

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

No. 186

November 20, 2020

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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

64% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track, that includes 65% of men and 64% of women.

22% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 23% of men and 21% of women. [YouGov 11/10/20]

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Los Angeles County has more people in it than the 11 smallest states combined.

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Alcohol consumption is up by 14% (17% for women) compared with a year ago. [NYT 11/1/20]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2020 is 6.9%. That unemployment rate is lower than the 10.2% rate in July, 8.4% in August, 7.9% in September and greater than the 3.6% 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 12.1%, down from 16.5% in July, 14.2% in August, 12.8% in September and up from 6.9% a year ago.

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638,000 jobs were created in October and 661,000 jobs were created in September.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for October is 61.7%, down from 63.3% in 2019. [BLS 10/20]

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The Demographics of Unemployment
for October 2020

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women –5.6% (down from last month)

Men –5.8% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 6.0% (down from last month)

Black –10.8% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 8.8% (down from last month)

Asian –7.6% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –9.8% (down from last month)

High School –8.1% (down from as last month)

Some college – 6.5% (down from last month)

Bachelor’s Degree or higher – 4.2% (down from last month)

In September, 26 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 6.9%; 24 states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rates that were above the national average.

In September, Hawaii at 15.5%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Nebraska at 3.5%, had the lowest unemployment rate in the country. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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This and That

Vice President Walter Mondale called on the 10th of November to remind me, that 56 years ago, on November 9, 1964, I first went to work for him in the Minnesota Attorney General’s office. For the next six weeks, before he was appointed to the United States Senate, I was his driver.

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Some things do work

There are certain pills that I take for which Medicare determines that I can only secure 30 pills at a time. I order these pills from a CVS Specialty Pharmacy located in Pennsylvania.

At an appropriate date I get an email notice that it is time to re-order. I answer a number of questions including how many pills I have left. I have to be sure not to order when I have 10 or more days of pills left. I then agree to a date by which the pills will be received.

A bit later I get a notice that my order is being prepared. At an appropriate time, I receive a notice that the pills have been shipped, via UPS (United Parcel Service), and when they are to be expected. When they have been delivered (in my case to the front desk of our condo) I get an email saying the package has been delivered.

I have been using this service for just over five years, only once did it not work perfectly. On that occasion I called the appropriate number on the CVS website and it was relatively quickly resolved. [WW]

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Sarah McBride, who won election to Delaware's state Senate, became the highest-ranking openly transgender official in the country. [Broadsheet

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95% of disaster relief workers are volunteers. [NYT 10/11/20]

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Miami of Ohio is one of just four schools to produce both a U.S. President and a Super Bowl-winning Quarterback.

1. Miami (Ohio): Benjamin Harrison and Beth Roethlisberger
2. Stanford: Herbert Hoover and John Elway/Jim Blunkett
3. Michigan: Gerald Ford and Tom Brady
4. Navy: Jimmy Carter and Roger Staubach

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It is important to remember when your time in the spotlight has passed. [WW]

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A message carried by a military carrier pigeon that failed to reach its destination has been found by hiker 110 years after it was sent in northeastern France. The message was sent in 1910 and related to German military exercises in the area. [Numlock News 11/10/20]

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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 an additional half dozen.

- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- I used to be indecisive, but now I’m not so sure.
- Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- You’re never too old to learn something stupid.

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SOMETIMES
By Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes, things don’t go, after all, from bad to worse.
Some years muscadell faces down frost, green thrives, the crops don’t fail,
Sometimes a man aims high and all goes well.
A people sometimes will step back from war, elect an honest man, decide
they care enough that they can’t leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.
Sometimes our best efforts do not go amiss,
Sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow that seemed hard frozen,
May it happen for you.

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James Arthur Johnson

James Arthur Johnson was born in Benson, Minnesota on December 24, 1943.

Jim and I met 57 years ago in the fall of 1963 when we were both attending the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Jim was the president of the student body—an early indicator of his political prowess—and I was a law student and president of the board of publications which published the daily newspaper.

The newspaper staff was having some problems with our faculty advisor. I was meeting with Jim for the first time and told him about the problem we were having. He suggested that we speak to the Dean of Students.

