

Mike Berman's

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August 28, 2020

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The ERA and the Right to Vote

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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

67% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track, that includes 61% of men and 71% of women.

26% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 30% of men and 20% of women. [Econ/YouGov 8/11/20]

Here are some examples of what happened in the past, in a presidential election when the “right direction” numbers are in the tank.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Right Direction #</u> | <u>Party Change in White House?</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1980 | 20% | Yes |
| 1992 | 16% | Yes |
| 2008 | 12% | Yes |
| 2020 | 19% | ? (As of early July) |

[Peter Hart]

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Political polarization will be at a high point as we head into the final days of the 2020 election. Conservatism among Republicans is the highest it has been in the last 20 years and liberalism among Democrats hit a new high a year ago.

In 2001-2002, 50% of Republicans called themselves conservatives. On average this year 71% of Republicans call themselves conservatives. 10 points of that increase came about in the last three years. Currently 43% of Democrats describe themselves as liberals. Down from 46% a year ago.

Among those younger than 50 years of age, the percent of Democrats who describe themselves as liberal has grown from 33% in 2001 has grown to 49%, while among those 50 and older those describing themselves as liberals has grown from 27% to 36%.

Among those younger than 50 years of age, the percent of Republicans who describe themselves as conservative has grown from 47% to 70%. Among those 50 and older describing themselves as conservative has grown from 56% to 70%.

37% of Americans identify themselves as independents. 29% say they are Democrats and 24% identify as Republicans. In terms of ideology alone, 22% are liberals, 35% are conservative and 39% are moderates. [ABC News/ Langer Research/ 217,489 interviews in 22 years of ABC News/ABC/Post polls]

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Trends in Food Insecurity Experienced by Children

About 14 million children in the U.S. are not getting enough to eat.

In a late April survey of mothers with young children, 17.4% of mothers with children 12 and under reported “the children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food”.

In June 2020, around 16% of households with children reported that their children were not eating enough over the last week due to a lack of resources.

About 30% of Black households with children, 25% of Hispanic households with children, and about 10% of white households with children reported not having sufficient food due to a lack of resources. [The Hamilton Project, The Brookings Institution]

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From June 24–July 6, 2020 the Harris poll surveyed 34,026 adults about their views on a variety of industries since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. The public’s view of almost every industry has improved.

75% of respondents agreed that during the pandemic, companies have been more reliable than the federal government in keeping America running.

Respondents were asked how their view of each of the following industries has changed since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The numbers below represent the net approval of each industry.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Doctors/Nurses/Hospital | 47% |
| Grocery | 35% |
| Technology | 28% |
| Food & Beverage | 23% |
| Telecommunications | 19% |
| Pharmaceutical/drugs | 17% |

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Retail | 17% |
| Manufacturing | 14% |
| Automotive | 12% |
| Entertainment | 7% |
| Financial services | 7% |
| Oil | 6% |
| Media | -5% |
| Airlines | -7% |

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Poverty rates for women rise with age

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Women age 65-69 | 6.6% |
| Women 80 or older | 13.5% |

Among elderly women

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Women who were married | 4.3% |
| Widows | 13.9% |
| Divorced women | 15.8% |
| Never married women | 21.5% |

[Brookings/Gender Equality Series 7/2020]

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On October 28, 2011, issue #103 of the Washington Watch was entitled, [“What is the Name? Has the United States become a country in which living well has become a contest best described as survival of the fittest?”](#) Click on the title to read the issue. If you find yourself with some extra time, you might give it a glance. [WW]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2020 is 10.2% that unemployment rate is lower than the 11.1% rate in June and greater than the 4.0% unemployment rate of a year ago.

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 in July is 16.5% down from 18.00% in June and up from 6.9% a year ago.

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1.8 million jobs were created in July and 4.8 million jobs were created in June, bringing to 6.6 million the number of jobs created in June and July. A year ago, 164,000 jobs were created in July.

Since March 21, 57.4 million people have filed for unemployment compensation. [Politifacts-Angie Holan 8/21/20]

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for July is 61.4%, down from 63% in July 2019. [BLS 8/20]

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The Demographics of Unemployment for July 2020

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women –10.5% (down from last month)

Men – 9.4% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 9.2% (down from last month)

Black –14.6% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 12.9% (down from last month)

Asian –12.0% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –15.4% (down from last month)

High School – 10.8% (down from as last month)

Some college – 10.0% (down as last month)

Bachelor's Degree or higher – 6.7% (down from last month)

In July, 31 states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates below the national average of 10.2%; 19 states had unemployment rates that were above the national average.

Massachusetts at 17.4%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Utah at 5.1%, had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

[Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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As of August 24th, 28 million people were receiving unemployment benefits.
[SteveRattner.com 8/24]

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As of August 7th, the country had recovered fewer than half of the 20 million jobs lost since March 2020. [WP 8/6/20]

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42% of the American workforce is now working from home full-time.
[Politico 8/18/20]

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This and That

On August 19, 2020, Apple became the first U.S. company to reach a market value of \$2 trillion. [NBC News 8/19/20]

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There has been a loss of trust in a variety of institutions over the last 40 years. Only one of the noted institutions has experienced an increase in trust.

| | <u>1979</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| The Military | 54% | 73%* |
| Mass Media | 72% | 41% |
| Supreme Court | 45% | 38% |
| The Presidency | 52% | 38% |
| The Church | 65% | 36% |
| The Medical System | N/A | 36% |
| Banks | 60% | 30% |
| Public Schools | 36% | 29% |
| Organized Labor | N/A | 29% |
| Criminal Justice System | 32% | 24% |
| Big Business | 34% | 23% |
| Congress | 34% | 11% |

[Bruce Mehlman of Mehlman, Castagnetti, Rosen & Thomas, July 2020]

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There are 35,000,000 women and 24 million men in the United States over the age of 65. There are 4,200,000 women and 2,300,000 men over the age of 85.

