

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

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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

56% of Americans say the country is on the wrong track, that includes 55% of men and 58% of women.

31% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 31% of men and 31% of women. [Econ/YouGov 4/14/20]

65% of Americans say the nation’s partisan divide is increasing. This is 13% lower than it was in September 2019. The drop is the same among Republicans and Democrats. However, the number who say the divide is decreasing remains at 7%. [Pew 4/16/20]

In 2018, more than half of 18-34-year-olds didn’t have a steady romantic partner, a figure that is up significantly from 33% in 2004. The average age of first marriage has also ticked up in recent years, now at 30 years old for men and 28 years old for women. [WP 3/3/20]

Many millions of Americans lacked a personal safety net even before these last few months.

- 53% of U.S. households had no emergency savings.
- 33,600,000 civilian workers lacked paid sick leave
- 27,900,000 non-elderly lacked health insurance
- 21,300,000 lacked adequate broadband
- 550,000 homeless were living on streets.

[Bruce Mehlman, MCR&T 4/10/20]

Retail sales in March dropped by 8.7%. This is the worst one-month decline since the Census Bureau began collecting data in 1992. Exclusive of auto and sales the drop was 3.1%.

Grocery store sales were up by 27% in March while clothing and accessories sales dropped 50.5%.

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61% of Americans are mainly hopeful and optimistic about the future of the country. 36% are mainly worried and pessimistic.

76% of us describe the current state of the economy as only “fair” (31%) or “poor” (45%). There has been a 24-point drop in this category since March when 52% described the economy as “fair” or “poor” and a drop of 32 points since December 2019 when 44% described the economy as “fair” or “poor”.

22% currently describe the economy as “excellent” or “good” a drop of some 25 points from March when 47% described the economy as “excellent” or “good” or a drop of 31 points since December 2019 when 53% described “excellent” or “good.” [NBC/WSJ 4/15/20]

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Employment

The March unemployment data, including the demographics of the unemployment for that month, which is the most recent available, is not included because it is irrelevant given the impact of coronavirus. The following are odds and ends that describe the situation.

26,000,000 have applied for unemployment benefits in the four-week period thru April 23, 2020.

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Naturalized citizens will make up a record one-in-ten of eligible voters in the United States in 2020, 23.2 million people. This is an increase of 11.2 million people or 93% since 2000. By comparison, the U.S. born eligible voter population grew by 18% from 181 million in 2000 to 215 million in 2020.

Of the immigrants eligible to vote, 34% are Hispanic, 31% are Asian, 22% are white and 10% are black. [Pew Research Center 2/26/2020]

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Foreign born people represent a significant portion of the workers in a variety of essential and important occupations.

In health care occupations: 27.9% of physicians; 25.4% of surgeons, 24.8% of healthcare support workers; health diagnosing, treating practitioners; and 23.4% of dentists are foreign born.

In the non-health related occupations: 61.9% of agricultural graders and sorters; 45.2% of taxi drivers and chauffeurs; 35.4% of chefs, head cooks; 29.8% of dishwashers; and 29.5% of cooks are foreign born. [Axios, New American Economy 4/3/20]

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Health spending is 17% of the U.S. economy – more than triple the proportion spent in China. [NYT 3/17/20]

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Many federal agencies are viewed favorably by a majority of the public.

	<u>The Public</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>
U.S. Postal Service	91%	91%	91%
Center for Disease Control	79%	84%	77%
Census Bureau	77%	83%	76%
Health and Human Services	73%	80%	70%
Dept Homeland Security	71%	86%	60%
Federal Reserve	69%	76%	65%
Internal Revenue Service	65%	68%	65%
Veterans Affairs	65%	72%	61%
Dept of Justice	60%	76%	50%
ICE	46%	77%	28%

[PEW 4/9/20]

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A study by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College found that three out of four U.S. workers ages 50-62 did not have an employer-provided retirement plan and health insurance. [NYT 4/12/20]

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In the early 1970s, Wisconsin was home to 75,000 dairies. Consolidation and a grueling business cycle have reduced the number of dairies in Wisconsin to 7,400. Half of Minnesota dairies don't make a profit. Despite the business hardships for producers, demand is the highest it has been in 56 years at 646 pounds of dairy per American in 2018. Currently 53% of American milk is produced by 3% of farms. [Bloomberg]

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Doctors

In 2015 there were 1,085,783 medical doctors in the U.S. of which 160,000 were inactive.

There will be a projected shortage of 121,300 medical doctors by 2020.

[AAMA 12/18/20]

The following are the top ten states by number of active physicians per 10,000 civilian population in 2015.