Jim and I met with the Dean and after an extended discussion in which Jim was as supportive of our position as anyone could hope for, we left the meeting with an agreement. The faculty advisor would be counseled and we would go forward with the changes the newspaper staff wanted to make.

The next time we connected was in 1973. In 1972 I moved back to Minneapolis from D.C. to run Senator Mondale's re-election campaign. In 1973, Jim began working for the Dayton Hudson Corporation as its director of public affairs. I don't remember how we reconnected, but we became social friends.

In 1974, Senator Mondale considered running for president. Jim and I organized an exploratory committee. After several months that effort came to an end but Jim and I kept in touch.

In 1976, when Jimmy Carter selected Mondale to be his running-mate I moved to Atlanta to run Mondale operations there and Jim went on the road with Mondale.

After the election, Jim became Mondale's Executive Assistant in the White House and I became Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff. From then until the end of the administration, Jim spent more time with Vice President Mondale than anyone else, including members of Mondale's family.

In 1983-1984, Mondale ran for President. Jim was the campaign manager; I was the treasurer and ran operations. For that entire campaign, Jim and I spoke almost every day between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. and then again many times during the day. We continued those regular check-ins for next 35 years.

After the campaign Jim continued with his various business enterprises and in 1991 became the Chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae, a position which he held through 1998.

Thereafter he served on a variety of corporate and non-profit boards. From 1996 – 2004 he served as the chairman of the Kennedy Center for the Arts where he created and endowed the Center's Millennium Stage. Jim believed that there ought to be some performances that were free to the general public.

On the Millennium Stage, which is located in the inner lobby of the Kennedy Center, there are free performances every night of the year, open to anyone who wants to attend. I recall that when the Millennium Stage was being organized the folks at the Kennedy Center said that there would be performances every night of the year except Christmas. Jim required that there be an offering on Christmas night as well.

For all of these years since the early 1970s, Jim and I remained friends. We shared happiness-es and sadness-es. We knew we could count on each other whatever the reason or need.

James Arthur Johnson, died on October 18, 2020. I miss him.

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QUOTES

“Satire is cathartic, cleansing, and essential. It throws a glaring spotlight on social outrages and makes them live on more vividly in collective memory. But it’s rarely transformative. Still, it’s a helluva lot of fun.”

-John Lithgow

“If we don’t focus on saving the environment, there will be no future for anybody.”

-Sophie Zhou, 23, digital marketing agency employee. Based in New York, registered to vote in Atlanta. [NYT]

“Science progresses one funeral at a time.”

-Max Planck

“The vote is precious. It’s almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument that we have in a democratic society. And we must use it.”

-John Lewis,

former civil rights leader and congressman

“I will unite with anyone to do right and no one to do wrong.”

-Frederick Douglass

“People pay for what they do, and, still more, for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply: by the lives they lead.”

-James Baldwin

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INSULTS

Insults from an era before 4-letter words

“Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.”
“That depends, sir,” said Disraeli, “whether I embrace your policies or your
mistress.” -A member of Parliament to Disraeli

“He had delusions of adequacy.” -Walter Kerr

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.”
-Winston Churchill

“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.”
-Clarence Darrow

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President–Elect Biden

Joseph “Joe” Robinette Biden, Jr., born November 20, 1942 (age 77), will become the 46th President of the United States on January 20, 2021.

He launched his presidential campaign on April 29, 2019.

Biden began his elective political career as the 4th District representative to the New Castle County Council from 1970-1972.

He next served as a United States Senator from Delaware from January 3, 1973 to January 15, 2009.

From January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017, Biden served as the 47th Vice President of the United States.

On his way to being elected President in the 2020 campaign Biden received (As of 11:30 a.m. 11/18/20):

	<u>Electoral Votes</u>	<u>Vote %</u>	<u>Vote Count</u>
Joe Biden	306	51.0	79,194,917
Donald Trump	232	47.2	73,410,536
			5,784,381

Biden has already received more votes than any other candidate for president. Trump's current vote total makes him the second largest vote getter in presidential campaign history.