The average woman will live to 81, the average man to 76. American men can look to 67 years of full health and American women to 70 years of full health. [The 19th 8/10/20]

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There are 843 openly LGBTQ elected officials across all levels of government at present, up from 417 in June 2016.

U.S. Senate: 2 of 100

U.S. House of Representatives: 7 of 435

Governors: 2 of 50

State Legislators: 160 of 7,383

As of July 27, 2020, a record number of LGBTQ candidates—850—are running for office in 2020.

As of 2018 there were 438 LGBTQ elected officials affiliated with the Democratic party and 16 affiliated with the Republican Party.

The number of Black and Hispanic people in office is up from 92 to 184 over the past three years. The number of transgender elected officials is up to 26 from 6 over the same period. [Axios PM 7/16/20]

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Here is a summary of the U.S. Supreme Court's actions as the 2019-2020 came to an end on July 9th. This was the latest date the court has issued regular opinions in July since 1996. Before that, the latest date was July 7, 1986.

The court canceled all of its in-courtroom hearings as of March 23, 2020.

The court issued 53 signed opinions in this term. Justices Roberts and Gorsuch wrote seven opinions each. Justices Thomas, Breyer, and Sotomayor wrote the least with five opinions each.

21% of the total opinions released this term were 5-4 or 5-3 decisions.

Between the 2007 and 2019 terms, the court released opinions in 991 cases. Of those, it reversed a lower court decision 695 times (70.1%) while affirming a lower court decision 286 times (29.1%). [Ballotpedia Daily Brew 7/16/20 – Supreme Court press release 3/16/20]

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The numbers below show the share of the voters who said the Supreme Court was “very important” in deciding whom to vote for in the 2020 presidential election.

| | <u>May 2-3</u> | <u>July 31-Aug 2</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Democrats | 48% | 57% |
| Clinton voters | 54% | 61% |
| Republicans | 53% | 53% |
| Trump voters | 52% | 53% |

[Morning Consult]

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Currently, 58% approve of the job the U.S. Supreme Court is doing.

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2020 | 58% approved |
| | 60% of Republicans |
| | 57% of Independents |
| | 56% of Democrats |
| 2017 | 42% approved |
| 2010 | 62% approved |
| | 75% of Democrats |
| | 59% of Independents |
| | 49% of Republicans |
| 2000 | 62% approved |

[Gallup]

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The other day, I was with another person and I sneezed into my face mask. The other person then said, “Bless you.” An ordinary and common response but one that as I thought about it, did not seem to have any connection to my sneezing.

I began to wonder where that common response came from so, I did the obvious and Googled it. Here is what I found. Take your pick.

“One of the symptoms of the plague was coughing and sneezing, and it is believed that Pope Gregory I (Gregory the Great) suggested saying ‘God bless you’ after a person sneezed in hopes that this prayer would protect them from an otherwise certain death.”

Another term often used in response to a sneeze is "gesundheit". It is a German word that literally means "health." The idea is that a sneeze typically precedes illness.

Some people believed that a sneeze causes the soul to escape the body through the nose. Saying "bless you" would stop the devil from claiming the person's freed soul. [WW 7/27/2020]

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In the United States, every 40 seconds – 795,000 people a year – someone has a stroke. 140,000 die from those strokes. [WP 7/7/20]

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The Census Bureau is set to end its decennial count of the U.S. population on Sept. 30, a month earlier than expected, raising concerns about the accuracy of the survey which serves as the basis for congressional and state legislative district boundaries and government funding.

The agency said 63 percent of the estimated 121 million U.S. households have responded to the census by phone, mail or online, and that it will hire additional data collectors to maximize responses.

At this time in 2010, 74% of the households had responded by phone, mail or online. [Morning Consult Washington 8/4/20]

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97.3% of state legislators running for re-election have advanced to the general election so far in 2020. This is consistent with the 97% of legislators in 2018 and 97.5% in 2016 who advanced to the general election. [Ballotpedia 8/14/20]

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80,000 small businesses closed permanently from March 1 to July 25 including 60,000 local businesses or firms with fewer than 5 locations. [Yelp – Axios.com, AM 8/14/20]

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Odds and Ends

These days when people show up on TV from their bedrooms, their home offices, etc. there is often in the upper left-hand corner of their picture the term

“Cisco.WebEx”. WebEx came into being in 1995 as an early form of video conferencing. It was acquired by Cisco in 2007.

Skype was developed in Estonia in 2003. It was acquired by Microsoft in 2011. Up to 50 people can be on a single call.

FaceTime was created by Apple Inc. in a Wi-Fi version in 2010. The cellular version came into being in 2012.

Zoom was founded in 2011 and launched its software in 2013. It was founded by Eric Yuan, its CEO. It became a public company in 2019. Yuan owns 22% of the company. He started his career at WebEx.

In this time of the pandemic, what would life be like if these now common methods of communication did not exist? [WW]

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QUOTES

“When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So, I say to you, walk with the wind brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.”

Congressman John R. Lewis

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“He’s gone up yonder and left us with marching orders. I suggest – since he’s close enough to God to keep his eye on the sparrow and us – we salute, suit up, and march on.”

President Bill Clinton, at funeral of John R. Lewis

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“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

Nelson Mandela

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“I can do something. I can say something.”

Congressman John Lewis,

at Black Lives Matter Plaza, Washington, DC, June 7, 2020

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“Acting is not about being seen, a drama teacher told her once. True Acting meant becoming invisible.”

Brit Bennett, “The Vanishing Half”

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“The virus knows no borders and cooperation is absolutely essential.”

