

*Mike Berman's*

# WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

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September 20, 2019

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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**

55% of Americans say the country is on the wrong track, including 51% of men and 59% of women. 33% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 39% of men and 28% of women. [Econ/YouGov 9/10/19]

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The U.S. budget gap has reached the \$1.09 trillion mark in the first 11 months of the fiscal year. This is the first time in seven years that the year-to-date deficits have topped the \$1 trillion mark. [Congressional Budget Office/WSJ 9/13/19]

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5.5 million seniors, 8% of Americans 60 and older, were "food insecure" in 2017. While keeping people fed is important it is also cheaper than caring for them down the line when they're sick – which is what often happens to people who don't have the food they need to live a healthy life. [Axis Vitals 8/29/19]

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There are five million Native Americans in the United States, 78% of whom live outside reservations. [Wikipedia]

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60% of Americans currently have an unfavorable view of China while 26% have a favorable view. This is the highest unfavorable and lowest favorable rating that China has received since 2005 when the question was first asked. [8/13/19 Global attitudes Survey – reported by PEW]

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67% of Democrats/Leaners said that colleges have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country while 59% of Republicans/leaners say they have a negative effect on the way things are going in the country. [PEW 8/28/19]

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57% of Americans generally are satisfied with the state of the U.S. economy today while 41% are dissatisfied.

69% are satisfied with their personal financial situation today while 30% are dissatisfied.

67% are not confident that the life of their children's generation will be better than it has been for them while 27% feel confident that their children's lives will be better.

70% of respondents feel angry because our political system seems to only be working for the insiders with money and power, like those on Wall Street or in Washington, rather than working to help every-day people get ahead. [NBC/WSJ 8/14/19]

## **Employment**

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2019 is 3.7%, the same as the previous two months.

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 7.2%, as opposed to 7.4% a year ago.

130,000 jobs were created in August, down from 159,000 in July. The average monthly growth so far this year is about 158,000 jobs. [BLS 9/8/19]

The Labor Force Participation (LFPR) for August is 63.2%, up from 63% in July.

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## **The Demographics of Unemployment for August 2019**

### Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women – 3.2% (increase since last month)

Men – 3.0% (no change since last month)

Unemployment by Race

- White – 3.4% (increase since last month)
- Black – 5.5% (decreased since last month)
- Hispanic – 4.2% (decreased since last month)
- Asian – 2.8% (same as last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

- Less than high school – 5.4% (increased since last month)
- High School – 3.6% (same as last month)
- Some college – 3.1% (decreased since last month)
- Bachelor’s Degree or higher – 2.1% (decreased since last month)

In July 2019, 32 states had unemployment rates below the national rate; 20 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico had unemployment rates that were above the national rate.

Alaska, at 6.3%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Mississippi and D.C. had unemployment rates of 5.1% or more but less than 6.0%. 14 states had unemployment rates that were 4.0% or greater but less than 5.0%. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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The percentage of U.S. workers who are union members fell from 20.1% in 1983 to 10.5% in 2018. [PEW, Axios AM 9/2/19]

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64% of Americans approve of labor unions. In 2009, only 48% of Americans approved labor unions. The current approval is the highest found by Gallup in the last 50 years except for March 1999 – 66%, August 1999 – 65%, and August 2003 – 65%. [Gallup 8/28/19]

157 million+ are part of the U.S workforce. Three in ten U.S. jobs are held by the self-employed and the workers they hire. About 16 million American are self-employed.

Millennials (aged 23-38 in 2019) are the largest generation in the U.S. labor force as of 2016. Whereas American women earn an average of 85 cents on the dollar compared to men, millennial women earn 89 cents on the dollar. [PEW 8/29/19]

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For the first time since 2009, the overall number of Americans with health insurance dropped in 2018. The Census Bureau reports that 8.5% of the population, lacked health insurance in 2018, up from 7.9% the year before. This means that 27.5 million people lacked health insurance last year. [PRRI/Morning Buzz 9/12/19]

As of 2017, 156.2 million people (54% of all insured Americans) receive their health insurance from their employers; 20.5 million people purchase their insurance directly; 65.2 million people receive their coverage through Medicaid; 42.8 million people are covered thru Medicare and 4.6 million receive coverage through other public sources. [Kaiser Family Foundation – Steve Rattner, MSNBC 9/13/19]

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Total household debt in the U.S. increased to \$13.86 trillion in the second quarter of 2019. The current total is \$1.2 trillion higher than the previous high of \$12.68 trillion in the third quarter of 2008.

The largest component of household debt is home mortgages which hit \$9.4 trillion in the second quarter.

Outstanding student debt is at \$1.48 trillion.

[Federal Reserve Bank of New York 8/13/19]

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### **This and That**

47% of all parents say they are likely to consider purchasing a bulletproof backpack for their child. 42% say they are not likely to consider the same. [Morning Consult 9/8/19]

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In 1969, the winner of the U.S. Open Men’s Singles tennis tournament, Rod Laver took home the “huge” prize of \$16,000. If you simply multiply that by cumulative inflation thru 2019, or 599.1%, it has a present-day value of \$111,850.90.

In fact, the winner of the Men’s Singles title this year received \$3,850,000, 34 times the present-day value of Laver’s \$16,000.