By selecting Ron Klain as his White House Chief of Staff and Steve Ricchetti as Counselor to the President, Biden has shown that the team he will bring to the White House, his cabinet, and the government generally will be one of experience and strength. [WW]

We won't know until January 5, 2021, but if Democrats don't take control of the Senate, Biden will be the first Democratic president since Grover Cleveland (in 1885) to take office with his party not in control of both chambers.

Assuming Biden continues to hold this percentage of the vote he will have garnered a higher percentage of the vote than any challenger to an incumbent since Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover in 1932.

Biden will also have won the presidency with the weakest House coattails of any president since John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Joe Biden is the second Catholic to have been elected president. The first was John F. Kennedy.

Pat Nixon was the first First Lady to wear pants in public. Hillary Clinton was the first First Lady to be elected to a public office. Jill Biden will be the first First Lady to keep her full-time job outside the White House. She teaches English at the Northern Virginia Community College where she has taught for a decade. [19th News.org 11/10/20]

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Vice President-Elect Harris

It started in 1984 when Gerry Ferraro was selected by Walter Mondale to be his vice-presidential running mate and the first woman to run for vice-president. (A selection with which I am particularly familiar.)

In 2004, John McCain "selected" Sarah Palin who had served as governor of Alaska, an interesting choice.

And then, “the third time is a charm”. Senator Kamala Harris, a person of many “firsts” became the first woman to be elected Vice President of the United States.

Harris had run for president earlier in this cycle but dropped out in early December 2019. In early March, she endorsed Joe Biden.

Harris is a person of many firsts: the first woman to be elected as the district attorney of San Francisco, the first woman to be elected as the attorney general of California; and the first Black woman, the first Indian-American woman, the first Asian American, and the first daughter of immigrants to be elected Vice President of the United States.

She is currently the only Black woman in the U.S. Senate and only the second Black woman to serve in that body.

However, Harris is not the first person of color or multiracial person to serve as Vice President of the United States. The honor goes to Charles Curtis who served as Vice President to Herbert Hoover from 1929-1933. Curtis’s mother was a Native American who belonged to the Kaw Nation and he was raised by his maternal grandparents with whom he spoke the Indigenous language. [WP 11/12/20]

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One other person who will be added to the White House roster when Harris arrives is a Second Gentleman.

Harris is married to prominent California lawyer Doug Emhoff. He is also the first Jewish person married to a president or vice president. No Jews have been elected president or vice president. Emhoff has announced that he will not be practicing law while his wife is in office.

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President Trump

As of 10/31/20, an NBC/WSJ poll found that 45% of registered voters approved of the job that President Trump was doing while 52% disapprove.

The Washington Post Fact Checker had recorded more than 22,500 false or misleading statements. [WP 11/15/20]

The last three presidents to fail in an effort to be re-elected were George H.W. Bush in 1992, Jimmy Carter in 1976, and Herbert Hoover in 1932.

The following is the last Gallup survey and FiveThirtyEight of likely voters for 2020 and their approval/disapproval of President Trump.

<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>
10/27/20	44%	55%LV	43.4%	53.7%
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%

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	45/52	45/54	42/56	46/64	41/55
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

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On economic policy, Trump’s final approval ratings remain in positive territory and were helpful to him in the election.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
11/10/20	54%	43%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
10/27/20	48%	45%	USAToday (LV)
10/4/20	49%	48%	CNN
8/18/20	51%	45%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
7/7/20	49%	47%	Econ/YouGov (RV)

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
10/27/20	45%	54%	Gallup (LV)
9/28/20	46%	53%	Gallup (A)

8/12/20	39%	54%	Fox (RV)
7/7/20	40%	57%	Reuters (A)

Two law firms representing the Trump campaign have decided not to continue representing the campaign because of pressure from other clients. The two firms are Porter Wright Morris & Arthur and Jones Day. [WW]

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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 11/4/20	222	3	53	164	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, 33 seats in the District Courts, and 1 seat on the Court of International Trade.

There are also currently 55 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]

Amy Coney Barrett is the first justice in 151 years who was confirmed without a single vote from the minority party. [WP 10/27/20]

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Disassembling

President Trump has opened up all 16.7 million acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest, stripping the protections that had safeguarded one of the world's largest in-tact temperature rainforests for nearly two decades.