Secretary Madeleine Albright

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“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

Shirley Chisholm,

First African American woman elected to Congress

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“I wanted to show women working together.”

Meredith Bergmann,

Sculptor chosen to make a monument honoring suffragists

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“It’s nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice.”

Speaker Tip O’Neill

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“The short story is 2019 was the year from hell and we were glad when it was over. Now, 2020, I don’t know what you’d call it, but it’s worse than last year,”

Jim Greif,

Corn and soybean farmer in Prairieburg, Iowa, about 60 miles north of Iowa City

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President Trump

As of 8/18/20, an Economist/YouGov poll found that 43% of registered voters approved of the job that President Trump is doing while 54% disapprove. 37% of women approve of the job he is doing along with 44% of men, while 57% of women disapprove along with 49% of men.

The split between folks who see themselves as supporters of one party or the other is as expected. 88% of Republicans approve of the job he is doing while 10% disapprove. And, no surprise, 88% of Democrats disapprove of his performance while only 9% approve.

Among Independents, 37% approve of his performance and 52% 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, 30% support the president’s performance while 62% disapprove.

Among those 65 and older, 54% approve of his performance and 45% disapprove.

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys of all adults. 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> |
| 8/12/20 | 42% | 55% | 41.8% | 54.5% |
| 7/23/20 | 41% | 56% | 40.2% | 55.7% |
| 6/30/20 | 38% | 57% | 40.3% | 56.4% |
| 6/4/20 | 39% | 57% | 41.6% | 53.9% |
| 5/13/20 | 49% | 48% | 43.6% | 51.9% |
| 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% |
| 1/15/20 | 44% | 53% | 42.2% | 53.0% |
| 1/27/19 | 37% | 59% | 40.4% | 55.6% |

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> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| AUG’20 | 44/53 | 42/57 | 43/54 | 44/54 | xxxx |
| JULY’20 | 42/56 | 40/58 | xxxx | 45/54 | 36/60 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| JUNE'20 | 45/53 | xxx | 41/55 | 44/55 | 42/55 |
| MAY'20 | xxx | 45/53 | 46/51 | 44/54 | 42/53 |
| APR'20 | 46/51 | xxx | 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 |

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The following are presidential job approval numbers from Gallup roughly 44 months into each president's 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 | 74% (6/64)* |
| Eisenhower | 68% (8/56) |
| Nixon | 56% (6/72)* |
| Reagan | 54% (8/84) |
| Clinton | 57% (8/96) |
| GW Bush | 51% (8/04) |
| Ford | 45% (6/76)* |
| Obama | 45% (8/12) |
| Trump | 44% (8/20) – RCP Average |
| GHW Bush | 40% (8/92) |
| Carter | 32% (8/80) |

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Donald Trump is the only president in the history of polling to never have a single day during his presidency in which a majority of Americans accorded him a positive job rating or a positive personal feelings score. [Peter Hart]

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On economic policy, Trump's approval rating is currently back to where it was in the 2nd quarter of the year.

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 8/18/20 | 51% | 45% | Econ/YouGov RV |
| 7/7/20 | 49% | 47% | Econ/YouGov RV |

| | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|------------------|
| 6/23/20 | 52% | 43% | Econ/YouGov RV |
| 6/16/20 | 49% | 46% | Fox RV |
| 6/15/20 | 52% | 45% | Quinnipiac RV |
| 5/26/20 | 52% | 44% | Econ/YouGov RV |
| 4/14/20 | 51% | 44% | Econ/YouGov(RV) |
| 2/17/20 | 53% | 38% | NBC/WSJ (RV) |
| 1/12/20 | 57% | 38% | Quinnipiac |
| 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> | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 8/12/20 | 39% | 54% | Fox (RV) |
| 7/7/20 | 40% | 57% | Reuters (A) |
| 6/18/20 | 45% | 55% | Harris RV |
| 5/26/20 | 45% | 53% | Econ/YouGov (RV) |
| 4/5/20 | 42% | 46% | Pol/MornConsult(RV) |
| 2/18/20 | 46% | 49% | Econ/YouGov(RV) |
| 1/12/20 | 43% | 53% | Quinnipiac |
| 1/1/19 | 42% | 51% | Econ/YouGov (RV) |
| 1/16/18 | 36% | 60% | NBC/WSJ |

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Trumpisms

Jeff Sessions was elected Attorney General of Alabama in 1994. In 1996 he was elected to the United State Senate. In his 21st year as a U.S. Senator he resigned to accept appointment by President Trump as the Attorney General of the United States.

Sessions was the first United States Senator to publicly support Trump for president.

As Attorney General, Sessions recused himself from any investigations relating to Russian interference in the 2016 election. From that point on his relationship with Trump went downhill. In November 2018, Trump requested his resignation and Sessions complied.

In 2020 Sessions ran in the Republican primary for his old Senate seat, currently held by Doug Jones, a Democrat, who won in a special election to serve out Sessions’ term. Sessions lost the primary to Tommy Tuberville, a former football coach, who was supported by Trump.

In conceding the election, which was not close, Sessions said that Trump’s vision is right for the United States. In his closing speech he said, “I leave elected office with my integrity intact, I hold my head high”.

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President Trump signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to prioritize U.S. citizens and nationals for contractor roles, expanding the previous orders limiting immigration. The order is aimed at protecting Americans’ jobs as the United States faces an economic recession as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic. While it reflects the federal government’s increased reliance on contractors and the Trump administration’s priorities, some experts say there are lingering questions on how this executive order will be implemented.

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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 total below does not include the U.S. Court of International Trade to which Trump has had 2 judges confirmed.