The winner of the U.S. Open Women’s Singles title this year also received \$3,850,000. The male and female singles title winners have received the same amount since 1973. [WW was not able to find the amount that the Woman’s singles title winner, Margaret Court, took home in 1969.]

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This past Thursday, an eight-day palindrome, ended. It began on 9/10/19 and continued 9/11/19, 9/12/19, 9/13/19, 9/14/19, 9/15/19, 9/16/19, 9/17/19, 9/18/19 and ended on 9/19/19. This particular palindrome will only happen twice in this century.

In case you, like WW, have/had no idea what a palindrome is, it is “a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backward as forward”.

The longest palindromic word in the Oxford English Dictionary is “tattarrattat” which was coined by James Joyce in Ulysses for a knock on the door. The Guinness Book of Records gives the title to “detartrated”.

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Twitter, Twitter on your phone  
Who has the most followers of all?  
(As of August 2019)

- Sen. Mitt Romney – 2,002,325
- Sen. Rand Paul – 2,579,025
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi – 3,091,552
- Sen. Kamala Harris – 3,912,269
- Sen. Marco Rubio – 3,964,383
- Sen. Cory Booker – 4,471,011
- Sen. Ted Cruz – 4,678,854
- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – 5,296,801
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren – 8,237,615
- Sen. Bernie Sanders – 18,054,502

[WP Magazine 9/1/19]

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Twitter has become the language of announcement in politics. Increasingly, when an organization, a country or an individual want to announce something, support something or deny something...Twitter is the medium of choice. From there, anyone of note can be assured that other forms of media will pick up their announcement. [WW]

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76% say that climate change is a crisis (38%) or a major problem but not a crisis (38%). 37% say global warming and climate change will require ordinary Americans to make major sacrifices while 48% say they will require minor sacrifices. 43% of Americans are “very certain” human activity is causing climate change – this includes 20% of Republicans, 43% of Independents and 59% of Democrats. [WP/Kaiser Family Foundation 7/9-8/5/19]

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The average student debt of graduates in Medicine is \$170,440; Law is 119,250; International relations is \$65,468; Public Health is \$56,964; Social Work is \$50,102; Nursing is \$49,821; Urban Planning is \$48,612; Journalism is \$45,047; Information Science is \$43, 217; Anthropology is \$43,208; Education is \$30,417. [WSJ 9/14-15/19]

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Coca Cola is WW’s favorite soft drink. The following is the total number of single-serve, non-alcoholic beverages consumed per person in 2018.

Mexico – 623  
U.S. – 523  
Britain – 330  
Spain – 307  
France – 180  
Russia – 122  
Nigeria – 53

[Source: Coca-Cola Hellenic/WSJ 8/24/19]

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Amazon has increasingly been taking control of the actual delivery of their parcels. At the beginning of 2017 the U.S. Postal Service delivered 61% of Amazon parcels. UPS handled 20.8% and Amazon itself handled 12.8%.

Currently, Amazon and its last-mile carriers deliver 48.4% of their packages compared to 30.9% for USPS and 18.1% for UPS. [WSJ]

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Publicly traded U.S. retailers have announced closures of 8,558 store locations so far this year. That comes on top of 5,844 closures in 2018 for a total of 14,402 closures. During this same period there have been 6,704 store openings. [Numlock News 9/16/19]

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## **Guns**

Americans are split in their attitude toward the National Rifle Association. 40% of Americans feel positively about the National Rifle Association while 41% feel negatively.

50% of us believe the government will not do enough to regulate access to firearms while 45% say the government will go too far.

89% support expanding background checks to all firearm sales and transfers.

63% support banning the sale of selected semi-automatic firearms referred to as assault weapons. This is up from 51% in June 2016.

75% oppose banning the sale of handguns.

52% disapprove/36% approve of the way President Trump is handling the aftermath of the recent mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton.

60% of us believe responsibility for these mass shooting is the fact that assault and military-style firearms are legal to purchase. [NBC/WSJ 8/14/19]

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72% say individuals should have to obtain a license before being able to purchase a gun.

61% support banning the purchase of high-capacity ammunition magazines.

72% support the creation of a national red flag law, allowing a judge to temporarily remove guns from a person who may be a danger to others or themselves. [NewsHour/Marist poll 9/8/19]

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## **Quotes**

“Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote.”

--Ben Franklin

“Vision without execution is hallucination.”

--Thomas Edison

“Those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.”

--John F. Kennedy

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far it is possible to go.”

--T.S. Elliott

(Thanks to Joel for the above)

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“Uninformative clinical trials squander scarce resources, divert participants from better research, and dilute the evidence basis of medicine.”

--JAMA 9/4/19 – S. Broder, M.D.

“Pressure is a privilege.”

--Billy Jean King

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## **President Trump**

As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Politico/Morning Consult survey found that 43% of registered voters approve of the job that President Trump is doing as president while 54% disapprove. Those approving of the job he is doing include 40% of women, 46% of men, 33% of Hispanics, 15% of African Americans, 82% of Republicans and 10% of Democrats.

On September 10, 2019 the Economist/YouGov survey found that 44% of Americans approved of Trump’s job performance and 54% 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.

