 2020 Democratic nominating fight as of June 24, 2019. One particularly notable change since April 25, 2019 is that Elizabeth Warren, who was running 9th at 25/1 in April has jumped to 2nd place at 7/2.

- Joe Biden +175 (7/4)
- Elizabeth Warren +350 (7/2)
- Pete Buttigieg +500 (5/1)
- Bernie Sanders +800 (8/1)
- Kamala Harris +800 (8/1)
- Andrew Yang +1000 (10/1)
- Beto O'Rourke +2500 (25/1)
- Cory Booker +3300 (33/1)

Amy Klobuchar +5000 (50/1)
Julian Castro +5000 (50/1)
Kirsten Gillibrand +5000 (50/1)
Tulsi Gabbard +5000 (50/1)
Bill de Blasio +10000 (100/1)
Eric Swalwell +10000 (100/1)
Jay Inslee +10000 (100/1)
John Delaney +10000 (100/1)
John Hickenlooper +10000 (100/1)
Michael Bennet +10000 (100/1)
Seth Moulton +10000 (100/1)
Steve Bullock +10000 (100/1)
Tim Ryan +10000 (100/1)
Marianne Williamson +10000 (100/1)

If you want to get on Scott's mailing list you can email him at scott@coolmediapr.com.

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The Democratic nominating convention is scheduled for July 13-16, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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Democratic Debates of the 2020 Nomination Season

2nd Debate – July 30 & 31 in Detroit, Michigan
3rd Debate – September 12 & 13 in TBD
4th Debate – October, time and place TBD
5th Debate – November, time and place TBD
6th Debate – December, time and place TBD
7th – 12th Debates - TBD

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About the 2020 Democratic primary candidates

- 6 women candidates
- 6 minority candidates
- 13 Green New Deal supporters
- 6 candidates from states won by Trump
- 7 candidates with experience in state or local government

- 14 current or former members of Congress
- 8 candidates who are 45 years of age or younger

[CapitalJournalDaybreak 6/12/19]

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As we approach the 2020 election, some Democratic candidates are talking about Democratic Socialism. So, what is it?

Democratic socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few.

[Dem Socialists of America 6/13/19]

In a speech on June 12, Bernie Sanders defended his support for Democratic Socialism. “Let me be clear, I do understand that I and other progressives will face massive attacks from those who attempt to use the word ‘socialism’ as a slur,” he said, “but I should also tell you that I have faced and overcome these attacks for decades and I am not the only one.” [PRRI 6/15/19]

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67% of the time that candidates from Maine, Massachusetts or Vermont have run in a primary in New Hampshire, they have won. The three Democratic candidates fit that model in 2020 are Seth Moulton, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. [FiveThirtyEight 6/19/19]

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76% of African American Democrats are enthusiastic about Biden, while 16% have some reservations or uncomfortable with his candidacy. Sanders drew enthusiastic views from 64% of black Democrats while 28% had some level of discomfort with him. Harris and Booker the most prominent black candidates running for president generated enthusiastic responses from 53% and 43% of respondents respectively.

In the same survey, 77% of respondents said that affordable health care, college affordability and creating more jobs with benefits were extremely important issues. [Black Economic Alliance/Hart Research & Brossard Research]

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48% of respondents to a recent survey say that they were “much less” or “somewhat less” likely to support someone if he or she was older than 70. 11% said they were more likely to support a candidate over 70.

34% said they were less likely to vote for someone who is gay while 12% were more likely to vote for a person who is gay. [AP/FiveThirtyEight 6/11/19]

Responding to the issue of whether folks will vote for a married gay man, Buttigieg had this to say on Meet the Press, “I have every confidence that American voters, especially Democratic voters, will not discriminate when the opportunity comes up to choose the right leader for the future.” [MTP 6/16/19]

* * * * *

Here are Charlie Cook’s June 7, 2019 predictions of the Elite Eight and Final Four of the Democrats primary contest.

The Elite Eight – Biden, Buttigieg, Booker, Harris, Klobuchar, O’Rourke, Sanders and Warren.

The Final Four – Biden, Sanders or Warren, Harris and Buttigieg.