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Supreme Ct</u> | <u>Appeals Ct</u> | <u>District Ct</u> | <u>Int’l Trade</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Trump – thru 8/6/20 | 201 | 2 | 53 | 146 | 2 |
| 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, 41 seats in the District Courts and 1 seat on the Court of International Trade.

There are also currently 70 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts.

[USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Donald Trump]

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Disassembling

The President has finalized a major overhaul of the National Environmental Policy Act. While he can't amend the law, he is changing the rules governing the way it is implemented. An example of what the changes include would be an order not to consider "indirect" climate impacts. A variety of organizations have stated that they will sue when the government tries to take advantage of the new rules. [WP 7/16/20]

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The Trump administration will reject all new applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program while undertaking a "comprehensive review" of the legality of the program as it tries to wind it down, a senior administration official said Tuesday.

Future renewals of the program, which has protected hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants known as "Dreamers" from deportation, will be limited to a year, the official said. The review, which does not have a set timeline, comes after the Supreme Court ruled last month that the administration failed to give adequate justification for ending the program.

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A U.S. Commerce Department on Monday petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to reinterpret a 1996 law to require transparency in how social media companies moderate content. President Donald Trump asked Commerce to intervene in the matter.

Trump directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to file the petition after Twitter in May warned readers to fact-check his posts about unsubstantiated claims of fraud in mail-in voting. [Reuters 7/26/20]

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Since March, National Guard units in every state and territory have been supporting Americans by distributing much-needed food, running remote testing locations, standing up alternate medical care facilities, and more. After initial

reluctance, the White House has authorized the use of federal dollars to support the mission to provide states flexibility and give members of the Guard equal benefits.

On August 3, without warning or explanation, the President reduced FEMA reimbursement for National Guard units from 100 percent to 75 percent with an exemption for Florida and Texas. No explanation for the exemption was given.

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The Trump administration is scrapping limits on methane leaks, allowing oil and gas companies to decide how much of the potent greenhouse gas can escape into the atmosphere from wells, pipelines, and storage tanks. The new rules, issued Thursday by the Office of Management and Budget, effectively rescind the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate methane, the largest component of natural gas. [WP]

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The Energy Department proposed rolling back three-decade-old efficiency standards for showerheads following Trump's repeated gripes about subpar water pressure while washing his hair. The plan would change the federal definition of a showerhead to allow manufacturers to dramatically increase water use. Under rules Congress passed in 1992 in response to severe droughts, water flow from an entire showerhead is limited to 2.5 gallons per minute. The proposed change would allow manufacturers to apply that restriction to each nozzle on a showerhead. [[HuffPost 8/12/20](#)]

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The U.S. Education Department's controversial new regulation governing how schools and universities should respond to allegations of sexual assault and harassment went into effect on Friday after a federal judge rejected an effort to stop it.

The new directive covering the enforcement of Title IX, a U.S. law prohibiting sex discrimination at federally funded schools, replaces an Obama-era rule revoked in 2017 by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. The old rule had been hailed by victims' rights advocates for providing long-overdue protections for sexual assault survivors, but critics said it pushed schools to find students guilty.

The new rule expands the rights of the accused in part by creating a judicial-like process that gives the accused the rights to a live hearing with multiple panel members and to cross-examine accusers, which was not previously allowed. It bars

schools from allowing one person to both investigate and judge complaints. It also, among other changes, narrows the definition of sexual harassment. [WP 8/14/20]

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The Trump administration, finalized its plan to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development, setting the stage for what is expected to be a fierce legal battle over the fate of a vast, remote Alaska habitat.

The Interior Department said it completed its required reviews, clearing the way for the government to auction off leases later this year to companies interested in drilling inside the refuge's coastal plain, which is believed to sit atop enough oil to fill billions of barrels. It is also, however, prized by environmentalists for its pristine landscapes and wildlife.

Companies that purchased leases could begin the process of exploring for oil and gas, although actual production would still require additional permitting and is unlikely to occur for at least a decade, if at all. [WP 8/17/20]

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A new advisory board, created to review the ethics of proposed fetal tissue research grants, is urging the Trump administration to block government funding for nearly all of the applications — essentially seeking to ban support for most such scientific work.

The recommendation that the National Institutes of Health withhold funds from all but one of a slate of 14 research proposals means that Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who has the final say, would need to buck the will of a board he convened — and of social conservatives crucial to President Trump's political base — for the projects to get federal support. [WP 8/18/20]

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2020

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

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Joe Biden has chosen Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate.

The selection process began with a list of 20 potential running mates. The list was then reduced to 11 potential running mates, then to six and then to four –

Warren, Whitmer, Rice and Harris. Harris's selection was announced on August 11th. [Note, the numbers above are based on press reports so may be unrelated to reality.]

Harris is currently the junior U.S. Senator from California having taken office on January 2017. From 2011-2017 she served as Attorney General of California following her service as District Attorney of San Francisco from 2004-2011. She is 55 years of age and married to Douglas Emhoff, an entertainment lawyer.

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Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, the first presidential candidate to select a woman as his running mate said, "Harris is a good choice. This is good news for the Democratic campaign."

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Peter Hart, Washington Watch's favorite pollster, said the following when the selection was announced.

"The 2020 Democratic ticket represents the positive, sunny, smiling face that has been missing the last four years. Kamala is warm, happy and has one of the best smiles in American politics. Both Biden & Harris are happy warriors. In hard times, Americans want candidates that radiate confidence in America and show confidence that 'the sun will come up tomorrow'."

In 2016, Trump ran on the slogan "Make America Great Again." It was code for returning America to the times of Archie Bunker.