<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>
8/30/19	39%	57%	41.3%	54.2%
7/31/19	42%	54%	42.5%	52.9%
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%
9/30/18	42%	53%	41.5%	52.7%
7/1/18	42%	53%	41.8%	52.3%
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>
SEPT’19		38/56A	39/56A		
AUG’19	43/55A	xxx	41/54	xxx	43/56
JUL’19	45/52	47/50	xxx	xxx	46/51
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
JAN ’17	xxx	xxx	44/53	40/48A	xxx

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The following are job approval numbers from Gallup for nine of the last twelve presidents, roughly 32 months into their first term. Since Gallup is no longer providing a steady stream of approval ratings WW will use various other surveys to provide approval numbers on the current president.

Eisenhower	71% (9/55)
GHW Bush	68% (9/91)

Kennedy	56% (9/63)
Nixon	52% (10/71)
GW Bush	50% (9/03)
Clinton	48% (9/95)
Reagan	47% (9/83)
Trump	44% (9/19) – Econ/YouGov
Obama	40% (9/11)
Carter	30% (9/79)

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
9/9/19	48%	48%	CNN (RV)
7/23/19	52%	41%	Fox News (RV)
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)
2/2/19	49%	45%	CNN (RV)
1/1/19	47%	46%	Econ/YouGov (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>	
9/9/19	40%	55%	CNN (RV)
7/30/19	41%	51%	Economist (RV)
6/11/19	46%	50%	Econ/YouGov I
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)
7/18/18	38%	45%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	36%	60%	NBC/WSJ

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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 9/11/19	150	2	43	105
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 and 33 seats on the District Courts.

There are currently four vacancies on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 91 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts and two vacancies on the U.S. Court of International Trade. [USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Donald Trump]

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### **Disassembling**

On September 12, the administration will finalize its repeal of the 2015 Clean Water Rule, which gave the federal government authority over 60% of the nation's water bodies. Critics say the move will result in the loss of wetlands and leave critical pieces of the nation's waterways unprotected. [WP 9/12/19]

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Trump has instructed Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to exempt the Tongass National Forest from logging restrictions imposed in 2001. The move would affect 9.5 million acres. [WP 8/27/19]

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The Department of Defense has released a list of 127 military construction projects that are being delayed as the Department moved \$3.6 billion to pay for the infamous border wall. [NBCNews.com 9/4/19]

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The administration has announced that it will make it harder for children born to U.S. service members serving abroad to claim U.S. citizenship. This follows a pattern that the administration has pursued since 2017. [WP 9/6/19]

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“Students who say they were defrauded by colleges and want their education loans erased will have a tougher time seeking forgiveness under newly issued regulations from the Trump administration.” [WP 9/4/19]

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The Trump administration is limiting scientific input to the 2020 dietary guidelines, raising concerns among nutrition advocates and independent experts about industry influence over healthy eating recommendations for all Americans.

For the first time, HHS and USDA have narrowed the type of research that can be used to only those studies vetted by agency officials. [WP 8/30/19]

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The Department of Housing and Urban Development has proposed raising the bar for bringing claims of discrimination, appeasing the home insurance and mortgage industries. The new rule would amend an Obama-era regulation barring lenders, landlords and others in the housing industry from enacting policies that may appear innocuous but wind up discriminating against minority groups. [WP 8/17/19]

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The Alaska Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the country’s largest wildlife preserve and may be the country’s largest remaining pristine wilderness.

The Trump administration, thru the Department of the Interior, is planning to open the refuge for lease sales to oil companies this year. [WSJ 9/13/19]

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The Trump administration has decided, apparently for the first time, to weigh prospective immigrants credit history when deciding who gets to come to the U.S. and who gets to stay. As a result, it will be harder for legal immigrants to get

permanent residency and for prospective applicants to enter the U.S. if they rely on social programs such as Medicaid or food stamps or are deemed likely to need them. [WSJ 8/17/19]

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The new student loan watchdog of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a former executive from a loan servicer that has repeatedly come under fire from government auditors and the consumer bureau itself for a series of mistakes. [NYT 8/17/19]

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The Trump administration has proposed allowing businesses with federal contracts to discriminate against workers on the basis of sex, race, LGBT status and other characteristics. The order would apply to any organization that could prove it serves a religious purpose. It is possible that this proposal could also lead to federal contractors refusing to hire women or unmarried workers who are pregnant or parents, or even discriminate on the basis of race. [Daily Beast 8/14/19]

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EPA has proposed a rule that would reverse standards enacted under President Obama that require oil and gas operations to install controls on their operations to curb the release of methane at the wellhead and in their transmission equipment. Interestingly, several of the biggest fossil fuel companies including Exxon, Shell and BP have urged the administration to keep the current standards in place. [WP 8/29/19]

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## **2020**

The 59<sup>th</sup> presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020,  
410 days from today

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For the record, as of September 2, 2019, 840 people have filed presidential campaign committees with the Federal Election Commission; 279 as Democrats, 119 as Republicans, 38 as Libertarians and 17 as Green Party candidates. [Ballotpedia]

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### **Running in the Democratic Primary**

26 individuals announced they were seeking the Democratic nomination for president and now there are 20. As of August 28, six have decided to end their candidacies.