- District of Columbia 74.6
- Massachusetts 47.2
- Rhode Island 41.1
- Maryland 40.7
- New York 39.4
- Vermont 39.1
- Connecticut 38.9
- Pennsylvania 35.1
- Maine 34.3
- New Jersey 33.7 [Statista 11/6/2019]

In the United States there are 2.6 practicing physicians per 1,000 people. Here is the data from a select number of other countries.

- Austria 5.2
- Germany 4.3
- Italy 4
- Australia 3.7
- France 3.2
- UK 2.8
- Canada 2.8
- USA 2.6
- Japan 2.4
- S. Korea 2.3
- China 2 [Bruce Mehlman MCR&T 4/10/20]

The United States has 2.8 hospital beds per 1,000 people. Here is the data from a select number of other countries.

- S. Korea 12
 - Germany 8.1
 - Austria 7.4
 - Italy 3.2
 - Australia 3.8
 - France 6.1
 - UK 2.6
 - Canada 2.6
 - USA 2.8
 - China 4.1
- [Bruce Mehlman MCR&T4/10/20]

It has become clear in recent months, that the supply of hospital beds in most areas of the United States is inadequate. (WW)

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A number of items in this issue of the Watch are pulled from “Quarterly Infographics” by Bruce Mehlman of Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas. The entire publication, as well as a sign up to receive it directly, can be found at <https://bit.ly/After-COVID-Mehlman2020>.

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This and That

Weaker electricity demand and super-low natural gas prices, both driven by the pandemic, have prompted coal to drop to just 15% of the U.S. electricity mix for the first time in modern history.

A decade ago, coal powered nearly 50% of America’s electricity, by far the largest share. [Axios 4/14/20]

Even though coal production is declining precipitously, the United States may run out of space to store coal early this summer. [Numlock News 4/9/20]

And the world may soon run out of space to store oil. That might well plunge prices below zero. The world’s thirst for oil has evaporated. [CNN Business 4/2/20]

The price of a barrel of oil went negative. [NYT 4/20/2020 2:48 p.m.]

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Air travel is down as much as 95%. The airline industry is estimating it will lose \$314 billion in ticket sales in 2020. In early April, flight volume was down 80% worldwide. [Axios Navigator 4/17/20; Bloomberg]

Because of the huge drop in airplane traffic as a result of the coronavirus, the ability of U.S. meteorologists to predict the weather has been adversely affected.

Ordinarily, meteorologists see 700,000 daily weather observations from aircraft. Now that thousands of worldwide trips have been cancelled and many thousands of U.S. flights grounded, there has been a nearly 50% drop in reports from planes. This lack of data is causing problems for the sophisticated models that produce and inform forecasts. [Numlock News, Bloomberg]

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85% of the world's toys are made in China. [WSJ 2/29/20]

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17,600 different Proctor and Gamble products rely on materials from China according to the company. [WSJ 2/29/20]

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New York's Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications will rip out more than 3,000 pay phones. There will continue to be four proper phone booths – on 66th, 90th, 100th and 101st streets remain in operation for no reasons other than “why not.” [Gothamist]

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The estimated number of houses of worship and congregations in the United States is 350,000 about 50% of which have 65 regular attendees or fewer. This has been a challenging time for churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples given the mandatory caps on the number of people who can congregate at a given time, necessarily putting a bit of a damper on the “congregation.” [Numlock News 3/23/20]

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Idaho Governor Brad Little signed into law two bills that limit the right of transgender people in the state. One prohibits transgender people from changing their gender on the state's birth certificates, while the other specifically prevents transgender girls from playing on girls' and women's sports teams [CNN 4/1/20]

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The Food and Drug Administration revised its blood donor guidelines, easing the restrictions on gay and bisexual men from 12 months to 90 days abstinence from sexual activity. The restrictions had come under increased scrutiny from lawmakers and LGBTQ advocates, particularly after Coronavirus fears forced the cancellation of many in-person blood drives. Other 12-month deferral periods have also been shortened, including those for people who have traveled to areas with certain endemic diseases, those who have engaged in injection drug use and people who have participated in commercial sex work. [NBC News 4/2/20]

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In 2019, 68% of taxpayers were projected to pay more in payroll taxes than income taxes. [WP 3/8/20]

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Here is some information that WW "knows" you will want to know.

There is a movie titled "Rescuing Madison" on the Hallmark Channel. The movie is advertised as two hours long - 1:59 to be exact. There are eight interruptions for advertising during the two-hour film for a total of 42 minutes. Thus, 35% of the advertised two-hour film is consumed by advertising.

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Quotes

"Women challenge the status quo because we are never it."

-Cindy Gallop

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"We have to teach our boys the rules of equality and respect, so that as they grow up, gender equality becomes a natural way of life. And we have to teach our girls that they can reach as high as humanly possible."