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In a recent report, Charlie Cook wrote, "Americans vote for president. They don't vote for vice president." Will this be the year when it does make a difference? [WW]

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[NBCnews.com/planyourvote](https://www.nbcnews.com/planyourvote), is a good source for voter/voting information in the coming election.

In addition to the Presidential, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives elections there are 11 gubernatorial, 9 lieutenant-gubernatorial, 10 state-attorney-general, 7 secretary-of-senate and 5,876 state legislative seats on the ballot this year.

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Ranked Choice Voting

Is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) the future of voting in state and federal elections?

16 states in the United States have acted on or are considering some form of Ranked Choice Voting or other changes to their state election systems. Those states are Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, and Utah.

34 states do not appear to be considering any changes to their systems or if so, it is not obvious.

What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes (i.e. 50% + 1) he or she will be declared the winner.
3. If, on the other hand, no candidates win an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.
4. All first preference votes for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the second-preference choices indicated on those ballots.
5. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority of the adjusted voters.
6. The process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of the votes cast. The following is an example of how Ranked Choice Voting works.

Assume there are four candidates for mayor in a hypothetical city. The table below presents the first-preference vote totals for each candidate.

| <u>Candidates</u> | <u>Raw first-preference vote tallies</u> | |
|-------------------|--|--------|
| Candidate A | 475 | 46.34% |
| Candidate B | 300 | 29.27% |
| Candidate C | 175 | 17.07% |
| Candidate D | 75 | 7.32% |

Candidate D with the smallest number of first preference, is eliminated. The ballots listing candidate D as the first preference are adjusted, raising their second preference candidates. Assume that, of the 75 first preference votes for Candidate D, listed candidate A as their second preference and 25 listed Candidate B. The adjusted vote totals would be as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------|------|
| Candidate A | 525 | 51.22% | Wins |
| Candidate B | 325 | 31.71% | |
| Candidate C | 175 | 15.07% | |

[Ballotpedia – source of information above]

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In 6 of the last 15 presidential elections—1960, 1968, 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2016—the winner did not earn a majority of the votes cast.

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Maine will be the first state to ever use RCV for a presidential election, that is unless pending legal actions are successful. Republicans have filed a veto resolution to be on the ballot known as a “people’s veto”. If it makes it to the ballot than the presidential election will not be on the ballot in the RCV form.

Massachusetts will decide in this November’s election whether to adopt ranked-choice voting (RCV) for state executive officials, state legislators, federal congressional and senate seats. One city, Cambridge, has adopted RCV and two other cities have adopted it but have not implemented it.

On the ballot this November in Alaska, voters will have an opportunity to adopt “Top Four Primaries”. Top Four Primaries means that primaries are open to both parties and any others as well. The top four then make it to the general election ballot regardless of party. These would be used for state executive, state legislative, and congressional elections.

They will also have the opportunity to adopt “Ranked Choice Voting” for general elections.

[Eliot Cutler, a former candidate for governor of Maine, credits Kyle Bailey, Dick Woodbury, and Cara Brown McCormick for leading the campaign for the adoption of RCV in Maine. WW gives thanks to Cara — now of “Voter Choice for Massachusetts” and “Yes on 2 Campaign” — for helping with the development of this section of the WW.]

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The Conventions

The party conventions this year were certainly different than anything we have seen or imagined.

The media coverage of the two hour per night conventions began with CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and C-SPAN covering the first hour. The four major broadcast networks ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox joined in for the second hour. A large amount of the coverage now comes from non-tv stories e.g. streaming services. These numbers are not collected with the regular TV coverage.

The Democratic convention was scheduled for Milwaukee. What ended up actually being in Milwaukee was the media control room for a convention that had participants appearing from all over the country. The roll call vote for the nomination of Joe Biden featured appearances of folks in every state and territory casting their delegation votes. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris gave their acceptance speeches from the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware.

The viewership was:

| At DNC | At RNC |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Monday night – 19.7 million viewers | Monday night – 17.0 million viewers |
| Tuesday night – 18.6 million viewers | Tuesday night – 18.0 million viewers |
| Wednesday night – 21.4 million viewers | Wednesday night – 17.3 million vrs. |
| Thursday night – 24.6 million viewers | Thursday night – 20 million viewers |

The Republican convention was originally planned for Charlotte, North Carolina. Plans changed and the first day of the convention, as well as the roll call for nomination of the president, was conducted in Charlotte. The only in-person participants were 6 delegates from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia – a total of 336 delegates. Rather than adopting a new platform the Republicans decided to continue to use the one adopted in 2016.

The balance of the convention was conducted at D.C.'s Mellon Auditorium, Fort McHenry, and the lawn of the White House where Melania's speech and the acceptance speech of President Trump were held.

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The General Election

Peter Hart makes the case that this has been a three-phase campaign and we need to be careful not to treat the results of current polling as if it was late October.

The first phase of the campaign was pre-March and involved the battle for the Democratic nomination and the polarization of Donald Trump.

The second phase was the coronavirus/economic collapse, the nomination of Joe Biden as the Democratic candidate for president, Trump's collapse, and finally, the selection of Senator Kamala Harris as Biden's running mate.

The third phase are the two conventions which ended on August 27th, followed by the general election campaign. The third phase has two parts, the first part ends with the first presidential debate on September 29th.

The polling results prior to the first presidential debate are nice to know and interesting, but after the initial debate the results take on true significance.