* * * * *

By now, the 'electability' question has become a well-worn cliché of the 2020 Democratic primary. But, while it is a cliché, it also remains a top concern among Democratic primary voters. Polls show this to be a top concern in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada. It's also a top concern among Democrats in national polls. A late April Ipsos/Reuters poll (4/17-23) found that 63 percent of Democrats named "can beat President Trump in the general election" as their top one or two factors in deciding who to vote for in the primary contest. Coming in a distant second—at 33 percent— was health care, followed closely by "can unify the Democratic party" at 30 percent. In that same poll, 46 percent of Democrats picked Biden as the candidate who was the best on the 'beat Donald Trump' issue. No one else even made it into the double digits. [Amy Walter at Cook Political Report 6/19/19]

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Republican Primary

Announced/Running

Donald Trump – President – Age 72

William Weld I – former Governor of Massachusetts – Age 73

There will be no debates

The Republican nominating convention is scheduled for August 24-27, 2020 in Charlotte, NC.

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The General Election

The Oregon legislature has passed a bill that will add its seven electoral votes to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bringing the total number of electoral votes for the Compact to 196 of the 270 electoral votes needed for it to come into effect.

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How seriously should we take early general election polls especially those taken before the Democratic nominee has been selected?

Not at all seriously, according to FiveThirtyEight.

“FiveThirtyEight analyzed general election polls from 1944 to 2012 that tested the eventual nominees and were conducted in the last two months of the year before (so for 2012 that would be November and December of 2011).”

On average, these polls missed the final result by 10.6 percentage points.

One of the more accurate sets of polls occurred in 2016 when Hillary Clinton led Donald Trump by 46.2% to 41.2% in late 2015.

The following are recent results of the relevant polling for more current years, i.e. in November/December of the year before the election.

<u>Election</u>	<u>Avg GOP poll lead</u>	<u>GOP Election Margin</u>	<u>Absolute Error</u>
2016	- 5.0%	- 2.0%	3.0
2012	- 2.8%	- 3.9%	1.0
2008	- 0.3%	- 7.3%	6.9
2004	+ 8.7%	+ 2.5%	6.2
2000	+11.9%	- 0.5%	12.4
1996	- 13.0%	- 8.5%	4.5
1992	+21.0%	- 5.6%	26.1
1988	+18.0%	+ 7.7%	10.3
1984	+ 7.2%	+18.2%	11.0

Average: 9.0

[FiveThirtyEight 6/14/19]

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Accepting what FiveThirtyEight says about general election polls 12 months before the election (and this being 18 months before the election), here are the results of two general election surveys taken in June.

	<u>Fox 6/16</u>		<u>Quinnipiac 6/11</u>	
	T	Dem	T	Dem
Trump vs Biden	39%	49%	40%	53%
Trump vs Sanders	40%	49%	42%	51%
Trump vs Warren	41%	43%	42%	49%
Trump vs Harris	41%	42%	41%	49%
Trump vs Buttigieg	40%	41%	42%	47%
Trump vs Booker	xx	xx	42%	47%

* * * * *

Alternatively, here are the odds from the sports betting website, SportsBetting.ag, as of June 25, 2019.

- Donald Trump +100 (1/1)
- Joe Biden +400 (4/1)
- Elizabeth Warren +500 (5/1)
- Pete Buttigieg +900 (9/1)
- Andrew Yang +1600 (16/1)
- Bernie Sanders +1800 (18/1)
- Kamala Harris +1800 (18/1)
- Beto O'Rourke +4000 (40/1)
- Cory Booker +8000 (80/1)
- Amy Klobuchar +10000 (100/1)
- Julian Castro +10000 (100/1)
- John Delaney +10000 (100/1)
- Kirsten Gillibrand +10000 (100/1)
- Tulsi Gabbard +10000 (100/1)
- Bill de Blasio +15000 (150/1)
- Eric Swalwell +20000 (200/1)
- Jay Inslee +20000 (200/1)
- John Hickenlooper +20000 (200/1)
- Michael Bennet +20000 (200/1)
- Seth Moulton +20000 (200/1)
- Steve Bullock +20000 (200/1)

Tim Ryan +20000 (200/1)
Marianne Williamson +50000 (500/1)

(WW has erased a few folks who were on the list but are not candidates for president at this time.)