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  
Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54  
Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 58  
Wayne Messam (D) – Mayor of Miramar, Florida – Age 44  
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  
Tom Steyer (D) – Entrepreneur – Age 62  
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

#### Have Left the Field

~~Mike Gravel (D) – former U.S. Senator – Age 88~~  
~~Eric Swalwell (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 39~~  
~~John Hickenlooper (D) – Governor of Colorado – Age 67~~  
~~Jay Inslee (D) – Governor of Washington – Age 68~~  
~~Seth Moulton (D) – U.S. Representative – 40~~  
~~Kirsten Gillibrand (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 52~~

Howard Schultz has announced that he will not be running for president.  
[WP 9/6/19]

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You may have noticed that Stacey Abrams, former candidate for Governor of Georgia, has announced that she is available to run for Vice President with whomever is the Democratic candidate for President. [NYT 8/14/19]

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Democratic socialism has been a regular topic of the current Democratic primary activity. What policies do voters consider to be socialist?

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Dem</u>
	Yes-No	Yes-No	Yes-No	Yes-No
Medicare for all	63-20	70-18	66/18	55-23
Free college tuition	61-21	69-18	65-19	51-27
Single payer health care	42-30	51-26	42-30	34-33
70% individual marg tax rate	40-25	56-18	39-27	29-29

[Winston Group 8/23/19]

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The following are the Morning Consult survey results collected from September 9, 2019 and the Real Clear Politics average from September 8, 2019.

	<u>Entered the race</u>	<u>Morning Consult 9/9/19</u>	<u>Real Clear Politics 9/8/19</u>
Joe Biden	4/25/19	33%	26.8%
Bernie Sanders	2/19/19	21%	17.3%
Elizabeth Warren	12/31/18	16%	16.8%
Pete Buttigieg	1/23/19	5%	4.8%
Kamala Harris	1/21/19	7%	6.5%
Beto O'Rourke	3/14/19	3%	2.8%
Cory Booker	1/1/19	3%	2.3%
Andrew Yang	11/6/17	3%	3.0%
Amy Klobuchar	2/10/19	1%	1.2%
Julian Castro	12/12/18	1%	1.0 %
Tulsi Gabbard	1/11/19	1%	1.3%
Tim Ryan	4/4/19	1%	0.5%
Michael Bennett	5/2/19	1%	0.7%
John Delaney	7/28/19	1%	0.4%
Marianne Williamson	11/15/18	1%	0.5%
Steve Bullock	5/14/19	0%	0.3%
Bill de Blasio	5/16/19	1%	0.5%
Wayne Messam	3/13/19	0%	0%
Joe Sestak	6/23/19	0%	0.3%
Tom Steyer	7/9/19	1%	0.8%

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The following are rankings of the first choice and the combined first/second choice percentages from the September 16th NBC/WSJ survey.

<u>1st choice</u>		<u>1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> choice combined</u>	
Biden	31%	Warren	45%
Warren	25%	Biden	41%
Sanders	14%	Sanders	29%
Buttigieg	7%	Buttigieg	19%
Harris	5%	Harris	14%
Yang	4%	Booker	6%
Klobuchar	2%	O'Rourke	6%
Booker	2%	Yang	6%
O'Rourke	1%	Klobuchar	5%
Gabbard	1%	Gabbard	2%
Delaney	1%	Steyer	1%
Steyer	1%	Castro	1%
Bennet	1%	Delaney	1%
DeBlasio	1%	Bennet	1%
Castro	1%	Bullock	1%
		DeBlasio	1%

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### **What are the odds?**

Scott Cooley runs a public relations firm called Cool Media Public Relations. His client, SportsBetting.ag, produces odds on just about anything on which you might want to wager, including the Democratic presidential primary.

Here are the odds for who is likely to win the 2020 Democratic nominating fight as of September 14, 2019.

Elizabeth Warren +200 (2/1)  
 Joe Biden +300 (3/1)  
 Bernie Sanders +450 (9/2)  
 Kamala Harris +1000 (10/1)  
 Andrew Yang +800 (8/1)  
 Pete Buttigieg +1600 (16/1)  
 Tulsi Gabbard +2500 (25/1)

Cory Booker +3300 (33/1)  
 Beto O'Rourke +3300 (33/1)  
 Tom Steyer +4000 (40/1)  
 Amy Klobuchar +5000 (50/1)  
 Marianne Williamson +8000 (80/1)  
 Julian Castro +8000 (80/1)  
 Bill DeBlasio +12500 (125/1)  
 Michael Bennet +12500 (125/1)  
 John Delaney +12500 (125/1)  
 Tim Ryan +12500 (125/1)

If you want to get on Scott's mailing list, you can email him at [scott@coolmediapr.com](mailto:scott@coolmediapr.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

In a September 8th Morning Consult survey, respondents were asked whether they had a favorable or unfavorable impression of each of the Democratic candidates.

Biden and Sanders had the highest favorability scores of 75% and 73% respectively. DeBlasio had the highest unfavorability score of 26%. Leading the list of candidates who respondents had not heard of were Steyer at 43% and Gabbard, Bennet and Williamson at 38%.

