

*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**

66% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track, that includes 63% of men and 70% of women.

26% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 29% of men and 23% of women. [YouGov 10/6/20]

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In 2019, there were 568,110 married same-sex households in the U.S. 58% of the 980,000 same sex households reported in 2019 were married couples.

The highest concentration of same-sex households were found in D.C. (2.4%), Delaware (1.3%), Oregon (1.2%), Massachusetts (1.2%), and Washington state (1.1%).

48 is the average age of respondents  
47 is the average age of their spouses  
82% identified as white  
13% identified as Hispanic  
Almost 7% identified as Black  
Almost 4% were Asian  
16+% of same-sex married households were interracial couples, double the rate for opposite-sex married couples.

[AxiosPM 9/17/20]

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The budget deficit will reach a record \$3.3 trillion (16 percent of GDP) in Fiscal Year 2020 and total \$13 trillion over the subsequent decade. [CBO 9/2/20]

On August 19, 2020, the value of Apple was greater than the entirety of the Russell 2000 small cap index.

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62% of Americans believe that the Supreme Court should uphold Roe v. Wade. 24% say it should be overturned and 14% have no opinion.

Those saying it should be upheld include 66% of women, 58% of men, 81% of Democrats, 75% of moderates, 75% of those with no religious preference, 37% of conservatives, 40% of Republicans, and 44% of evangelical Protestants. [ABC/WP 10/9/20]

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51% of adults expect their lives to remain changed in major ways after the pandemic is over. [PEW 9/19/20]

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As of 9/12/20, 9 million people still haven't collected their first economic impact payment. [WP 9/13/20]

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About 53% of Latinos identify as white. [NYT 9/18/20]

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Last year, a team of researchers led by one of America's leading authorities on homelessness projected that in the next 10 years, the number of elderly people experiencing homelessness in the nation would nearly triple. [NYTimes, 10/4/20]

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In 2019 a typical white family had eight times the wealth of a typical Black family and five times the wealth of a typical Hispanic family. White families had a median family wealth of \$188,200 compared to the \$24,100 median income of Black families. [WP 9/29/20]

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Perceptions of America have dropped over the last 20 years. Of the countries listed, in only South Korea has the favorability rating of Americans not dropped.

Favorable

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2020</u>
United Kingdom	83%		41%
Germany	78%		26%
Canada	--	72%	35%

Japan	77%	41%	
South Korea	58%	59%	
Italy	76%	45%	
France	62%	31%	
Spain	50%	40%	[PEW 9/15/20]

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According to NASA, 18 of the warmest 19 years have occurred since 2001. We just experienced the warmest decade ever. [AXIOS PM 9/12/20]

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Women of color have increased their share of elected office by 46%. People of color have increased their share of elected offices in 58 of the 100 largest cities.

Since 2016 the number of women and people of color elected as mayors has increased from 39/100 to 54/100.

In 79 of the 100 largest cities the percentage of white people in office exceeds the percentage of white people in the population.

Of the ten largest cities only three have elected leaders who reflect the racial makeup of their cities – San Antonio, Philadelphia, and San Jose. [Reflective Democracy Campaign, WhoLeads.Us 9/20]

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### **Employment**

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2020 is 7.9%. That unemployment rate is lower than the 11.1% rate in June, 8.4% in August and greater than the 3.5% 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 is 12.8%, down from 18.00% in June, 14.2% in August and up from 6.9% a year ago.

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661,000 jobs were created in September and 1.2 million jobs were created in August. A year ago, 135,000 jobs were created in September.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for September is 61.4%, down from 63% in July 2019. [BLS 9/20]

22 million jobs have been lost and 11.4 million jobs have been regained. 837,000 more Americans filed for unemployment benefits in the week ending October 2<sup>nd</sup> than were added in the entire month of September.