* * * * *

There's a magic number when it comes to diversity efforts: having more than one from which to choose.

“A single diverse candidate faces an enormous headwind—and a tiny chance of being picked for the job in the end. In contrast, when interviewers take the time to interview multiple diverse candidates in a fair and competitive process, the dynamic shifts norms and expectations, and creates a situation in which a diverse candidate is much more likely to end up winning the position.”

A 2016 study published in *Harvard Business Review* found that there is statistically *zero* chance of a woman being hired if she is the only female finalist for a job. Her odds skyrocket when she's joined by another woman. The same is true for people of color.

“Companies were *79 times* more likely to hire a woman and *194 times* more likely to hire a person of color when the finalist pool included more than one woman or minority,” Cyrus Mehri writes. It turns out, instances of two or more diverse candidates upend a company's tendency to want to maintain its status quo, which is likely mostly male and mostly white.

As Mehri writes, it's asking a lot of one single woman to break the ultimate glass ceiling, "but collectively, the half dozen women running for the nation's highest office can do it." [Politico, Claire Zillman, Fortune, Broadsheet 6/24/19]

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Congress

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 6/11/19	20.0%	69.8%
Real Clear Pol. 5/14/19	22.0%	66/2%
Real Clear Pol. 4/2/19	22.8%	66.8%

Real Clear Pol.	3/26/19	20.8%	68.8%
Real Clear Pol.	2/26/19	19.4%	70.0%
Real Clear Pol.	1/1/19	19.6%	69.3%
Real Clear Pol.	1/4/18	15.8%	72.6%

When asked to rate the congressman or woman from their district, 50% approve of the job being done by their representative while 34% disapprove. [NBC/WSJ 6/11/19]

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An average of 397 House members have sought reelection in every cycle since 1946. Of the 37 elections during this period, 1992 was the election in which the fewest number of House members sought re-election – 368. 1992 was also the year in which the largest number of members--19--who sought re-election lost. That was 5% of those who sought re-election.

The second largest number of members who lost while seeking re-election was in 2012 when 13 members lost their re-election efforts.

Of the 14,684 House members who sought reelection during this 72-year period, only 237 or 2% lost their attempts.

* * * * *

[WW uses Jessica Taylor and the Cook Political Report for the House chart below.]

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2020

Democrats 236
Republicans 200

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	183	161
Likely	18	19
Lean	18	15
	<u>Toss Up</u>	
	17	4

* * * * *

56% of Americans who voted for the Democratic candidate in 2018 are satisfied with the what the Democratic majority in the House has done. 53% of women who voted Democratic in 2018 are satisfied. However, 42% of independents who voted Democratic in 2018 are not satisfied with what the House majority has done. 40% are satisfied. [Winston Group 5/31-6/1]

* * * * *

THE SENATE

In the last three national elections, not a single senator who sought renomination lost renomination. One senator lost renomination in 2012 and three lost renomination in 2010.

In the 13 elections between 2010 and 1980, four senators failed in their attempts at renomination but no more than one senator lost renomination in any single election.

Of the 1058 senators who sought renomination from 1946 thru 2018, only 46 senators lost, i.e. 96% of senators who sought renomination were successful.

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[WW uses Jennifer E. Duffy of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections for the Senate chart below. Cook continues to score Jones as Toss Up as does Sabato. Inside Elections rates it as lean Republican. WW is leaving Jones as a Toss Up.]

In 2020, Republicans will be defending 22 seats while Democrats will be defending 12 seats.

There are few if any signs that the Republicans are likely to lose control of the Senate in the 2020 election.