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Current National Presidential Scorecard

| | <u>Trump</u> | <u>Biden</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| CNBC 8/23 | 43% | 51% |
| CBS 8/22 | 42% | 52% |
| Economist/YouGov 8/18 | 40% | 50% |
| Hill/HarrisX 8/18 | 38% | 46% |
| CNN 8/15 | 46% | 50% |
| ABC/WP 8/15 | 44% | 54% |

The upcoming presidential election is not in reality a national election But, as of August 25, the RCP average is Biden 49.9% - Trump 42.2%

WW is focused on a list of seven states most likely to be the ultimate battleground states: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

| | <u>Trump</u> | <u>Biden</u> | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------|------|---------|
| Arizona | 45.8% | 48.0% | 8/23 | RCP Avg |
| Florida | 45.3% | 49.0% | 8/23 | RCP Avg |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|------|---------|
| Michigan | 42.3% | 49.3% | 8/23 | RCP Avg |
| North Carolina | 46.5% | 46.5% | 8/23 | RCP Avg |
| Pennsylvania | 44.3% | 49.8% | 8/23 | RCP Avg |
| Wisconsin | 44.5% | 48.0 % | 8/23 | RCP Avg |
| Minnesota | 44.0% | 49.3% | 8/18 | RCP Avg |

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2020 Presidential/Vice Presidential Debates

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

First Presidential Debate

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Vice Presidential Debate

The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Second Presidential Debate

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami, FL

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Third Presidential Debate

Belmont University, Nashville, TN

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About Joe Biden

Joe Biden has been on the national scene for 50 years. He is well known but “not known well.”

In the past eight NBC/WSJ surveys dating back to August 2019, Americans are shown to have more negative than positive feelings about him. In his final month as Vice President, 56% of Americans had positive feelings toward Biden and 22% had negative feelings. As he accepted the nomination, 33% have positive feelings and 45% feel negative.

When asked how confident they feel about a potential Biden presidency 41% are either optimistic and confident or satisfied. 59% have reservations, are uncertain and wondering or pessimistic and worried. [Peter Hart]

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The following are a series of comparisons of Trump and Biden by Americans as they decide for whom they will vote.

Biden voters were asked whether they are voting for Biden (36%) or against Trump (58%).

Trump voters were asked whether they are voting for Trump (74%) or against Biden (20%).

If Trump is elected, 41% are “optimistic/confident/satisfied and hopeful” while 59% are “uncertain/wondering/pessimistic and worried”.

If Biden is elected, 46% are “optimistic/confident/satisfied and hopeful” while 52% are “uncertain/wondering/pessimistic and worried”.

Americans were asked whether Trump or Biden would be better on a series of issues. The issues are listed on the basis how important each issue is as folks are deciding how they will vote.

| | <u>Trump</u> | <u>Biden</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Dealing with the economy | 48% | 38% |
| Bringing the country together | 26% | 49% |
| Strong leadership qualities | 39% | 43% |
| Having mental/physical health | 39% | 37% |
| Health care | 34% | 60% |
| The coronavirus | 33% | 49% |
| Foreign Policy | 39% | 49% |
| Race Relations | 29% | 53% |
| Crime | 43% | 39% |
| Immigration | 38% | 49% |

[NBC/WSJ 8/12/20]

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At least 76% of American voters can cast ballots by mail in the fall. As of now, nearly 180 million Americans who are eligible to vote would be able to cast a ballot by mail. Of those, 22 million live in states that will either accept “fear of the coronavirus” as an excuse to vote absentee or have switched to become “no excuse” states. [WP 7/23/2020]

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What are the odds?

Here are the odds as of August 23, 2020 if you want to place a bet on the 2020 presidential election.

| | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| Joe Biden | -130 | (Better needs to bet \$130 to win \$100. If it is a winning bet the better ends up with \$230.) |
| Donald Trump | +100 | (Better needs to bet \$100 to win \$100. A winning bet ends up with the better receiving \$200.) |

[sportsbetting.ag]

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In 15 of the last 30 general elections, the House, Senate or White House changed parties. 8 of these 15 change years occurred in the last two decades. The years of those changes were 1960, 1968, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016, and 2018. [Bruce Mehlman of Mehlman, Castagnetti, Rosen & Thomas [July 2020]

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Congress

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak.

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Real Clear Pol. 8/11/20 | 20% | 68% |
| Real Clear Pol. 7/7/20 | 23% | 64% |
| Real Clear Pol. 6/23/20 | 23.7% | 64.7% |
| Real Clear Pol. 5/26/20 | 28.5% | 56.8% |
| 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% |

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As of 8/12/20, the Democrats are leading the generic Congressional ballot with 47% and Republicans with 42%. [NBC/WSJ 8/12/20]

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As a result of the 2020 census, ten states are likely to lose at least one congressional district while seven states are likely to gain one or more districts. If these changes had occurred before the 2016 election, Trump would have won an additional 3 electoral votes and Clinton would have won 3 fewer electoral votes
Clinton 229 – Trump 309

States Gaining Districts (7):

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Arizona +1 (from 9 to 10) | Trump |
| Colorado +1 (from 7 to 8) | Clinton |
| Florida +2 (from 27-29) | Trump |
| Montana +1 (from at-large to 2) | Trump |
| North Carolina +1 (from 13-14) | Trump |
| Oregon +1 (from 5 to 6) | Clinton |
| Texas +3 (from 36 to 39) | Trump |

States Losing Districts (10):

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Alabama -1 (from 7-6) | Trump |
| California – 1 (from 53-52) | Clinton |
| Illinois -1 (from 18 to 17) | Clinton |
| Michigan -1 (from 14 to 13) | Trump |
| Minnesota -1 (from 8 to 7) | Clinton |
| New York -1 (from 27 to 26) | Clinton |
| Ohio -1 (from 16 to 15) | Trump |
| Pennsylvania -1 (from 18 to 17) | Trump |
| Rhode Island -1 (from 2 to 1) | Clinton |
| West Virginia -1 (from 3 to 2) | Trump |

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“In my life and career, I have often heard it said that so-and-so has real power — as in, it’s said that so-and-so has real power — as in, ‘the powerful Wile E. Coyote, chairman of the Capture the Road Runner Committee’.