[Steve Rattner 10/7/20]

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### The Demographics of Unemployment for September 2020

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

Women –6.9% (down from last month)

Men – 6.5% (down from last month)

#### Unemployment by Race

White – 7.0% (down from last month)

Black –12.1% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 10.3% (down from last month)

Asian –8.9% (down from last month)

#### Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –10.6% (down from last month)

High School – 9.0% (down from as last month)

Some college – 8.1% (up from last month)

Bachelor's Degree or higher – 4.8% (down from last month)

In August, 34 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 8.4%; 16 states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates that were above the national average.

In August, Nevada at 13.2%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Nebraska at 4.0%, had the lowest unemployment rate in the country. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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In the United States, 19.6% of working-age adults (18-64) said the reason they were not working was because COVID-19 disrupted their childcare arrangements.

Women age 25-44 (32.1%) are nearly three times more likely than men of the same age (12.1%) to be unemployed because of childcare. [U.S. Census Bureau/pulse survey 8/18/20]

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Today, 65% of Americans approve of labor unions. This is the highest number in 17 years. Here are the approval ratings over time.

<u>% approving of labor unions</u>	
1936	72%
1953 & 57	75%
1979	55%
2002	65%
2009	48%
2020	65%

<u>Approval of labor unions based on party affiliation</u>			
	Dem	Ind	GOP
2001	76%	56%	46%
2011	78%	52%	26%
2020	83%	64%	45%

[Gallup 9/3/20]

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### **This and That**

There are 17,985 police agencies in the United States. [Wikipedia]

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California is one of four states where a law degree is not required to take the bar exam. [NYT 9/13/20]

The other three states are Washington, Vermont, and Virginia. Wisconsin is the only state in which you can start practicing law without taking a bar exam if you instead complete certain course and grade requirements. [Google/WW]

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Nearly 30 million people in the United States lacked health insurance at some point in 2019. This is up 1,000,000 people since 2018.

The median U.S. income in 2019 was \$68,703, up from \$64,324 in 2018.

Households with the top one-fifth of earnings accounted for almost 52% of all income earned in the United States, more than the bottom four-fifths combined. The poorest one-fifth of households received 3 percent of all income. [WP 9/160]

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“Nineteen years ago, 72% of Americans rallied and said America was headed in the right direction and only 11% said we were on the wrong track. Today, just 19% say we are headed in the right direction; 72% say we are on the wrong track.” [Peter Hart, 9/11/20]

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“24 people lead the Trump administration. 3 are Asian, Black or Hispanic. 9 justices sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. 2 are Black or Hispanic.

100 people write the laws in the Senate. 9 are Asian, Black, or Hispanic.

431 people currently write laws in the House. 112 are Asian, Black, Hispanic, or Native American, or otherwise identify as a person of color.

50 people are state governors. 3 are Asian, Hispanic, or Native American. 8 men are military chiefs. 1 is Black.

25 people command the largest police forces. 14 are Black or Hispanic.

29 prosecutors charge people with crimes in those jurisdictions. 12 are Asian, Black or Hispanic.” [NYT – Faces of Power project]

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The average person’s mind wanders 47% of the time, according to a 2010 Harvard Study entitled, “Focus your Brain (Put Down That Phone)”. [NYT 9/27/20]

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Americans are schizophrenic in their views of the media.

- 9% have a great deal of confidence that journalists act in the best interests of the public. Another 39% have a fair amount of confidence.
- 63% say that ideally, it’s better if the public is skeptical of rather than trust the news media.

- 75% of adults say it is possible to improve the level of confidence Americans have in the news media.
- 48% of adults say that news organizations do not do well telling their audiences when a correction has been made and
- 60% do not do a good job of telling their audiences whether are conflicts of interest.
- 51% feel more confident in a news organization that issues an official correction to a story.

[PEW 3/2/20]

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Georgetown University’s legendary basketball coach, John Thompson, Jr. died on August 30, 2020. The following was included in a memorial story in the Washington Post.