Republicans	53
Democrats	45
Independents	2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2020	33	31	2
Safe in 2020	8	12	
	Coons	Sullivan	

	Durbin	Cotton
	Markey	Risch
	NM (Udall)	Cassidy
	Booker	Daines
	Merkley	Sasse
	Reed	Inhofe
	Warner	Graham
		Rounds
		Cornyn
		Moore Capito
		Enzi
Likely	3	5
	Smith	McConnell
	Shaheen	Tennessee
	Peters	
		Kansas
		Hyde-Smith
		Ernst
Lean	0	3
		Collins
		Perdue
		Tillis
Toss Up	1	2
	Jones	McSally
		Gardner

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Women Will Get It Done

Women make up only 21% of mayors, 18% of governors, 17% of the members of the U.S. Senate, 17% of the members of the U.S. House and 5% of Fortune 1000 chief executives. [WP and Wikipedia]

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Mayor Lori Lightfoot gained acclaim as one of two black women running for mayor of Chicago earlier this year. Lightfoot was elected mayor in April, and is only the second woman to be elected as mayor of Chicago. She is the first black

woman and the first openly gay mayor of the city. Chicago is now the largest city in United States history to have an openly gay mayor, and it is also the largest city in the United States to be led by a woman. [GenderAvenger]

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34 black women were included in the 2019 graduating class of West Point and commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants. This is the largest number of black women graduates since women were first admitted to West Point in 1980. Since that date, 5000 female cadets have graduated. 19 Hispanic women were also graduated with this class. [Various sources]

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Last year, of the 462 newly appointed Fortune 500 board members, 183 of them--40%--were women. That is more than double the rate from a decade ago and the highest on record. However, the total share of seats held by women in these companies in 2018 was 22.5%. [Gender Avenger Blog 6/2/19 – 5/30/19]

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“I would argue that in our society, money is a male construct,” said Sallie Krawcheck, CEO of Ellevest, an investment platform for women

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As it stands, women make 80 cents for every dollar a man makes at best.

Women earn 57 percent of bachelor’s degrees but hold two-thirds of student loan debt. They also pay more for mortgages, even though they’re better at paying them back.

Even in 2019, women are responsible than men for more cleaning, childcare and so-called emotional things like remembering and organizing birthday parties. This adds up to five years’ worth of additional unpaid labor over the course of their lives.

So, women make less money and they also pay more for consumer goods marketed to them.

Female entrepreneurs garnered only 2.22% of all venture capital funding last year. They also get fewer small business loans, even though they’re likely to be good borrowers.

Women keep 71% of their money in cash, compared with 60% of men. Women also retire with just two-thirds of the money men do even though they live five years longer. [Maya Salam NYT 6/14/19]

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Only five think tanks in D.C. have at least 40% female scholars: Stimson Center – 52%; Nuclear Threat Initiative – 50%; U.S. Institute for Peace – 49%; Institute for Policy Studies – 44%; RAND Corporation – 40%.

In 2018, there was one woman for every three men (34%) on D.C. foreign policy panels and 27% of the panels had men only. Only the Center for American Progress avoided any single gender panels. At CATO, the Institute for Policy Studies and AEI, half or more of the panels were all-male. At the Heritage Foundation, Aspen Institute, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Bipartisan Policy Center, one third or more of the events were all male. [GenderAvenger 5/24/19]

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As Japanese women protest companies requiring women to wear high heels at work, Japan's labor minister Takumi Nemoto says heels are "occupationally necessary and appropriate." The petition against the practice was submitted to the labor ministry on Tuesday. [*Guardian*]

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28 members of the U.S. Women's Soccer Team have an open lawsuit that alleges gender discrimination by U.S. Soccer because "despite greater success than the U.S. men's national team, the women's team has consistently been paid drastically less."

And it's not only women in the United States who are highlighting the issue of soccer's inequality. One of soccer's brightest stars, Ada Hegerberg, is sitting out the entire 2019 Women's World Cup in protest of the huge disparity in recognition, pay, and value of men's and women's soccer. [GenderAvenger 6/7/19]

As of 6/21/19, U.S. Soccer and the United States Women's National Team have agreed to mediation of the pending lawsuit relative to pay inequity between the men's and women's teams. [LA Times 6/21/19]

There was a time when U.S. Men's Soccer events brought in discernibly more money than the women's events, but the tables have turned.

	<u>Men's National Squad</u>	<u>Women's National Squad</u>
2009	\$9.37 million	\$3.19 million
2015	\$14.87 million	\$3.16 million
2016	\$22.24 million	\$24.11 million
2017	\$14.61 million	\$14.61 million (this is correct)
2018	\$13.00 million	slightly less than \$13 million [Rachel Bachman WSJ]

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Lindsay Gottlieb, formerly the University of California, Berkeley woman's coach, has been hired by the Cleveland Cavaliers as an assistant coach. She becomes the first women's collegiate head coach to be recruited to an NBA staff.