It is now legal for logging companies to build roads and cut and remove timber throughout more than 9.3 million acres of forest. [WP 10/28/20]

The administration has called for oil and gas firms to pick spots where they'd like to drill during a coming lease sale to be conducted by the Interior Department before Biden takes the oath of office in January. [WP 11/16/20]

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The 2020 General Election

36 presidential candidates appeared on at least one ballot in 2020. This is five more than the 31 candidates who appeared on at least one ballot in 2016.

35.6% of incumbents did not seek re-election this year. This is lower than the 38.6% in 2018 and 45.2% in 2016 who did not seek re-election. [Ballotpedia 10/19/20]

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In 2016, Trump won Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin by a combined 77,000 votes. In 2020, Joe Biden won those same three states by a combined 214,000 votes (and counting). [Meet the Press- First Read 11/10/20]

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Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), who won a tight race, said the number one issue that voters brought up to her was the "defund the police" policy, and she said that if Democrats really meant redirecting funds toward other community programs, they should say that.

"And we need to not ever use the word 'socialist' or 'socialism' ever again," Spanberger said, according to a recording of the private Democratic caucus call. "Because while people think it doesn't matter, it does matter. And we lost good members because of that."

She added that if Democrats were classifying this election as a success, "we are going to get fucking torn apart in 2022."

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) said she felt like moderates were asking her to be quiet. “To be real, it sounds like you are saying stop pushing for what Black folks want,” Tlaib said, according to a New York Times account of the conference call.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), leader of the Progressive Caucus, also took issue with the doom and gloom of some moderates, saying that the election was still a “huge win” for Democrats and that they were able to turn out large numbers of Black, brown, and young people.

Jayapal is correct about Black and brown voters but overstates the growth in the 18-29-year-old population.

As of November 16th (the total number of 2020 voters will likely increase):

- There has been a 17% increase in the total number of voters between 2016 and 2020.
- The number of Black and Hispanic voters combined has grown from 23% in 2016 to 26% in 2020.
- The number of 18-29-year-old voters has grown by 4.7%.
- The number of Black voters has grown by 26.8%.
- The number of Hispanic voters has grown by 28.3%.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total voters</u>	<u>18-29-year-olds</u>	<u># of voters</u>	<u>Net additional</u>
2016	136,700,000	19%	25,973,000	
2020	160,000,00	17%	27,200,00	1,227,000
Blacks				
2016	136,700,000	12%	16,404,000	
2020	160,000,000	13%	20,800,000	4,396,000
Hispanics				
2016	136,700,000	11%	15,037,000	
2020	160,000,000	13%	20,800,000	5,763,000
			Total:	11,386.000

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Following the 2020 elections, Republicans will continue to hold a larger number of state trifectas – control of the governorship and both houses of the legislature.

Republicans will have 23 trifectas, a net gain of 2. Democrats will have 15 trifectas and 12 will have divided governments, a net loss of 2. [Ballotpedia 11/17]

According to Nielsen, 56.9 million people tuned in to watch coverage of the 2020 U.S. presidential election during prime time across 21 networks on November 3rd. This is down from 71.4 million viewers across 12 networks in 2016. [Morning Media Newsfeed 11/5/20]

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The Exit Polls

There is some controversy about the value of/reliability of exit polls given the number of people who voted by mail or drop box. Folks who WW trusts say they are valuable. The following 2020 numbers are preliminary results as published by the Washington Post and will likely be changed when the final votes are available.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2016 (CNN exit polls)</u>
<u>Sex</u>		
Man	48%	47%
Women	52%	53%
<u>Age</u>		
18-29	17%	19%
30-44	23%	25%
45-64	38%	40%
65 and older	16%	22%
<u>Race</u>		
White	67%	71%
Black	13%	12%
Hispanic	13%	11%
Asian	4%	4%

Sex by Race

White men	35%	34%
White women	32%	37%
Black men	4%	5%
Black women	8%	7%
Hispanic men	5%	5%
Hispanic women	8%	6%
Others	8%	6%

Party Self-ID

Democrats	37%	36%
Republicans	36%	33%
Independent/ Others	26%	31%

Ideology

Liberal	24%	26%
Moderate	38%	39%
Conservatives	38%	35%

Family Income

Under \$50,000	35%	36%
\$50,000-\$100,000	39%	30%
\$100,000 or more	26%	34%

Religion

Protestant/Other Christian	43%	52%
Catholic	25%	23%
Jewish	2%	3%
Other	8%	8%

Most important issue in your vote for president

Coronavirus	17%	xxx
The economy	35%	xxx
Crime and safety	11%	xxx
Health-care policy	11%	xxx
Racial inequality	20%	xxx

When did you decide
for whom to vote?