“Thompson’s pride was the impact he had on his players. And if they didn’t want to receive the full weight of that impact, they could move along – out of Georgetown. The Hoyas’ graduation rate for four-year players was 97 percent, because they knew that, no matter what their academic challenges when they entered, they only had two years to prove they were serious about using school to prepare themselves for life – or give somebody else the chance they were wasting.”  
– Tom Boswell

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On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Peter Baker of the New York Times tweeted the following list of U.S. deaths due to mass casualty events.

Influenza pandemic (1918-1920): 675,000  
 Civil War: 600,000  
 WWII: 400,000  
 Coronavirus (2020): 213,000 so far  
 H2N2 (1957-58): 116,000  
 WWI: 115,000  
 H3N2 (1968): 100,000  
 Vietnam: 58,000  
 Korea: 36,000  
 H1N1 (2009): 12,469  
 Iraq: 4,500  
 Afghanistan: 2,300

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“Paraprosdokians” are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. Here are a half dozen.

- Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you...but it’s still on my list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.
- We never really grow up—we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

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About Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court  
March 15, 1933 - September 18, 2020

On the wall next to the door to my home office is a photograph of the Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court. Seated in the front row are Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Standing in the back row are Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice David Souter, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, and Associate Justice Stephen Breyer.

The photo includes a handwritten message from Justice Ginsburg, “To Mike Berman with every good wish for our ‘coach’”. It is signed by Justices Ginsburg, Souter, Thomas, and Breyer.

The first person whom I helped prepare for his Senate confirmation hearing in 1990 was David Souter. Souter was a friend of my partner Ken Duberstein. I had done a fair amount of work in preparing people for congressional hearings and Ken asked if I would help Souter, which I did. Subsequently, I was asked to help with the preparation in 1991 of Clarence Thomas by a lawyer friend who was leading his confirmation preparation.

On June 15, 1993, President Bill Clinton announced that he was nominating then D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. My friend Howard Paster was head

of congressional relations for the White House and asked me to assist with Ginsburg's preparation. I agreed and began to prepare.

I then got a call from Howard (or someone in his office) asking me to have lunch with Marty Ginsburg, Judge Ginsburg's husband. Early in our lunch it became clear that Marty Ginsburg, a prominent tax lawyer who also taught tax at Georgetown University Law School, was there to determine whether Judge Ginsburg would permit me to be part of her confirmation team. Over a two-hour lunch, and having learned that we were both cooks, Marty agreed that I could join the team and help Judge Ginsburg.

When I first met Judge Ginsburg in her chambers, my first reaction was that she was particularly self-effacing and spoke very softly. I made a note that I would have to get her to speak up.

Preparations began on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Senate Judiciary Hearings. We scheduled a series of mock hearings on July 14, 16 and 17. At our first practice hearing I quickly realized that I would not, in fact, have to encourage her to speak up. It was like someone threw a switch.

Senate Judiciary hearings were held on July 20-23, 1993. On the first day Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave an opening statement in which she included the following, "Indeed, in my lifetime, I expect to see three, four or perhaps even more women on the High Court Bench, women not shaped from the same mold, but of different complexion." At the time she died three women served on the High Court Bench. [Full text – Wash Post 9/20/20]

During the confirmation hearings, we had a lunch break each day. A large room had been set aside near the hearing room for our group. On the last day of hearings, about a half hour before the hearing would re-start, I asked everyone to leave the room so Ruth and Marty could have a little time to themselves. About a half hour later I entered the room to tell them the hearing was about to start.

I saw two people sitting together, holding hands, clearly expressing their love for each other.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was confirmed by the United States Senate on August 3, 1993 by a vote of 93-6. She took the oath of office on August 10, 1993.

According to a Jewish tradition, a person who dies on Rosh Hashanah, is a “tzaddik”, a person of great righteousness. And she was. [WW]

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Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Supreme Court and the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capital. Ginsburg is also the first Jewish person to lie in state in the U.S. Capital. In U.S. History, only 33 people--all of them men--have lain in State in the Capital.