-Beyoncé Knowles-Carter

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“I think it is no accident that most of those emigrating to America in the 19th century identified with the Democratic party. We are a heterogeneous party made up of Americans of diverse backgrounds.”

-Barbara Jordan

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“I don’t think there is any doubt that there will be a massive effort to reorganize government in the aftermath of Covid-19.”

-Tom Daschle, served as Senate Majority Leader on 9/11/01

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“One of the best ways to make yourself happy is to make someone else happy. One of the best ways to make someone else happy is to be happy yourself.”

- Gretchen Rubin

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“If you risk nothing, then you risk everything.”

-Geena Davis

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“I can’t understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I’m frightened of the old ones.”

-John Cage

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“We must reject not only the stereotypes that others hold of us, but also the stereotypes that we hold of ourselves.”

-Elan Morgan, Web designer

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“Everything that we think is going to be an equalizer turns out not to be.”

-Deborah Tannen, Professor of Linguistics, Georgetown University

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President Trump

It is claimed that the President “was not involved” in the decision to include his signature on the stimulus checks being sent from the Department of the Treasury. [WW]

In the most recent NBC/WSJ on April 15, among registered voters, 46% approve of the President’s job performance while 51% disapprove. There has essentially been no change in Trump’s job performance rating since January of this year. This suggests that his handling of the coronavirus has had zero effect on his basic approval rating.

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Peter Hart (WW’s favorite pollster) wrote the following after his recent survey. He describes the situation we are in better than anything else I have seen.

“Beyond the survey numbers, let me give a personal assessment of President Trump’s most recent decisions to lend his voice (or tweet) in support of the protesters who are favoring action to “Liberate Michigan,” as well as other states. In doing so, he has forfeited the mantle of leadership and taken the side of unruly protestors. The message he sends does not exhort or honor Americans who are sacrificing daily and adjusting their work, family, and lifestyle for the goal of “flattening the curve,” particularly the healthcare workers and public servants who heroically risk their own health to care for and save others. It is the same message President Trump sends when he insists on putting his signature on the relief checks but refuses to wear or encourage Americans to wear protective face masks. It is the message he sends when he urges businesses to rush to open up but refuses to fund the World Health Organization. It is the same message he sends when he lauds the military but allows the captain of the USS Roosevelt to be relieved of duty for speaking out regarding the safety of his sailors.

“Each of these actions represents the record of Donald Trump over the last month. By failing to call out the protesters, he now owns their actions and the future expansion of COVID-19. He gives up a place alongside previous presidents who in previous times of peril understood the significance of presidential leadership. In times of crisis, Americans will have the back of their president, but for that support to remain, their president must respond in kind by having their backs, even when his actions are not popular or easy.

“Sadly, Donald Trump is a ‘me president’ in a time when America needs a ‘we president’.”

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As of April 14, an Economist/YouGov poll found that 46% of registered voters approved of the job that President Trump is doing as president while 48% disapprove. 43% of women approve of the job he is doing along with 50% of men, while 52% of women disapprove along with 45% of men.

The split between folks who see themselves as supporters of one party or the other could not be clearer. 89% of Republicans approve of the job he is doing while 9% disapprove. And no surprise, 94% of Democrats disapprove of his performance while only 13% approve.

Among Independents, 43% approve of his performance and 45% disapprove.

An interesting dichotomy that this survey demonstrates is the role that age seems to play in levels of support for the president’s performance. Among those between the ages of 18-29, 43% support the president’s performance while 50% disapprove.

Among those 65 and older, 57% approve of his performance and 42% disapprove. This split based on age can be found on a variety of issues from immigration to healthcare to the environment to abortion.

An Ipsos/Thomson Reuters survey of registered voters completed on April 15 found 46% approving of how Trump is doing his job and 51% disapproving.

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys. WW will 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>
4/14/20	45%	54%	44.4%	51.4%
3/22/20	49%	45%	43.2%	52.1%
2/16/20	49%	48%	43.4%	52.2%
1/29/20	49%	50%	43%	52.6%
1/15/20	44%	53%	42.2%	53/0%
12/15/19	45%	51%	44.1%	52.8%

11/14/19	43%	54%	41%	54.7%
10/31/19	41%	57%	42%	53.9%
9/30/19	40%	56%	42.1%	53.8%
8/30/19	39%	57%	41.3%	54.2%
6/16/19	43%	55%	42.6%	53.0%
1/27/19	37%	59%	40.4%	55.6%
9/30/18	42%	53%	41.5%	52.7%
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>FOX</u>	<u>QUINNIPIAC</u>
APR '20	46/51		44/53	49/49	45/51
MAR '20	46/51	49/47	45/52	48/51	41/54
FEB '20	47/50	46/42	xxxx	47/52	43/53
JAN '20	46/51	47/50	45/51	45/54	43/52
DEC '19	44/54A	47/50	44/52	45/53	43/52
JUL '19	45/52	47/50	xxx	46/51	40/54
				<u>CBS</u>	<u>FOX</u>
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

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The following are presidential job approval numbers from Gallup roughly 34 months into their first term (Johnson is an exception). 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 when timely Gallup numbers are not available.