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Biden	75%	18%
Sanders	72%	20%
Warren	64%	15%
Harris	56%	18%
O'Rourke	47%	16%
Booker	48%	15%
Buttigieg	48%	12%

All the other Democratic candidates had favorability ratings of 36% or less.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Democratic Debates of the 2020 Nomination Season

- 4th Debate – Westerville, Ohio – October 15-16 (there may be two nights of debate given that there are now at least 11 people who have qualified)

Those who qualified for the third debate are also qualified for the October debate(s). Additional people can qualify by October 1<sup>st</sup>. (Tom Steyer has announced that he has qualified.)

- 5th Debate – November, time and place TBD
- 6th Debate – December, time and place TBD
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Debates – TBD

#### Audience size

- 1<sup>st</sup> Debate – Miami – June 26 – 15,300,000 viewers  
June 27 – 18,000,000 viewers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Debate – Detroit – July 30 – 8,700,000 viewers  
July 31 – 10,720,000 viewers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Debate – Houston – September 12 – 14,000,000+ viewers

\* \* \* \* \*

At the Iowa State Fair, they administer a decidedly nonscientific poll whereby fair goers drop a corn kernel into a jar corresponding to their preferred presidential candidate. Biden received 24% of the corn, Warren and Buttigieg each got 16% of the corn. DeBlasio received 0% of the corn.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since 1972, every Democratic presidential nominee won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Iowa Caucus and 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the New Hampshire primary.

In Iowa, the eventual nominee has been the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher 7 times, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher one time and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher two times. [Charlie Cook]

On September 4, the current standings in Iowa are Biden 28.5%, Warren, 18.0%, Sanders 17.5%.

In New Hampshire, the eventual nominee has been the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher 5 times and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher 5 times. [Charlie Cook]

On September 10, the current order in New Hampshire is Sanders 22%, Biden 21.5%, Warren 19.3%.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Democratic primary schedule is front loaded. (Charlie Cook)

- In February 2020 - 193 delegates will be selected.
- On Super Tuesday March 3, 2020 – 1683 delegates will be selected.

- On March 10, 2020 – 402 delegates will be selected.

By March 10, 2020, 2278 delegates will have been selected. This is slightly more than half of the 4,532 total delegates at the convention.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Republican Primary**

#### Announced/Running

Donald Trump – President – Age 72

William Weld I – former Governor of Massachusetts – Age 73

Joe Walsh – former one term GOP member of Congress from Illinois – Age 57

Mark Sanford – former Governor, former member of Congress – Age 59

At least three states have announced that they are canceling their primaries or caucuses in 2020 to “save money”.

There will be no debates.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### **The General Election**

Looking ahead...A federal appeals court ruled in mid-August that presidential electors who cast the actual ballot for president and vice president are free to vote as they wish and cannot be required to follow the results of the popular vote in their states. This decision could give a single elector the power to decide the outcome of a presidential election if the popular vote results in an Electoral College tie.

If the Supreme Court chooses to take up the dispute, it would have time to rule on the issue before the Electoral College meets in December 2020 to cast the formal vote for president [NBC News 8/21/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

The following are the results of three general election surveys taken 13 months before the election.

	ABC/WP		IBD/TIPP		Emerson	
	<u>9/5/19</u>		<u>8/30/19</u>		<u>8/26/19</u>	
	T	Dem	T	Dem	T	Dem
Trump vs Biden	40%	55%	40%	55%	46%	54%
Trump vs Sanders	43%	52%	45%	49%	48%	52%
Trump vs Warren	44%	51%	44%	51%	50%	50%
Trump vs Harris	43%	50%	46%	49%	50%	50%
Trump vs Buttigieg	43%	47%	xx	xx	51%	49%

\* \* \* \* \*

**Congress**

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak, having dropped since the first of the year.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 9/10/19	16.6%	71.4%
Real Clear Pol. 8/6/19	17.2%	71.4%
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%

\* \* \* \* \*

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

As of September 9, 2019, nineteen incumbent members of the House are not seeking re-election – four Democrats and fifteen Republicans.

## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2020

Democrats 235  
 Republicans 199  
 Vacancies 1

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	182	159
Likely	18	22
Lean	17	13
	<u>Toss Up</u>	
	18	5

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE SENATE

[WW uses Jennifer E. Duffy of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections for the Senate chart below. When those two organizations do not agree, WW uses Sabato as a tie breaker.]

In 2020, Republicans will be defending 22 seats while Democrats will be defending 12 seats. It is unlikely that the Republicans will lose control of the Senate in this election. The only change in the chart below since the last edition of the Watch is that Senator Collins (R-ME) moves from Lean to Toss Up.