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### Select Quotes from Justice Ginsburg

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.”

“When I’m sometimes asked when will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court] and I say, When they are nine, people are shocked, But there’s been nine men, and nobody’s ever raised a question about it.”

“I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our breather is that they take their feet off our necks.”

“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

“Yet what greater defeat could we suffer than to come to resemble the forces we oppose in their disrespect for human dignity.”

“You can disagree without being disagreeable.”

“Women will have achieved true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.”

“A gender line...helps to keep women not on a pedestal, but in a cage.”

“I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability.”

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## QUOTES

“A leader is a dealer in hope.”

-Napoleon Bonaparte

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“One loyal friend is worth more than a thousand fake ones.”

-Euripides

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“One friend can change your whole life.”

-Pryam Saha

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“Food is our common ground, a universal experience.”

-James Beard

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“If you don’t read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.”

-Mark Twain

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“I contend that for a nation to try and tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”

-Winston Churchill

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“A government big enough to give everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.”

-Thomas Jefferson

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### **President Trump**

As of 10/4/20, a CNN poll found that 40% of registered voters approved of the job that President Trump is doing while 57% disapprove. 30% of women approve of the job he is doing along with 49% of men, while 67% of women disapprove along with 46% of men.

The split between folks who see themselves as supporters of one party or the other is as expected. 87% of Republicans approve of the job he is doing while 10% disapprove. And, no surprise, 95% of Democrats disapprove of his performance while only 2% approve.

Among Independents, 37% approve of his performance and 59% disapprove.

Among those between the ages of 18-34, 35% support the president’s performance while 60% disapprove.

Among those 65 and older, 38% approve of his performance and 61% 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>
9/28/20	46%	52%	43.4%	53.0%
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>
OCT’20	43/55	45/54	40/57	xxxx	xxxx
SEP’20	45/53	44/55	41/54	48/51	43/53
AUG’20	44/53	42/57	43/54	44/54	43/54

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 46 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.

Eisenhower	75% (11/56)
Johnson	70% (11/64)*
Nixon	62% (11/72)*
Reagan	58% (10/84)
Clinton	57% (10/96)
GW Bush	51% (10/04)
Ford	53% (12/76)*
Obama	50% (10/12)
Trump	45% (10/20) – RCP Average
GHW Bush	33% (10/92)
Carter	31% (11/80)

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
10/4/20	49%	48%	CNN
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>	
9/28/20	46%	53%	Gallup (A)
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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### **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.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>	<u>Int'l Trade</u>
Trump – thru 9/29/20	216	2	53	161	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. 1 for the Supreme Court, 33 seats in the District Courts, and 1 seat on the Court of International Trade.

There are also currently 56 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts and 2 vacancies on the Court of International Trade.

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

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### **Disassembling**

The U.S. Department of Labor unveiled proposed regulations that would make it easier for companies to classify workers as independent contractors, excluding them from workplace protections like overtime pay and sick leave. [Public Policy Law 360 9/22/20]

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The Trump administration has been quietly pulling money out of a fund for New York City firefighters and medics suffering from 9/11 related illnesses, with nearly \$4 million channeled to the federal government. The full amount of cash had been sent to the fund by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health but for several years the Treasury Department quietly withheld some of the money. [HuffPost 9/11/20]

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### **2020**

The 59<sup>th</sup> presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020, 18 days from today.

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61% of American voters plan to vote before election day. This includes 70% of Democrats, 48% of Republicans, and 65% of Independents. In 2016, 40% of voters voted before election day.

Nearly half of registered American voters plan to vote by mail (32%) or by dropping off (17%) their ballot.

The 51% of voters who plan to vote in person at a polling place, include 39% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 47% of Independents. [8/21 WP/Univ. of Maryland poll]

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NBCnews.com/planyourvote, is a good source for voter/voting information in the coming election.