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Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield will be the first woman to serve as the president of the U.S. Naval War College.

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Restaurants

BRASSERIE by niche
 4580 Laclede Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 314-464-0600
www.Brasseriebyniche.com
info@brasseriebyniche.com

Debbie and I were going to be in St. Louis for a family event. We knew from our neighbors, Jamie and Bob, that their son Gerard Ford Craft had opened four acclaimed restaurants in St. Louis and environs, so we asked them for a suggestion.

Based on where we were going to be earlier in the day, they suggested Brasserie by niche and kindly made a reservation for 8:30 p.m.

We left the party, which was part of the family event, with Carly, Seth and Tyler at 8:00 p.m. In ordinary circumstances this would get us to the restaurant in plenty of time. We had reserved an SUV and a driver since we had no idea where we were going. That turned out to be very lucky.

This was the night that hail, rain and windstorms were working their way across the mid-west. About halfway to the restaurant the storm hit the highway we were on with more force than anything we had seen for a long time. The hail stones were bouncing off the car windows. Cars were pulling off the highway to wait for the storm to pass. I told our driver he should feel free to do the same. He took a convenient off ramp and stopped at the top.

In a few minutes the hail stopped, the wind died down and we continued to the restaurant.

One of the restaurant employees was waiting outside with an umbrella.

There is an outdoor dining area with a partially covered top that was not in use that night. As you enter the restaurant, the dining room is to the right.

We were seated at a round table for five at the front of the restaurant. On the right side of the restaurant there is a banquette that extends the length of the restaurant. There is also a banquette on the other side of the restaurant that is more broken up.

There are 2 and 4 tops along the banquettes. There are additional rounds of 5 and other 4 tops through the center of the restaurant.

The restaurant seats about 100 people plus whatever number can sit in the outdoor area, weather permitting.

Our server was Gina who had been at the restaurant for 5 years and enjoys working there.

Even before we ordered Gina delivered several items to the table: gougères cheese puffs; cervelle de canut, fresh cheese & herbs, and a goat cheese tart, fennel salad.

For our Hors d'oeuvres, Tyler selected cream of garlic soup, croutons, garlic oil, chives. Debbie, Carly and Seth shared two orders of wild burgundy escargot, herbs, garlic, butter, as well as the frisée salad, brioche croutons bacon lardons, poached egg. I picked French onion soup, croutons, comté cheese, chives. The cheese topping of the bowl was particularly tasty.

For our main courses Debbie had pan roasted trout, with asparagus, bacon, hazelnuts, brown butter. Carly selected mussels, with white wine, garlic, shallot, crème fraiche, herbs. Seth opted for roasted chicken, with shiitake mushrooms, bread, au jus. Tyler picked the brasserie burger, American cheese, dijonnaise, dill pickle, onion and pommes frites, which were shared. I went with Coq au Vin, red wine braised chicken legs, bacon lardons, pearl onions mushrooms, egg noodles.

After some discussion about how full we were, for dessert we chose strawberry pot d'amour, puff pastry, strawberry jam fresh strawberry, vanilla pastry cream, strawberry shortcake ice cream and 5 spoons.

It was soon delivered along with floating island, a chocolate mousse with brown sugar cocoa nib tuile and a black & white crème brûlée, vanilla crème brûlée, chocolate ganache, black & white cookie. The 5 spoons were put to good use.

The service was excellent.

There are two gender neutral restrooms at the back of the restaurant. In one corner there is a white ceramic commode. To the right of the commode there is a square white ceramic wash basin.

To the left of the wash basin is a small off-white decorated wooden table a bit less than 3 feet tall. To the right of the washbasin there is a basket that is literally a waste basket.

In the far corner is a short, dark wooden table with a tray on top. There are metal grab bars along all the walls a few feet off the floor. Up to shoulder height, the walls are covered in white ceramic rectangular bricks and brown paint above the bricks. The floor is covered with small white and brown rectangular tiles.

The Brasserie is definitely worth a visit when you are in St. Louis.

Mike

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