	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	7	13			
	Coons	Sullivan			
	Durbin	Cotton			
	Markey	Risch			
	Warner	Cassidy			
	Booker	Daines			
	Merkley	Sasse			
	Reed	Inhofe			
		Graham			

		Rounds
		Moore Capito
		WY (Enzi)
		Tennessee (Alexander)
		Hyde-Smith
Likely	4	4
	Smith	McConnell
	Shaheen	Cornyn
	Peters	Kansas (Roberts)
	NM (Udall)	Ernst
Lean	0	2
		Perdue
		Tillis
Toss Up	1	3
	Jones	McSally
		Gardner
		Collins

\* \* \* \* \*

### Women Will Get It Done

Black and American Indian women are much more likely than white, Asian and Hispanic women to die pregnancy-related deaths according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are 16.7 pregnancy related deaths per 100,000 live births. Of that number:

- Blacks have 40.8 per 100,000
- American Indians have 29.7 per 100,000
- Asians have 13.5 per 100,000
- Whites have 12.7 per 100,000
- Hispanics have 11.5 per 100,000

[Axios Visuals]

\* \* \* \* \*

In a new version of the game Monopoly, women get \$1,900 to men's \$1,500 and instead of buying properties, players invest in inventions made by women. [USA Today – Broadsheet 9/1/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

Research: When Women Are on Boards, Male CEOs Are Less Overconfident

A number of governments, notably those in India, California, and parts of Europe, are pushing for greater female representation in the boardroom. And several studies suggest why: Having women on the board results in better acquisition and investment decisions and in less aggressive risk-taking, yielding benefits for shareholders. What's less clear is why these effects happen.

Our research suggests one potential reason: Having female board members helps temper the overconfidence of male CEOs, improving overall decision making for the company. [GenderAvengerBlog 9/14/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

2019 is likely to be the first year that women make up the majority of the college-educated workforce in the United States. [BLS /WSJ 8/21/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

Two trade bodies in Europe – the Association for Financial Markets in Europe, which represents the region's banks, and the Investment Association – are weighing a move to reduce stock market trading hours as a means of boosting the number of women in the sector. The cut being considered is opening the markets an hour later and closing them an hour earlier than the current 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule. [Broadsheet 8/20/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

Of the 65 colleges in the nation's wealthiest and most powerful sports conferences, only four have women leading the athletic department. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX and women make up nearly half of college athletes, women are increasingly filling other athletic administrative posts especially outside the Power Five Conferences. [NYT 9/15/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

“There has been a lot of talk recently in the political arena about the likability trap for women: Women who behave in authoritative ways risk being disliked as insufferable prima donnas, pedantic schoolmarms or witchy woman.” --Joan C. Williams, professor of law [NYT 8/27/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Restaurants**

### **CUT**

A Wolfgang Puck Restaurant

Located in the

Rosewood Hotel

1050 31<sup>st</sup> St. NW

Washington, DC 20007

202-617-2400

In 2013, the Capella Hotel, opened on the C&O Canal. It had a restaurant called the Grill Room which was reviewed in the May 2013 Washington Watch. The Capella became the Rosewood Hotel in 2016. The hotel closed for renovations in October 2018 and reopened in early August of this year.

There is no physical resemblance between the public spaces of the Rosewood and the Capella.

The lobby of the hotel and the Bar and Lounge are completely redone. The kitchen, which was out of sight, is now fully exposed in a rather dramatic fashion and they no longer have the private dining room.

Whereas the Grill Room was essentially closed off from the rest of the hotel, the Bar and Lounge are open to the dining room through a waist-height wall.

At each end of the dining room there are two booths that will seat up to four people. There are a couple of 2-tops on the canal side of the dining room which can be seen through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows/doors. On the opposite side of the dining room there is a banquette seating 2-tops which on one side faces the kitchen and on the other side faces into the dining room. There are six 2-tops on each side of the banquette. There a couple of 4-tops in the center of the dining room.

As I viewed the lounge and dining room and then sat in a booth and then on one of the dining room chairs...one word came to mind...luxurious.

The dining room seats up to 66 people at 19-20 tables and the restaurant is serving up to 100 people per evening, somewhat less at lunch time.

Debbie and I went to CUT with Virginia and Tom on the 13<sup>th</sup> day it was open. Tom and Virginia had been there a week earlier so Tom was known. About a week later, I went to Cut with Carol for lunch.

George, the assistant manager, remembered Tom and Virginia from their first visit and was particularly attentive and friendly.

Everything biscuits and small twisted bread rolls were delivered to the table.

For appetizers...Virginia chose Black Rock Orchard Heirloom Tomatoes; Debbie selected Charred Leeks; Tom picked Sashimi - Boston Bluefin Tuna. I opted for Pennsylvania Sweet Corn Tortelloni. We shared Earth 'n Eats Farm Carrots. And George ordered up for the table Sliced Beets topped with crème fraiche and caviar.

For main courses...Virginia selected Filet Mignon;

Debbie and Tom shared a Bone-in New York Steak. Debbie asked that the bone be saved so she could take it home. When it came time to leave, Debbie asked for the bone and it had disappeared. George insisted that she come to the kitchen, where she was given another bone was about 2 feet long. (The next day she heated it up and gnawed on the pieces of meat at the foot of the bone.)

I opted for Virginia Rockfish.

Before we had a chance to select desserts, George provided a selection: cheesecake, warm cookies (sugar, chocolate and chocolate chip), and chocolate mousse shaped like an Andy Warhol painting.

As we were about to leave, yet another dessert arrived, a warm souffle, which Tom had delivered to the table of four people next to us – to their surprise and pleasure.

\* \* \* \* \*

I had lunch with Carol at CUT about a week later. I arrived before Carol and was first seated at one of the tables for two at the window. I asked if we might instead be seated at a 4-top near the 2--top. The request was quickly honored. One of the chefs stopped by to say hello seeming to remember me from before. Carol had been there a couple of times before and George clearly remembered her.