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### Ranked Choice Voting

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court has ruled unanimously that Ranked-choice voting will be used in the November 2020 presidential election. [9/22/20]

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### **The General Election**

A decade high 85% of state legislative incumbents are seeking re-election this year. 79.6% of incumbents advanced to the general election without a primary challenge. 35% of state legislative races in 2020 have candidates from only one of the two major parties. [ Balletopedia 9/2/20]

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At least 367 elections this fall are rematches between the same candidates who ran for the office in 2018. Rematches in 2020 include:

- 24 elections for the U.S. House won by Democrats and 10 by Republicans in 2018.
- 1 state executive election
- 339 state legislative elections
- 3 local races

Republicans won 205 (56%) of the 2018 elections that are now rematches while Democrats won 160 (44%). [Ballotpedia]

52% of Republicans, 43% of Democrats, and 31% of Independents believe it is better to have one party control the presidency and the Congress. [Gallup 10/7/20]

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Following are the personal positive/negative feelings toward the candidates for President and Vice-President. There is not much difference between the positive feelings toward Trump and Biden but there is considerable difference between the negative feelings toward them.

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Donald Trump	39%	55%
Joe Biden	43%	41%
Mike Pence	36%	44%
Kamala Harris	40%	38% [NBC/WSJ 10/1/20]

Here are comparisons between Trump and Biden on several issues and personal characteristics. Biden leads on all except dealing with the economy.

<u>The Issues</u>	<u>Trump Better</u>	<u>Biden Better</u>
Dealing with the economy	48	41
Dealing with crime and violence	41	45
Making appoints to the Supreme Court	37	46
Dealing with the Coronavirus	35	52
Dealing with Health care	34	53
Dealing with race relations	26	55
Addressing issues of concern to women	25	46
<u>Personal characteristics</u>		
Having necessary mental and Physical health to be Pres	40	41
Having strong leadership qualities	40	45
Having the right temperament to be President	26	58

[NBC/WSJ 10/1/20]

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93% of Trump supporters are enthusiastic about supporting him with 71% being very enthusiastic. Biden supporters are a bit less enthusiastic in their support of him. 86% are enthusiastic with 52% being very enthusiastic. [ABC/WP 10/9/20]

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### Current National Presidential Scorecard

	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Biden</u>
ABC/WP10/9LV	42%	52%
Fox 10/6 LV	42%	52%
Economist/YouGov 10/6 LV	43%	51%
Hill/HarrisX 10/6 RV	40%	45%
CNBC 10/4 LV	43%	51%
Survey/USA 10/4 LV	43%	53%
CNN 10/4 LV	41%	51%

As of October 9<sup>th</sup>, the RCP average is Biden 51.6% - Trump 42.0%.

The upcoming presidential election is not in reality a national election. WW is focused on a list of seven states most likely to be the ultimate battleground states: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Biden</u>		
Arizona	45.5%	48.2%	10/8	RCP Avg
Florida	44.3%	48.0%	10/7	RCP Avg
Michigan	42.7%	49.4%	10/7	RCP Avg
Minnesota	41.0%	50.4%	9/24	RCP Avg
North Carolina	46.9%	48.3%	10/6	RCP Avg
Pennsylvania	43.9%	51.0%	10/5	RCP Avg
Wisconsin	44.0%	49.5 %	10/5	RCP Avg

\* \* \* \* \*

### 2020 Debate Audiences

First Presidential Debate – 73.1 million viewers  
(First presidential debate in 2016 - 84 million viewers)

Vice Presidential Debate – 57.9 million viewers

Second Presidential Debate – Cancelled

Third Presidential Debate – October 22, 2020

*Belmont University, Nashville, TN*

Moderator: Kristen Welker, NBC

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Here are the odds, as of October 11, 2020, if you want to place a bet on the 2020 presidential election.

Joe Biden	-200	(Bettor needs to bet \$200 to win \$100. If it is a winning bet the bettor ends up with \$300.)
Donald Trump	+170	(Bettor needs to bet \$100 to win \$170. A winning bet ends up with the better receiving \$270.)