Johnson	75% (4/64)
Eisenhower	69% (4/56)
Nixon	54% (4/72)
Reagan	54% (4/84)
Clinton	54% (4/96)

GW Bush	52% (4/04)
Ford	48% (4/76)
Obama	47% (4/12)
Trump	45% (4/20) – RCP Average
GHW Bush	42% (4/92)
Carter	39% (4/80)

On economic policy, Trump’s approval ratings continue to be on an upward track.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
4/14/20	51%	44%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
2/17/20	53%	38%	NBC/WSJ (RV)
1/12/20	57%	38%	Quinnipiac
12/3/19	52%	42%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
10/22/19	49%	45%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
9/9/19	48%	48%	CNN (RV)
7/23/19	52%	41%	Fox News (RV)
1/1/19	47%	46%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
1/16/18	46%	49%	NBC/WSJ

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
4/5/20	42%	46%	Pol/MornConsult RV
2/18/20	46%	49%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
1/12/20	43%	53%	Quinnipiac
12/3/19	45%	49%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
10/22/19	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
9/9/19	40%	55%	CNN (RV)
7/30/19	41%	51%	Economist (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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“President Donald Trump is falling back on a familiar political strategy as he grapples with the coronavirus pandemic: deflect, deny and direct blame elsewhere. As he tries to distance his White House from the mounting death toll, Trump has

cycled through a long list of possible scapegoats in an attempt to distract from what critics say were his own administration’s missteps in slowing the spread of the coronavirus on American shores.”

“First, it was the media that was at fault. Then, Democratic governors came under fire. China, President Barack Obama, and federal watchdogs have all had a turn in the crosshairs. And now it’s the World Health Organization that’s to blame.” [AP]

65% of Americans say Trump was too slow in his initial response to the coronavirus threat. 73% believe that the worst is still to come. [PEW 4/16/20]

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44% approve of the way Trump is handling the coronavirus while 52% disapprove. This is the same score that he got in March.

When asked who folks trust when receiving information about the coronavirus, Trump is less trusted than the CDC, their state’s governor, Anthony Fauci and Governor Cuomo.

Center for Disease Control	69%
Your State’s Governor	66%
Anthony Fauci	60%
Governor Cuomo	46%
Donald Trump	36%

Those who are less trusted than Trump are Mike Pence and Joe Biden. 42% have no opinion about Biden. [NBC/WSJ 4/15/20]

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As of April 3, 2020, the Washington Post Fact Checker has recorded 18,000 false or misleading claims by Trump.

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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. The chart below reflects the number of Article III court judges appointed by all U.S. presidents since Jimmy Carter. The data below does not include the U.S. Court of International Trade.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>
Trump – thru 4/1/20	193	2	51	138
Obama – 8 years	325	2	55	268
GW Bush – 8 years	325	2	62	261
Clinton – 8 years	373	2	66	305
GHW Bush – 4 years	192	2	42	148
Reagan – 8 years	376	3	83	290
Carter -- 4 years	259	0	56	203

There are currently several nominations awaiting Senate action, 37 seats in the District Courts.

There is currently one vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals and 72 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts. [USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Donald Trump]

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Disassembling

The Trump administration has released its far-reaching rollback of Obama-era tailpipe pollution standards. Instead of improving fuel efficiency by about 5% a year, the new standards require a 1.5% annual improvement through model year 2026. [WP 4/1/20]

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2020

The 59th presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020, 193 days from today.

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Running in the Democratic Primary

28 individuals announced their desire to seek the Democratic nomination for president. As of April 8, 2020, twenty-seven of these folks have decided to end their candidacies.

The age of the one person still in the race is 77 years of age.