Decided in the:

Last week 5% 13%

Decided before:

Last week 91% 85%

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Bruce Mehlman produces a periodic election related newsletter. His most recent newsletter was published on November 10.

The following information is from several of the newsletter's charts followed by a link to the whole newsletter.

The 2020 election represented the highest voter turnout of eligible voters since 1900. (WW selected years to include from Mehlman list.)

		<u>Eligible voters</u> (not from newsletter)
2020	66.4% of eligible voters	239,247,182
1960	63.8% of eligible voters	109,672,000
1940	62.4% of eligible voters	84,728,000
1908	65.7% of eligible voters	Not Avail
1900	73.7% of eligible voters	Not Avail

	<u>Before Election</u>	<u>After Election</u>
U.S. Senate	53R-47D	50R-48D
U.S. House	236D-199R	225D-210R
State Leg. Chambers	59R-39D	61R-37D
Governors	26R-24D	27R-23D

Only four legislative chambers switched parties in 2019/2020. This is the fewest since 1946 when four also switched.

The combined spending of presidential and congressional campaigns was twice as great as any previous election.

Partisan Breakdown of Election Spending

		<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>
2020	\$13.9 Billion	64.6%	35.4%
2016	6.5 Billion	48.3%	51.7%
2012	6.3 Billion	47.3%	52.7%
2008	5.3 Billion	58.8%	41.2%

Here is the link to the entire Mehlman newsletter: <https://bit.ly/2020-Elections-Mehlman>

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Congress

2021 will be the first year since 1946 that there has not been a Kennedy in Congress. [NYT 11/6/20]

When Mondaire Jones is sworn in on January 4, 2021, he will be the first openly gay, Black member of Congress [WW]

Approval of the Congress remains the bleakest it has been in the past year.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 11/10/20	18.0%	70.3%
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%

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As of November 3rd, the Democrats led the generic Congressional ballot with 49.9% and Republicans with 42.6%. (Clearly not reflected in the results of the actual voting.)

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
As of November 17, 2020

2020
Democrats 224
Republicans 211

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THE SENATE
As of November 20, 2020

Republicans – 52
Democrats – 46
Independents – 2

2 GOP seats in Georgia are subject to a special election on January 5th:

- GOP Senator Kelly Loeffler vs DEM Rev. Raphael Warnock
- GOP Senator David Purdue vs DEM Jon Ossoff

If Democrats win both of the special elections in Georgia, the Senate would be 50/50 and Democrats would control with Vice President Harris as the tie breaker.

One of the things made clear by the 2020 U.S. Senate elections is that it takes more than money to win these races.

In South Carolina, Democratic candidate Jaime Harrison raised \$109 million and lost to incumbent Lindsay Graham by 11 points.

In Kentucky, Democratic candidate Amy McGrath raised \$90 million and lost to incumbent Mitch McConnell by 20 points.

In Maine, Democratic candidate Sara Gideon raised \$70 million and lost to Incumbent Susan Collins by 9 points.

In Texas, Democratic candidate MJ Hegar raised \$24 million and lost to incumbent John Cornyn. [Axios 11/4/20]

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Women Will Get It Done

The Miami Marlins named Kim Ng as the first woman in major league baseball to hold the title of general manager. She has worked in baseball for more than 30 years. [NYT 11/13/20]

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When Congress convenes on January 3, 2021 all three members of Congress from New Mexico will be women of color. [The Broadsheet 11/5/20]

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More women will serve in the 117th Congress than ever before. At least 142 will take their seats in the next Congress.

At least 35 Republican women are expected to join the next Congress, up from 22 in 2018.

There are still more Democratic women than Republican women in the next Congress – 106 vs 35 – in races projected so far.

There are 47 women of color in Congress, all but one representing the Democratic party.