[sportsbetting.ag]

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Congress**

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 10/6/20	19.3%	69.0%
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%

\* \* \* \* \*

As of October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Democrats are leading the generic Congressional ballot with 49.2% and Republicans with 42.6%.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

As of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 37 incumbent members of the House are not seeking re-election; 9 are Democrats, 27 are Republicans, and 1 is a Libertarian.

In 2018, 55 members of Congress – 18 Democrats and 37 Republicans – did not seek re-election.

In 2016, 45 members of Congress – 19 Democrats and 36 Republicans – did not seek re-election. [Ballopedia 9/14/20]

\* \* \* \* \*

3,169 major party candidates have filed to run for the Senate and House of Representatives in 2020.

For the U.S. Senate, 519 candidates filed with the Federal Election Commission. Of those, 402 (199 Democrats and 203 Republicans) are from one of the two major political parties.

For the U.S. House, 3,263 candidates have filed with the FEC. Of those, 2,767 (1291 Democrats and 1,476 Republicans) are from one of the two major political parties. [Ballopedia 9/14/20]

\* \* \* \* \*

## **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2020

Democrats 232

Republicans 199

Vacancies 4

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	190	153
Likely	18	16
Lean	18	15
		<u>Toss Up</u>
	11	14

\* \* \* \* \*

### 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 are defending 23 seats while Democrats are defending 12 seats. It remains likely that Republicans will retain control of the Senate in this election although chances appear to be improving for Democrats.

As of October 7, it appears that that Pastor Raphael Warnock at (28%) leads Senator Kelly Loeffler (22%) and Rep. Doug Collins (21%) who are roughly tied for second in the “jungle” Republican primary for this Senate seat in Georgia. If no one gets 50% of the vote, as appears likely, there will be a runoff of the top two, in January 2021.

In 2016, all 34 Senate contests tracked the presidential vote in their respective states. Only nine states have split Senate delegations, one from each party. [Charlie Cook’s latest 9/15/20]

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	10	11	
Coons			
Durbin		Cotton	
Markey		Risch	
Warner		Cassidy	

	Booker Merkley Reed Shaheen N. Mexico (Udall) Smith	Hyde-Smith Sasse Inhofe Rounds Moore Capito Wyoming (Enzi) Tennessee (Alexander) McConnell
Likely	0	2 Cornyn Sullivan
Lean	4 Peters McSally Collins Gardner	5 Jones (AL) Loeffler Graham Kansas (Roberts) Perdue
Toss Up	0	3 Tillis Daines Ernst

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Women Will Get It Done**

Inventions by Women  
(Thanks to Peter Hart)

#### The Car Heater

We all owe our thanks to Margaret A Wilcox who invented the car heater in 1893.  
(Margaret also invented a combined clothes washer/dishwasher.)

#### Monopoly

This popular board game was designed by Elizabeth Magie in 1904, originally called the Landlord's Game. The purpose of this game was to expose the injustices of unchecked capitalism. Her game was ripped off by Charles Darrow who sold it

to Parker Brother's 30 years later. However, Parker Brothers later paid Elizabeth \$500 for her game.

### The Fire Escape

The fire escape was invented by Anna Connelly in 1887.

\* \* \* \* \*

865,000 women left the workforce last month compared to 216,000 men. Of the women who dropped out of work last month, 324,000 were Latinas and 58,000 were Black women.

For more than a decade, women have represented about 55% of the total number of college graduates. [19<sup>th</sup> News 10/2/20]

\* \* \* \* \*

A study was conducted of medical conference programs from March 2017 to November 2018 across 20 specialties in Australasia, Canada, Europe, the UK, and the United States.