Joe Biden (D) – former Vice President, former U.S. Senator – Age 77

Twenty-six 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~~
- ~~Bill DeBlasio (D) – Mayor of New York, New York – Age 58~~
- ~~Wayne Messam (D) – Mayor of Miramar, Florida – Age 44~~
- ~~Tim Ryan (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 45~~
- ~~Beto O'Rourke (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 46~~
- ~~Steve Bullock (D) – Governor of Montana – Age 53~~
- ~~Joe Sestak (D) – former U.S. Representative – 67~~
- ~~Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54~~
- ~~Julian Castro (D) – former HUD Secretary – Age 44~~
- ~~Marianne Williamson – Spiritualist, teacher – Age 66~~
- ~~Cory Booker (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 49~~
- ~~John Delaney (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 56~~
- ~~_____ – The first person to announce for president in 2017~~
- ~~Andrew Yang – Entrepreneur – Age 44~~
- ~~Michael Bennet (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54~~
- ~~Patrick Duval (D) – former Governor – Age 63~~
- ~~Tom Steyer (D) – Entrepreneur – Age 62~~
- ~~Pete Buttigieg (D) – former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana – Age 38~~
- ~~Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 59~~
- ~~Mike Bloomberg (D) – former Mayor of New York – Age 77~~
- ~~Elizabeth Warren (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 70~~
- ~~Tulsi Gabbard (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 38~~
- ~~Bernie Sanders (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 78~~

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Since 1972, every Democratic presidential nominee has won first, second or third place in Iowa or first or second place in New Hampshire until now. Biden broke the mold.

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At the time he suspended his campaign Bernie Sanders trailed Biden by 357 votes--1293 for Biden, 937 for Sanders--even though Sanders won the California primary 221-172.

1,991 delegate votes are required to win the nomination on the first ballot of the 2020 Democratic convention.

If no one receives the necessary number of votes on the first ballot, 771 super or automatic delegates are then able to vote on subsequent ballots. 2,375 delegate votes are required to win the nomination thereafter.

The 1952 Democratic Convention was the last time either convention went beyond the first ballot.

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The question now is whether there will be an actual in-person Democratic national convention. Most recently, half the staff previously hire for the democratic convention were laid off.

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Selecting a Vice Presidential Nominee

Joe Biden has begun vetting potential nominees to join his ticket as a vice presidential nominee.

The following are excerpts from an opinion piece by Norman Sherman in The Hill. Sherman was press secretary to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey in the White House and during his campaign for president. Sherman was also an informal advisor to Vice President Walter F. Mondale.

“When Joe Biden announced that he would select a woman as his running mate, we could guess those on his shortlist. How to choose among them?

“Two questions, gender neutral, grow out of my work long ago in a vice president’s office and his campaigns.

“First, among the possible selections, is there one who will bring crucial votes to the ticket that would not come without her? Second, if she has an aggressively held agenda, can she function in a subsidiary role as candidate and vice president?

“A vice president may be president tomorrow but must be a parrot today – without programmatic independence or any degree of separation from the president...

“What Biden needs is a woman who shares common policy goals, understands there can be only one president at a time, speaks the same political language and is not running for president on inauguration day.

“Biden – whomever he chooses – should seek a partnership like Carter and Mondale, not equals but two people with common political goals.”

[The Hill 4/19/20]

Here is a list of 11 candidates from whom various commentators think that Joe Biden will select his running mate.

- Stacey Abrams – former Georgia gubernatorial candidate
- Keisha Lance Bottoms – Mayor of Atlanta
- Tammy Baldwin – U.S Senator from Wisconsin
- Val Demings – U.S Representative from Florida
- Tammy Duckworth – U.S. Senator from Illinois
- Kamala Harris – U.S. Senator from California – former presidential candidate
- Amy Klobuchar – U.S. Senator from Minnesota – former presidential candidate
- Catherine Cortez Masto – U.S. Senator from Nevada
- Susan Rice – former Ambassador to the United Nations and national security adviser in the Obama administrations
- Elizabeth Warren – U.S. Senator from Massachusetts - former presidential candidate (* Governor of Massachusetts is a Republican)
- Gretchen Whitmer – Governor of Michigan

The following are the criteria that Democrats say are “very/somewhat” important in the person that Joe Biden picks as his running mate. (Those under the age of 45 were an important part of the Bernie Sanders coalition.)

	Democrats under 45	Registered Dem <u>Voters</u>
Legislative experience	40%	34%
Executive experience	37%	31%
More liberal than Biden	27%	11%

Younger than Biden	21%	<u>25%</u>
Woman	20%	13%
Person of color	17%	7%
Religious	13%	15%
More conservative than Biden	10%	16%
Man	9%	7%

Democrats under 45

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Warren	57%	25%	17%
Harris	45%	37%	18%
Klobuchar	33%	53%	14%
Abrams	27%	60%	12%
Whitmer	21%	66%	13%
Masto	20%	69%	11%
Baldwin	17%	72%	11%

Registered Dem Voters

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Warren	36%	23%	41%
Harris	32%	35%	35%
Klobuchar	32%	42%	27%
Abrams	21%	58%	21%
Whitmer	14%	70%	17%
Masto	12%	70%	18%
Baldwin	10%	77%	13%

* * * * *

The Odds

Courtesy of Scott Cooley, Cool Media Public Relations

Kamala Harris	2/3
Amy Klobuchar	4/1
Gretchen Whitmer	9/2
Elizabeth Warren	6/1
Stacey Abrams	12/1
C. Cortez Masto	20/1
Val Demings	40/1
Tammy Baldwin	50/1
Tammy Duckworth	50/1

(Odds not available for Bottoms and Rice)

* * * * *

There is one previous vice presidential candidate selection of which WW is particularly familiar.