There were 227 Republican women who filed for House seats in 2020, up from just 120 in 2018. A record breaking 94 became their party's nominees, far surpassing the previous record of 53 women set in 2004.

Republicans have responded by investing within the party after 2018, when a record breaking 102 women elected to the House but just a single new Republican woman. [19thnews 11/5/20 1:45 pm] [NYTimes 11/5/20 7:00 pm] [FiveThirtyEight 11/16/20]

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Inventions by Women (Thanks to Peter Hart)

The life saving Life Raft was invented by Maria Beasely in 1882. (Maria also invented a machine that makes barrels.)

Solar Heating for residential housing was invented by Dr. Maria Telkes in 1947. Dr. Telkes was a Psychiatrist in addition to being a Solar-Power Pioneer.

The medical syringe which could be operated with one hand was invented by a woman by the name of Letitia Geer in 1899.

The electric refrigerator was invented by Florence Parpart in 1914. (Florence also invented an improved street cleaning machine in addition to the refrigerator.)

The ice cream maker was invented by a woman named Nancy Johnson 1843. Her patented design is still used today.

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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 welcome your suggestions and your input. What have you been reading that you think WW readers might like?

How to Lead

By David Rubenstein

For the past five years, David M. Rubenstein—author of *The American Story*, visionary cofounder of The Carlyle Group, and host of *The David Rubenstein Show*—has spoken with the world’s highest performing leaders about who they are and how they became successful. *How to Lead* distills these revealing conversations into an indispensable leadership guidebook.

Gain advice and wisdom from CEOs, presidents, founders, and master performers from the worlds of finance (Warren Buffett, Jamie Dimon, Christine Lagarde, Ken Griffin), tech (Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Eric Schmidt, Tim Cook), entertainment (Oprah Winfrey, Lorne Michaels, Renee Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma), sports (Jack Nicklaus, Adam Silver, Coach K, Phil Knight), government (Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Nancy Pelosi), and many others.

- Jeff Bezos harnesses the power of wandering, discovering that his best decisions have been made with heart and intuition, rather than analysis.
- Richard Branson never goes into a venture looking to make a profit. He aims to make it the best in field.

- Phil Knight views Nike as a marketing company whose product is its most important marketing tool.
- Marilyn Hewson, who grew up in a fatherless home with four siblings in Kansas, quickly learned the importance of self-reliance and the value of a dollar.

How to Lead shares the extraordinary stories of these pioneering agents of change. Discover how each luminary got started and how they handle decision making, failure, innovation, change, and crisis. Learn from their decades of experience as pioneers in their field. No two leaders are the same.

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JOE BIDEN
by Evan Osnos

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. has been called both the luckiest man and the unluckiest—fortunate to have sustained a fifty-year political career that reached the White House, but also marked by deep personal losses and disappointments that he has suffered.

Yet even as Biden’s life has been shaped by drama, it has also been powered by a willingness, rare at the top ranks of politics, to confront his shortcomings, errors, and reversals of fortune. As he says, “Failure at some point in your life is inevitable but giving up is unforgivable.” His trials have forged in him a deep empathy for others in hardship—an essential quality as he leads America toward recovery and renewal.

Blending up-close journalism and broader context, Evan Osnos, who won the National Book Award in 2014, draws on nearly a decade of reporting for *The New Yorker* to capture the characters and meaning of 2020’s extraordinary presidential election. It is based on lengthy interviews with Biden and on revealing conversations with more than a hundred others, including President Barack Obama, Cory Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg, and a range of progressive activists, advisers, opponents, and Biden family members.

This portrayal illuminates Biden’s long and eventful career in the Senate, his eight years as Obama’s vice president, his sojourn in the political wilderness after being passed over for Hillary Clinton in 2016, his decision to challenge Donald Trump for the presidency, and his choice of Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate.

Osnos ponders the difficulties Biden faces as his presidency begins and weighs how political circumstances, and changes in his thinking, have altered his positions. In this nuanced portrait, Biden emerges as flawed, yet resolute, and tempered by the flame of tragedy—a man who just may be uncannily suited for his moment in history.

Mike

325 7th St, NW, STE 825
Washington, DC 20004
202-728-1100
mberman@dubersteingroup.com