A total of 8535 sessions (panels and invited lectures) with 23,400 speakers across 98 conferences were identified. Women accounted for 7064 (30.1%) of speakers. 1981 of 5409 panels (36.6%) consisted of men only and 363 (6.7%) consisted of women only. The proportion of women speakers varied by region and specialty from 5.8% to 74.5%. [JAMA Network 9/28/20]

\* \* \* \* \*

Women are leaving the workforce at higher rates than men largely because of the ongoing caregiving crisis women face. Mothers are twice as likely as fathers to be responsible for a majority of housework and childcare during Covid-10. Many senior-level women, who are more likely than women at other levels in corporate America to be mothers, are feeling burned out from the overwhelming demands at work and at home.

According to Sheryl Sandberg, "...mothers are spending 20 more hours a week on household and childcare during coronavirus than fathers. Twenty more hours a week is half of a full-time job."

For every 100 men promoted to manager, only 85 women are promoted at the same rate. For Latina and Black women, this disparity is even larger with just

58 Black women and 71 Latinas being promoted to manager for every 100 men.  
[Make it – CNBC.com 9/30/2020]

\* \* \* \* \*

At the start of 2020, the representation of women in corporate America was trending in the right direction. Between January 2015 and January 2020, representation of women in senior vice president positions grew from 23 to 28% and representation in the C-suite grew from 17 to 21%.

Since the pandemic, mothers who are part of a dual-career couple are twice as likely as fathers in a dual-career couple to spend five more hours a day on chores.

Mothers, and particularly mothers with young children, are far more likely to consider leaving the workforce entirely.

Senior-level women are under the same pressure to perform right now as senior-level men, and then some. Women are often held to higher performance standards than men and they may be more likely to take the blame for failure – so when the stakes are high, as they are now, senior-level women could face higher criticism and harsher judgement.

38% of senior-level women currently mentor or sponsor one or more women of color, compared to 23% of senior-level men.

Senior-level women are nearly twice as likely as women overall to be “onlys”, the only or one of the only women in the room at work. Women who are “onlys” are more likely than women who work with other women to feel pressure to work more and more likely to experience microaggressions, including needing to provide additional evidence of their competence. [Women in the Workplace 2020/McKinsey & Company 9/30/20]

\* \* \* \* \*

Compared to 2016, in 2020 city leaders in America’s 100 largest cities are less likely to be white men.

19% of the population of in America’s largest 100 cities are white men. In 2016, they held 42% of city elected offices. In 2020, they hold 36% of city elected offices.

There has been 17% increase in the number of women holding elected public office.

Women increased their share of elected office in 49 of the 100 largest cities.

51% of the population, women, are fairly reflected in the governments of 23 of America's largest cities. In 77 of these cities, men dominate government.

In 45 of America's largest cities, men hold two-thirds of elected seats. Cities included in this group are Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. [Reflective Democracy Campaign, WhoLeads.Us 9/20]

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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?

### **Rage By Bob Woodward**

Woodward, the #1 international bestselling author of *Fear: Trump in the White House*, has uncovered the precise moment the president was warned that the Covid-19 epidemic would be the biggest national security threat to his presidency. In dramatic detail, Woodward takes readers into the Oval Office as Trump's head pops up when he is told in January 2020 that the pandemic could reach the scale of the 1918 Spanish Flu that killed 675,000 Americans.

In 17 on-the-record interviews with Woodward over seven volatile months—an utterly vivid window into Trump's mind—the president provides a self-portrait that is part denial and part combative interchange mixed with surprising moments of doubt as he glimpses the perils in the presidency and what he calls the “dynamite behind every door.”

At key decision points, *Rage* shows how Trump's responses to the crises of 2020 were rooted in the instincts, habits and style he developed during his first three years as president.

Revisiting the earliest days of the Trump presidency, *Rage* reveals how Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats struggled to keep the country safe as the president dismantled any semblance of collegial national security decision making.