Before we had a chance to order, George showed up with two plates of an excellent chopped salad. When we finished the salad, George had delivered a plate of lobster spring rolls. Neither of these items were on the menu for that day.

Already feeling a bit full Carol and I shared Earth 'n Eats Farm Carrots and Maine Lobster Club Sandwich.

I could not resist dessert, so I ordered coconut pecan fruit ice cream with a pecan cup.

\* \* \* \* \*

A second friend of mine, also named Carol, had lunch at CUT with a friend and has been at CUT a couple of times. On this lunch occasion she noted that they were under no pressure to order quickly. (This was also true at my two visits.)

Here is how she described their lunch, "...one of us had the lobster club (messily delicious) which was served on a multi-grain toasted bread with chunks of lobster in it. I had the tomato/burrata salad, which was composed of multiple types (colors and sizes) of tomatoes. All were delicious with the creamy burrata and a drizzle of pesto sauce to heighten the flavors. I also had the tuna tartare with sashimi tuna dressed in a drizzle of oil and little beads of flavored oils."

\* \* \* \* \*

When Carol #2 inquired about the restrooms she was directed down a flight of stairs toward the front of the hotel. She was not told that there is a single unisex restroom on the main floor which I happened to notice when we came in. I did visit that restroom.

The room has a sliding door which I did not realize until one of the restaurant folks pointed it out to me. There is a square, white ceramic washbasin, fronted by a mirror and sunk into a white ceramic counter that is decorated with grey squiggles. There are bright lights on each side of mirror. There is a white ceramic commode with appropriate handicap safety bars. The walls are white marble with the same grey squiggles.

31<sup>st</sup> Street will be blocked between M Street and K Street through at least the middle of next year as they build a new bridge across the C&O Canal. From M Street you can walk down to the hotel on the far side of the street. You can also drive to the hotel up 31<sup>st</sup> Street from K Street and then be dropped off. There is also valet parking.

CUT is open for:

breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

dinner 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Queen's English  
3410 11<sup>th</sup> St, NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
[info@queensenglishdc.com](mailto:info@queensenglishdc.com)  
There is no telephone number

Debbie and I, along with Amy and Peter, went to Queen's English on a Saturday night.

The restaurant first opened on April 10, 2019 and is co-owned by Chef Henji Cheung and his spouse, Sarah Thompson, who told us that she was also a chef at an earlier time. During the day, Sarah helps with the food prep and then when the restaurant is open, she manages the dining room.

Henji was born in Hong Kong and while he came to the United States when he was 8 and moved to Brooklyn, his English has a British twang. Along the way when Sarah critiques him for something he says incorrectly, he suggests he is using the "Queen's English" and thus the name of the restaurant.

The cuisine is best described as Modern Hong Kong.

It is unusual to say the following early in a write up, but in this case, it fits. The food is interesting and tasty, and the service is first rate and friendly. It is well worth future visits.

There is a partition at shoulder-height just inside the door where a greeter welcomes you and determines whether you have a reservation. (The restaurant encourages walk-ins.) Directly behind that partition is the largest table in the

restaurant, an oval that seats up to six. Directly ahead at the back of the restaurant is an open kitchen with a chef's counter that seats six.

To the left and right of the front door are tables that seat up to 4 people in an alcove on a wooden banquette. On the left wall is a wooden banquette seating four 2-tops that can be combined. On the right wall is a wooden banquette seating six 2-tops that can be combined.

Our server (unhappily I did not get her name) was extremely well informed and has worked at the restaurant since shortly after it opened. When I commented about how much she knew about the menu and various options, she explained to us that she had gone thru a week-long training session before hitting the floor of the restaurant. And there are weekly reviews including updates on Hong Kong politics.

The items on the menu, which are written in English and Chinese, are divided into three sections that are not specifically identified as such.

There are appetizers, midsize plates and large plates. We quickly decided to share everything we ordered.

#### Appetizers

Celtuce & Cucumber – smoked trout roe, red vinegar, garlic

Chili Cockles – minced pork, anaheims, ggs

Stuffed Tofu Skin – chicken, shrimp, scallop, cabbage

#### Midsize plates

Twice cooked lamb rib – Chinese 5 spice, pickled onion (orders)

Bok Choy – Sarah's xo sauce

#### Large plates

Drunken Duck Leg – charred scallion, bean sprouts

Crispy Rice – dried shrimp Shitake, pea & carrot

Dessert – There was only a single choice.

Sweet rice dumpling, salted cardamom, toasted cashews, sesame seeds, sea salt

#### Beverages

Cocktails, Beer, Cider, Fizz, various wines. Mexican Coca-Cola, in glass bottles, is made with cane sugar rather than the high-fructose corn syrup that

is used in the United States. There was one non-alcoholic sweet drink which I enjoyed. There are no other soft drinks and no iced tea. There is hot tea which is served in decorative pots.

By my count there were 12 people working in the restaurant the night we were there, five in the kitchen, one bartender, one of the owners working the front of the house, one greeter and four servers

Some of the written pieces about the restaurant say that it does not take reservations. That is not the case. Reservations four weeks out become available each Tuesday at 11 a.m., but only online.