“It’s an expression that has always grated on me. In democratic government, elected officials do not have power. They hold power — in trust for the people

who elected them. If they misuse or abuse that public trust, it is quite properly revoked (the quicker the better).

“I never forgot the people who gave me the privilege of representing them. It was a lesson learned at home from my father and mother, and one I have tried to impart to the people I’ve served with and employed over the years.

“As I prepare to leave this all behind, I now leave you in control of the greatest nation of mankind and pray God gives you the wisdom to understand the responsibility you hold in your hands.” [Congressman John Dingell 1926-2019, served as a member of Congress for 57 years]

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Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) passed away on Friday, July 17, after winning the June 9 primary in his bid for re-election to Georgia’s 5th Congressional District. The Georgia Democratic Party selected party chairwoman and State Sen. Nikema Williams (D) to replace him on the general election ballot. She faces Angela Stanton King (R) in the November 3 election. The winner of the general election will be up for re-election in 2022.

- Because Lewis died between the primary and general election, Georgia law gave the Democratic Party one business day to decide whether to replace him on the general election ballot. The state party accepted applications to replace Lewis on the ballot Saturday and Sunday and chose Lewis’ replacement on Monday, July 20.
- A nominating committee chose five finalists from the 131 applications they received. The finalists were Williams, State Rep. Park Cannon, Atlanta City Council member Andre Dickens, Robert Franklin, and James Woodall. Williams received 37 of the 41 votes cast Monday.

Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) has called a special election for September 29th (the day of the first presidential debate). The winner of that election will serve until January 2021.

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President Trump, when asked by Jonathan Swan what he thought of Congressman Lewis said, “He did not come to my inaugural or State of the Union speeches.”

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There will be 38 congressional races in 2020 where two women are running against each other; 35 House races and 3 Senate races. This is a new record. The previous high was 33 races with two women running against each other in 2018.

Currently, 101 House members, 23.3%, are women. 88 are Democrats and 13 are Republicans. 26 Senators, 26% are women. 17 are Democrats and 9 are Republicans. [Forbes 8/5/20]

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

As of August 24, 2020, 37 incumbent members of the House are not seeking re-election – 9 are Democrats, 27 are Republicans, and 1 is a Libertarian.

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2020

Democrats 232

Republicans 199

Vacancies 4

| | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Safe in 2020 | 183 | 165 |
| Likely | 19 | 14 |
| Lean | 18 | 14 |
| | | <u>Toss Up</u> |
| | 16 | 6 |

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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 remains likely that Republicans will retain control of the Senate in this election although chances appear to be improving for the Democrats.

At this point, it appears that Senator Kelly Loeffler and Rep. Doug Collins are leading in the “jungle” primary for this Senate Republican seat in Georgia. If no one gets 50%, as appears likely, there will be a runoff in January 2021. In the second Georgia seat that is up this year, the incumbent David Perdue is running even with Democratic challenger Jon Osoff.

The race between Senator Ed Markey and Rep. Kennedy appears to be going down to the wire, the primary is September 1st. One interesting twist is that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, endorsed Kennedy over Markey. There must be a back story which WW does not know.

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 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 | 9 | 11 | |
| | Coons | | |
| | Durbin | Cotton | |
| | Markey | Risch | |
| | Warner | Cassidy | |
| | Booker | Hyde-Smith | |
| | Merkley | Sasse | |
| | Reed | Inhofe | |
| | Shaheen | Rounds | |
| | N. Mexico (Udall) | Moore Capito | |
| | | Wyoming (Enzi) | |
| | | Tennessee (Alexander) | |
| | | McConnell | |
| Likely | 1 | 3 | |
| | Smith | Cornyn | |
| | | Sullivan | |
| | | Graham | |
| Lean | 1 | 5 | |
| | Peters | | |
| | | Jones (AL) | |

| | | |
|---------|---|------------------|
| | | Loeffler |
| | | Kansas (Roberts) |
| | | Daines* |
| | | Perdue |
| Toss Up | 0 | 5 |
| | | McSally |
| | | Collins |
| | | Tillis |
| | | Gardner |
| | | Ernst |

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WW Recommends Books
& other things

In this new feature of the Washington Watch, WW will primarily suggest books you may find interesting but now and then it may also mention a TV program, and other things. I would welcome your suggestions and your input. What have you been reading that you think WW readers might like?

YOU'RE FIRED
by Paul Begala

In *You're Fired*, Paul Begala tells us how Trump uses division to distract from the reality of his record. Distraction, he argues, is Trump's superpower. And this book is Kryptonite. In it, the man who helped elect Bill Clinton and reelect Barack Obama, details:

- The special weapons and tactics needed in the unconventional war against this most unconventional politician
- How to drive a wedge—or, rather, a pickup truck—between Trump and many of his supporters, especially blue-collar workers and farmers
- Where the votes to defeat Trump will come from, and how the Rising American Electorate can catch Trump flat-footed
- How Democrats can run on issues ranging from Coronavirus and healthcare to the economy, as well as climate change and Trump's long-term plan to dominate the federal judiciary

- There is one chapter called simply, “This Chapter Will Beat Trump.” Find out why Begala is so confident and what issue he says will sink the *Trumptanic*

Full of memorable advice and Begala’s trademark wit, *You’re Fired* focuses on the lessons we can learn from the party’s successes and failures—and the crucial tools Democrats need to beat Trump.

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YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER IN PERSON

by Al Roker

These days, the road to success can feel jam-packed with scheduling, networking, nonstop hustle, and flat-out absurdity. And no one knows that better than Al Roker--beloved cohost of *The Today Show*, weatherperson extraordinaire, and the man we all secretly wish we could turn to for wisdom and wisecracks in our everyday lives.