The following is an excerpt from a column by Joel K Goldstein, the leading expert on the Vice Presidency, in the current issue of Sabato's Crystal Ball.

“Jimmy Carter’s choice of Walter F Mondale in 1976 based on a then-pioneering process sent a message that the one-term former governor of Georgia was a careful and able decision-maker and reassured the liberal base of the Democratic Party that Carter was more receptive to its concerns than feared. Significant circumstantial evidence that Mondale’s presence on the ticket and campaign performance was critical to Carter’s election. Ronald Reagan’s selection of George H.W. Bush in 1980 comforted Republican moderates four years later.”

* * * * *

Republican Primary

Announced/Running

Donald Trump – President – Age 72

William Weld I – former Governor of Massachusetts – Age 73

The average age of these candidates is 72.5 years

Have left the field

~~Mark Sanford – former Governor of South Carolina, former member of Congress – Age 59~~

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

* * * * *

A large number of Republican primaries and caucuses have been canceled.

There will be no debates.

The Republican nominating convention is scheduled for August 24-27, 2020 in Charlotte, NC. There has been no public discussion of the possible cancelation of the convention.

* * * * *

The General Election

The upcoming presidential election is not, in fact, a national election. The election will be decided primarily in 7 states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina, and Nebraska. Donald Trump won all of these states in 2016.

Additionally, there are 5 states that could be in play: Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Georgia, and Texas. Trump also won Georgia and Texas while Hillary Clinton won Maine, Minnesota, and New Hampshire.

	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Biden</u>	
Real Clear Politics	42.5%	48.3%	4/2-4/16 Average
NBC/WSJ 4/15	42%	49%	(All polls of RV except
Harvard-Harris 4/16	47%	53%	Harvard which is LV)
Econ/YouGov 4/14	43%	48%	
Fox News 4/7	42%	42%	
Monmouth 4/7	44%	48%	
CNBC 4/6	44%	39%	
CNN 4/6	42%	53%	
Quinnipiac 4/6	41%	49%	

* * * * *

41% of Americans are positive in their feelings toward the President while 51% have negative feelings toward him. Notably, those with “very negative” feelings – 43% -- exceed the number who are “very and somewhat” positive toward the President – 41%.

37% have positive feelings toward Joe Biden while 41% have negative feelings toward him. Those with “very negative” feelings – 25% -- are 12 points less than those who have “very and somewhat” positive feelings toward Biden.

Americans were asked whether Donald Trump or Joe Biden would be better on several issues. Here are the results.

	Trump	Biden
Dealing with the economy	<u>47%</u>	36%
Having the ability to handle a crisis	38%	<u>47%</u>
Responding to the coronavirus	36%	<u>45%</u>

[NBC/WSJ 4/15/20]

* * * * *

“More important, Biden’s goal isn’t to be a more ‘exciting’ alternative to Trump but to be the opposite of Trump. Biden isn’t going to be a ratings superhero. He’s not going to pack stadiums to the rafters with supporters. His message is basically this: I’m pretty boring but steady and competent. That may not work every year, but it is well-suited for a time of chaos and confusion.” [Amy Walter/Cook Political Report/4/2/2020]

* * * * *

What are the odds?

Here are the odds for who is likely to win the 2020 presidential election as of April 14, 2020.

Donald Trump	-110	10/11
Joe Biden	+125	5/4

* * * * *

Congress

49% prefer that the 2020 elections deliver a Congress that is controlled by Democrats while 40.8% prefer a Congress controlled by Republicans. [RCP Average 4/14/20]

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 4/14/20	29.3%	56.8%
Real Clear Pol. 2/11/20	22.4%	65.6%
Real Clear Pol. 1/14/20	22.4%	65.2%
Real Clear Pol. 12/3/19	22.4%	65.6%
Real Clear Pol. 10/29/19	23.0%	64.8%
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. 1/1/19	19.6%	69.3%

* * * * *

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

As of April 10, 2020, 37 incumbent members of the House are not seeking re-election – 10 are Democrats and 27 are Republicans.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2020

Democrats 232
 Republicans 197
 Independents 1
 Vacancies 5

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	182	164
Likely	19	17
Lean	19	12
		<u>Toss Up</u>
	17	5

* * * * *

THE SENATE

[WW uses Jessica Taylor 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 23 seats while Democrats will be defending 12 seats. It is unlikely that Republicans will lose control of the Senate in this election. But there is a way outside chance.