*Rage* draws from hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand witnesses as well as participants' notes, emails, diaries, calendars and confidential documents.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Watergate Girl  
By Jill Wine-Banks

It was a time, much like today, when Americans feared for the future of their democracy, and women stood up for equal treatment. At the crossroads of the Watergate scandal and the women's movement was a young lawyer named Jill Wine Volner (as she was then known), barely thirty years old and the only woman on the team that prosecuted the highest-ranking White House officials. Called "the mini-skirted lawyer" by the press, she fought to receive the respect accorded her male counterparts—and prevailed.

In *The Watergate Girl*, Jill Wine-Banks opens a window on this troubled time in American history. It is impossible to read about the crimes of Richard Nixon and the people around him without drawing parallels to today's headlines. The book is also the story of a young woman who sought to make her professional mark while trapped in a failing marriage, buffeted by sexist preconceptions, and harboring secrets of her own.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Restaurants and...**

**Levian Bakery**  
3131 M Street NW  
Washington DC 20007  
202-843-9340

The Levian Bakery began in New York City where there are seven locations in the city and the Hamptons.

It has now opened its first location outside of New York in the space previously occupied by Johnny Rockets in Georgetown.

The bakery is particularly famous for its cookies. They are massive, weighing in at 6 ounces. They are crispy on the outside and more cookie-dough-like in the middle.

I first experienced the cookies when my niece sent me a box of 4 cookies which were delivered from New York before the Georgetown Bakery opened. The cookies cost \$4 a piece.

A couple of weeks ago, on a Sunday morning Debbie, Carol, and I arrived at the bakery about 20 minutes before the 8 a.m. opening. Debbie was able to park in the same block on the same side of the street. The line was already 20 people long. There is contactless service and a limit on the number of visitors who can come in the store at the same time.

By the time Debbie and Carol arrived back at the car with their selections, coffee, and an espresso for me, the line extended along most of the block.

The menu includes the following cookies: Chocolate Chip Walnut, Dark Chocolate Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Dark Chocolate, Peanut Butter Chip, Two Chip Chocolate Chip, Chocolate Chip Walnut (gluten free ingredients).

There are three “cakes” – Sour Cream Coffee Cake, Pumpkin Ginger Spice Cake, Lemon Cake.

Rolls and Breads – Baguette with Butter + Jam, Ciabatta, Country Baguette, Country Boule, Whole Grain Loaf, Whole Wheat Walnut Raisin loaf.

Pastries and Brioche – Blueberry Muffin, Plain Brioche, Chocolate Chip Brioche, Cinnamon Butter Brioche.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Ghost Kitchens**

Ghost kitchens are kitchens without dining rooms, culinary concepts designed for delivery, most never becoming a bricks-and-mortar destination for diners.

Employment in restaurant and food service jobs is down about 2.5 million since February. Estimates are that 20% to 25% of independently owned restaurants will never reopen.

The whole idea is that a single kitchen can produce food for a variety of “restaurants”. These kitchens can be in urban warehouses containing multiple small kitchens leased by a restaurant or restaurant’s subcontractor for delivery only.

It is estimated that there are at least 1,500 ghost kitchens in the United States.

Washington D.C. has at least one Ghost Kitchen.

It is Ghost Line DC at 2340 Wisconsin, across from what was the Whole Foods (currently under renovation). Takeout and delivery only. However, in good weather, you can pickup your takeout and seat yourself in an 80-seat interior patio, with a small fountain.

Ghost Line DC houses a handful of established chefs who have individual workstations set up in the space that previously housed Town Hall. Each chef prepares packaged meals that the staff will deliver within a 2-mile radius of the Ghost Line.

They are now making fried chicken sandwiches, multiple styles of pizza, Indian Khichdi, Japanese ramen, and sushi. They are also serving cupcakes, ice cream, lattes, pastries, and breakfast sandwiches.

The first time we ordered takeout from Ghost Line, Debbie and Carol ordered and shared a pizza and I ordered Ramen.

Operating hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The various egg dishes including the egg sandwiches are only available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Mike*

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