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, Debbie was able to make a 6:30 p.m. reservation for 4 people on September 7<sup>th</sup>. A credit card is required but the reservation can be cancelled up to 48 hours ahead, if cancelled with less notice, there is a small fee.

There are two unisex WCs. (I am assuming they are identical.)

The walls and the floor are covered in black vertical tiles. There is a small wooden table on which is placed a large round red bowl with flower decorations. Above the bowl there is a large mirror and a silver water spigot with handle. Next to the bowl is a pile of paper towels.

To the left of the washbasin is a white floor-standing commode.

The ceiling is covered with a variety of painted figures, flowers etc.

Across from commode is a very fancy waste basket by a stand which holds five rolls of toilet paper. The door across from the wash basin is heavy dark wood.

The restaurant is closed Sunday and Monday.

Tuesday – Thursday 5:30 – 10 pm [Thursday the least busy night]

Friday & Saturday 5:30 – 11 pm

\* \* \* \* \*

Rooster & Owl  
2436 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-813-3976  
[www.roosterowl.com](http://www.roosterowl.com)

Leslie and Nate had the foresight to make a reservation at the restaurant some time ago and invited Debbie and I to join them. We arrived at 6:00 p.m. for a 6:15 p.m. reservation and were immediately seated.

The restaurant opened February 7, 2019.

The restaurant seats 50 people at square 2 and 4 tops. There are an additional 6 high seats at the bar which is really an extension of the restaurant. There is no room for standing around the bar. Reservations can be made to sit at the bar.

Any party of more than four people is out of the ordinary and there is limited availability...at the far end of the restaurant there is a semi-private area (walled off by curtains) that can handle 5-10 people with considerable advance notice.

The restaurant is small and where we were seated, we could see thru a wall of open shelves into the kitchen but could not see the actual preparation of dishes. The shelves host a series of spices, wines and fresh glasses.

Once seated, a small rectangular dish plus the appropriate silver is placed in front of each person and thereafter there is a similar dish and fresh silver provided before each course.

The first “treat” is a sweet milk brioche roll with sugar topping and softened butter.

Each person is presented with a menu that includes four courses. Each course has several options from which to choose. One would expect to select one item from each of the four courses. However, our server suggested that we choose all four items from each of the courses. (Possible because there were four of us.)

To start...

CUCUMBER/grape/almond/green gazpacho

SNOW PEAS/ watermelon radish/dan dan dressing/chili oil

CARROTS/Carolina-style BBQ/cornbread

BURRATA/green strawberry/basil/balsamic/pistachio

...then...

ASPARAGUS/country ham, hollandaise/pecorino

HUSHPURPIES/Maryland blue crab/old day/yogurt

RISOTTO/ramps/English peas/nori tempura  
SCALLOPS/Singaporean chili sauce/edamame/mint  
...and then...  
COBIA/king trumpets/pearl onions/mint  
TAGLIATELLE/fava beans/maitkes/walnut/anchovy  
QUAIL/cheddar grits/peppers/miso honey/  
HANGER STEAK/ broccolini/chimichurri  
...to finish...

CHOCOLATE CAKE/peanut butter/pretzel/cream cheese  
VICTORIA SANDWICH/rhubarb/crème fraiche/raspberry  
BRIE CUSTARD/Ritz cracker/honey/mostarda  
DONUT/lemon/strawberry/basil

Leslie and Debbie decided that we did not want Tagliatelle so we ordered two orders of Quail allowing for each of us to have a half quail.

I requested a non-alcoholic drink and was provided with a drink that included a combination of the non-alcoholic mixes from several of the alcohol included drinks. Nate requested iced tea and was told that the restaurant does not serve iced tea, so he settled for Diet Coke.

Our server was Tom who had been working at the restaurant for two months. The service was excellent from start to finish.

We look forward to eating at Rooster & Owl again, which will require advance planning.

On May 23 at 5:30 p.m. the restaurant was sold out for the rest of May and the entire month of June. The first available reservation for two people was July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reservations can be made either by phone or online. WW recommends looking online because it is easy to see what reservations times are available.

The restaurant is closed Sunday and Monday.

The regular dining menu is not available on Tuesdays. Tuesday's menu involves dishes that are in development as well as items on the then regular menu, but no substitutes are permitted.

There are 15 full time staff from chefs to dish washers to service the restaurant. By 7:05 p.m. the restaurant was filled with at least a few tables having turned over from earlier diners.

The restaurant is not child friendly. Dinner for two lasts about two hours and the restaurant does not have any highchairs or booster seats.

Parking in the area is in short supply so plan your travel to the restaurant accordingly.

There is a unisex restroom. A grey cement-like floor connects to a white brick wall around the room to shoulder height. Above the white brick to the ceiling the wall is covered with a multi-color, multi-animal, multi-object wallpaper.

In one corner is a white ceramic floor-based commode. In the opposite corner there is an oval white ceramic wall-attached washbasin with a small mirror above it. Below the wash basin are two wood shelves with towels and extra toilet paper set alongside a black metal covered trash can. On the wall to the right is an air dryer for one's hands.

*Mike*

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