Here are the changes from the last issue of the Watch.

Shaheen from Likely D to Safe D;
 Daines from Safe R to Lean R;
 Collins from Lean R to Tossup;
 Loeffler from Lean R to Likely R.

However, Loeffler is being challenged in the GOP primary by GOP Congressman Doug Collins. Collins was endorsed by a Pro-Trump Super PAC to replace Johnny Isakson who retired early for health reasons.

Republicans	53
Democrats	45
Independents	2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2020	33	30	2
Safe in 2020	8	12	
	Coons	Sullivan	
	Durbin	Cotton	
	Markey	Risch	
	Warner	Cassidy	
	Booker	Hyde-Smith	
	Merkley	Sasse	
	Reed	Inhofe	
	Shaheen	Graham	
		Rounds	
		Moore Capito	
		Wyoming (Enzi)	
		Tennessee (Alexander)	
Likely	2	4	
	Smith	McConnell	
	N. Mexico (Udall)	Cornyn	
		Perdue	
		Loeffler	
Lean	2	4	
	Peters	Ernst	
	Gardner	Jones (AL)	
		Daines	
		Kansas (Roberts)	

Covid-19 is a new illness, but it is caused by a coronavirus of the type first identified by Dr. Almeida in 1964 at her laboratory in St. Thomas's Hospital in London. [GenderAvenger Blog 4/16/20]

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In 2018, for the first time since 2004, more women than men applied to U.S. medical schools, comprising 50.9% of all applicants.

In 2019, women were the majority of new enrollees in medical schools for the third year in a row, 50.5%, versus 51.6% in 2018 and 50.75% in 2017.

19% of all surgeons in the U.S. are female, 22% of full-time medical school faculty in the field of surgery are female but only 1% of all surgery department chairs are women. [Association of American Medical Colleges]

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The proportion of female physicians has increased over time. Today:

- 60% of the physicians 35 years of age and younger are female
- 51.5 % of the physicians ages 35-44 years of age are female
- 44.7% of the physicians ages 45-54 years of age are female
- 30.5% of the physicians ages 55-64 years of age are female
- 17.6% of the physicians age 65 and older are female. [AthenaHealth]

The following is the share of female doctors in select countries in 2015:

Latvia	74.3%
Estonia	73.3%
Spain	51.6%
Sweden	47.0%
United Kingdom	45.8%
Germany	45.2%
France	44.3%
Ireland	43.2%
Italy	40.3%
Turkey	40.1%
Switzerland	39.7%
Australia	39.4%
United States	34.1%

Korea	22.3%	
Japan	20.3%	[OECD Health Statistics 2016]

36% of professionally active physicians in the U.S. are female. The area with the highest percentage of female physicians is the District of Columbia where 48% of active physicians are female. [Kaiser Family Foundation 3/20]

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Last year, nearly 11% of the top-grossing movies in Hollywood were directed by women, compared with just 4.5% in 2018. [NYT 4/12/20]

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Less than 3% of CEOs of the world’s largest companies are women. That’s according to Fortune, whose annual “Fortune Global 500” list featured just 14 female CEO’s last year. [Gender Avenger Blog 3/15/20]

Female representation on corporate boards around the world has doubled in the last decade. But board members are still more likely to be male. Researchers say it could take another 25 years before there are just as many women as men in boardrooms worldwide. Shareholder pressure may also be pushing companies to act faster. The typical S&P 500 board seats four men for every woman. [Axios Am, 3/8/20]

A new paper found that having women on a company’s board made them more likely to handle product recalls better. The paper analyzed 4,271 recalls from 92 publicly traded companies that make medical products over a period ranging from 2002 to 2013. Companies with women on their board of directors announced 120 percent more recalls involving low-severity problems than companies with an all-male board and recalled products with high severity issues 35 percent faster than companies with no women on the board. [Spencer Jakab, The Wall Street Journal]

* * * * *

Countless studies have shown that workplace meetings are riddled with inequities. One study by Yale psychologist Victoria Brescoll found that when male executives spoke more often, they were perceived to be more competent, but when female executives spoke more often, they were given lower competence ratings.

The annual McKinsey and LeanIn.org Women in the Workplace report, which in 2019 surveyed 329 companies and more than 68,000 employees, found

that half of the surveyed women had experienced being interrupted or spoken over and 38 percent had others take credit for their ideas.

And according to a review of more than 7,000 employee feedback surveys on 1,100 female executives, when women expressed passion for an opinion or an idea in meetings, their male counterparts perceived them as being too emotional.

Online, these imbalances are amplified, according to Deborah Tannen, professor of linguistics at Georgetown University who has been studying how men and women speak for decades.