From his college days as a polyester-suit clad weather forecaster in Syracuse to battling and buttering up the "Butter Man" during the legendary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Al has learned worthwhile lessons over a long successful career. And now, for the first time, Al is ready to unleash savvy advice on how to embrace happiness and the power of saying "yes," alongside a host of humorous tips and tricks about how to succeed in life.

In *You Look So Much Better in Person*, Al teaches us how we can weather the storm of life, no matter how torrential the downpour, and shares anecdotes from his own treasure trove of memories.

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Women Will Get It Done

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is designed to guarantee equal legal rights to all American citizens regardless of sex. The first version of an ERA was written by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman and was introduced in Congress in December 1923.

August 10th was the 50th Anniversary of the House passage of the Equal Rights Amendment—thanks to a discharge petition filed by Martha Griffiths. It did not ultimately pass. Griffiths reintroduced it in 1971. It passed the House in 1971

and the Senate in March 1972. It was then submitted to the states with a required ratification deadline of March 22, 1979. It received 35 of the necessary 38 state ratifications.

Indiana was the 35th state to ratify before Phyllis Schlafly began her effort to stop the ratification on the grounds that it would diminish the status of women. The irony of Indiana being the 35th state is that the Senate version of the ERA was an amendment sponsored by Senator Birch Bayh from Indiana.

The deadline for ratification was then extended to 1982. That extension was disputed but necessary ratifications did not follow so it became irrelevant.

Five state legislatures (Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota) voted to revoke their ERA ratifications. It remains an unresolved legal question as to whether a state can revoke its ratification.

In 2017 Nevada became the first state to ratify after the expiration of both deadlines. Illinois followed in 2018. In January 2020 Virginia provided the 38th ratification vote. There are obviously a number of legal issues to be resolved.

August 26th was the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. The amendment was initially introduced in Congress in 1878. After several failed attempts, it passed the House on May 21, 1919. The Senate followed suit in June 4, 1919. On August 18, 1920 Tennessee became the last of the 36 states needed to ratify the amendment. The adoption was certified on August 26, 1920.

All told there have been 27 constitutional amendments in over 230 years, with the first ten adopted very shortly after ratification. In the past 50 years, Congress has passed only two constitutional amendments—the 26th and the ERA—and only one of those was ratified, changing the voting age of eligibility to 18-years-old. The 27th was passed in colonial times but took a few hundred years to get ratified. Not an easy row to hoe.

In 2020, 60 women filed to run for the U.S. Senate and 584 women filed to run for the U.S. House —topping the 2018 number. Within these groups 13 Black women filed to run for the Senate and 117 Black women filed to run for the House. Still, a relatively small number 100 years after gaining the right to vote. [Jay Berman is responsible for the idea of this piece and provided much of the information.]

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There has been a sizeable increase in the percentage of female decision-makers at U.S. venture capital firms. Here are the percentages of female decision makers in recent years.

2019 – 12.4% of decision makers at U.S. venture capital firms were women
2018 – 8.93%
2017 – 7%
2016 – 5.7%

In 2020, there were 182 female decision makers among 1,472 total decision makers at 351 firms. 213 of the firms (61%) did not have any female decision-makers. Only 34 firms (9.7%) had two or more. [Axios – Pro Rata 7/21/2020]

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The Civil Rights Act of 1957 gave women the right to serve on federal juries.

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In 1974, women finally gained the right to get a credit card in their own names with the passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974. Effective October 28, 1975. The law made credit card companies issue cards to women without a husband’s signature.

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“The way to build back is to put women straight at the center. Because guess what? They’re already at the center. They’re already the ones dealing with kids at home, taking care of the elderly, trying to make sure that there’s food on the table. If we want to build back a better society and also have a quicker recovery, then we have to look at the specific gender pieces that we need to work on in every country around the world.” [Melinda Gates co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation NYTimes 3/7/20]

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An intern at GenderAvenger (“GA”) this summer was given the assignment to take a look at major TV news websites and analyze the gender breakdown of bylines and the sources journalists use in their stories. The analysis covers a 24-hour period from 9:00 am on July 12 to 9:00 am on July 13, 2020. If you are interested, you should take a look at the full story on GA on the date noted below.

| | <u>Bylines</u> | <u>Source</u> |
|-----|----------------|---------------|
| ABC | 16 women | 54 women |
| | 30 men | 181 men |
| CNN | 52 women | 28 women |
| | 49 men | 95 men |
| FOX | 21 women | 25 women |
| | 73 men | 107 men |
| NBC | 16 women | 19 women |
| | 17 men | 54 women |

[Gender Avenger 9/7/20]

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The 36th female CEO joined the *Fortune* 500 when Joanne Crevoiserat took over as Tapestry's interim chief executive. Sue Nabi will be No. 37 when she becomes CEO of Coty on Sept. 1. And as of yesterday, the *Fortune* 500 is set to get its 38th women CEO when Linda Rendle takes over The Clorox Company's corner office on Sept. 14.

Should CEO ranks hold between now and then, 38 will represent a record-high number of female chief executives and it will be the third time in three years that the *Fortune* 500 has achieved such a record. It did so in 2019 with 33 CEOs and again this past May with 37.

Experts have attributed the slow but steady progress on this front, in part, to company boards becoming more diverse, which is itself a product of institutional investors demanding new blood in boardrooms.

To be sure, 38 female CEOs is still a minuscule share of *Fortune* 500 leadership overall and there is little racial diversity among the women that make up the too-elite club. But the trend, at least in terms of gender diversity, remains headed in the right direction. [The Broadsheet 8/4/20]

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