In her research, Tannen found that many of the inequities in meetings can be boiled down to gender differences in conversation styles and conventions. That includes speaking time, the length of pauses between speakers, the frequency of questions and the amount of overlapping talk. More often than not, men and women differ on almost every one of those aspects, Tannen said, which leads to clashes and misunderstandings.

“Women often feel that they don’t want to take up more space than necessary, so they’ll often be more succinct,” she explained, and they tend to speak in more self-deprecating or indirect ways in order to come across as likable.

Men, on the other hand, tend to speak longer and they can be more argumentative and critical in order to be perceived as authoritative. [NYT- Alisha Haridasani Gupta, Gender Reporter – 4/14/20]

The average woman gets “mansplained” to six times a week at work – that’s 312 times a year, according to new research. And three in five women think men don’t even realize they’re explaining information women already new.

A new study of 2,000 employed women examined the modern workforce and the uphill battles women in the workplace frequently face. Two in five women have been told by male colleagues they “come on too strong” – but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. [Gender Avenger Blog 3/17/20]

(Definition of mansplaining – the explanation of something by a man, typically to a woman, in a manner regarded as condescending or patronizing.)

* * * * *

Restaurants

Maialino Mare
Navy Yard
221 Tingey Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-508-5249
Maialinomare.com

On January 7th, Debbie and I attended the opening reception of Maialino Mare. (Washington Watch January 2020) The restaurant is located in the new Thompson Hotel. This is the first full-service D.C. restaurant opened by Danny Meyer and also the first full-service restaurant he has opened outside of New York as part of his Union Square Hospitality Group.

Our second visit was for dinner on March 2nd with Bev and Brady. We had a 6:45 p.m. reservation. (See note at the end.)

The main dining room on the main floor of the restaurant seats 120 people.

Our server quickly brought menus and seem interested in our ordering as soon as possible. We put him off while we ordered cocktails.

Brady and Bev ordered a wine from a vineyard that they had visited in Sicily. The sommelier who brought the wine to the table knew well the vineyard which they had visited and engaged in pleasantries about it.

Given this was our first dinner visit to the restaurant we decided to share everything. We ordered the following:

Polpo – Charred Octopus, Fingerling Potatoes, Parsley, Lemon
Carciofini Fritti – Fried Baby Artichokes
Spaghetti con Bottarga – Spaghetti, Red Mullet Roe Lemon
Spaghetti Pomodoro e Basilico – Baby Tomatoes, Grana Padano, Basil
Pesce Spada – Swordfish, Mushrooms, Capers, White Wine
Cavolini – Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Lemon, Parsley
Maialino al Forno – Slow Roasted Suckling Pig – this is a featured dish.
Torta della Nonna – Lemon Custard, Toasted Pine Nuts, Almond Crust
Crostata di Mele – Pink Lady Apple, Almond, Crema

The dinner overall was excellent, and we committed to another visit.

There were a few items that might have been a little different and we passed the information to management. The first spaghetti dish did not need the Roe. And it took a long time between the other courses and the suckling pig and our server told us there would be four ribs, but we received three pieces of what we assume was the shoulder.

We sat down at 6:45 p.m. and finished at 9:30 p.m.

As I often do, I struck up a conversation with one of the people who happened to be clearing the table. She was a delight. She has worked at the restaurant since it opened and loves it. Her name is Tashika. Thru the conversation I found out that she has a 7 year old daughter by name of Honesty... You would be surprised at the responses I get from some people when I ask how they like working at a restaurant--often I get a less than happy response. This was not the case on this night. Every staff person we encountered after walking into the restaurant was extremely pleasant and helpful.

It was a bit noisy once the restaurant filled up.

There is a "no tipping" policy and for each person who eats at the restaurant, the restaurant will contribute \$1 to a charity "No Kid Hungry."

Now, for the men's restroom. There are two wall hanging urinals in a section closed in by partial walls and open to the back. There is a wood divider between them.

The urinals hang on a white marble odd shaped slab which is attached to the wall. It has two commode rooms including one that is handicapped accessible.

There is a white marble counter fronted by tall mirrors. It has several square washbasins with appropriate faucets, paper towels, etc. between the basins. Next to the washbasin is a black leather padded stool top on an enclosed wooden base. The floor is covered in tiny grayish squares.

As we were leaving, I ran into an acquaintance who has just finished dinner. I asked him how it went. He answered by saying, "I was here on Saturday night and expect to come again".

If coming from NW Washington one should make a later reservation that would enable the use of the Rock Creek Parkway when it reopens in the direction of the Navy Yard at 6:30 p.m. The trip to the restaurant takes half as long if you can use the parkway.

Mike

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