

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

No. 190

April 17, 2021

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Washington, DC

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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

41.2% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction.
52% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track.

	<u>Right track</u>	<u>Wrong track</u>
Democrats	70%	17%
Republicans	13%	79%
Independents	29%	57%

[Econ/Yougov 4/6/21]

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In 2020, Covid-19 was the third leading cause of death in the U.S.
Heart Disease – 690,000; Cancer – 598,000; Covid-19 - 345,000. [CDC 3/31/21]

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A majority in Germany, the UK, and France are satisfied with the functioning of Democracy. This is not the case in the United States.

	Germany	UK	France	United States
Very satisfied	39%	18%	11%	9%
Somewhat Satisfied	41%	42%	44%	36%
Not too satisfied	11%	23%	29%	29%
Not at all satisfied	9%	15%	16%	24%

Satisfaction with democracy is up in Germany, the UK, and France but not in the United States. [PEW 4/3/21]

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From the 1940s through 2000, church membership among U.S. adults remained pretty steady from a high of 76% in 1945 to 70% in 1999. Since then, membership has dropped 23 points to 47% in 2020.

The decline in membership is a result of an increasing number of Americans who express no religious preference. Over the past two decades, the percentage of Americans who expressed no religious preference has grown from 8% to 21%.

Not surprisingly, Americans without a religious preference are highly unlikely to belong to a church. Around the year 2000 an average of 73% of religious Americans belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque. That average has fallen to 60%. [Gallup 3/29/21]

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There are approximately 77 million dogs in U.S homes. [ProLawCLE 3/24/21]

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Virginia became the 23rd state and the first southern state to abolish the death penalty. The state has executed more people than any other state. The state has executed more than 1,300 people.

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“Each day in the United States, more than 300 people are shot and more than 100 of them die. Some lose their lives in mass shootings that garner national attention. Others – the vast majority – die as the result of suicides or domestic homicides.” [Hubbell 4/9/21]

Data on gun background checks and sales is all over the map. Therefore, the numbers below should be treated as approximate. Sources of the information below range from various national research firms, universities, other usually reliable sources, and Google. [WW]

More than 4.3 million firearm background checks were conducted in January 2021, 3.4 million checks were conducted in February, and 4.6 million background checks were conducted in March.

Nearly 40 million firearms were purchased in 2020, a 40% jump from the previous year.

Sales topped 25,000,000 in 2016
20,000,000 in 2013
15,000,000 in 2011
10,000,000 in 2006
9,138,000 in 1999

An estimated 8.4 million people were first-time gun buyers in 2020.

About 40% of adult Americans own a gun or live with someone who does.

22% of individuals in America report owning a gun.

Of the more than 310 million background checks that have been done since 1998, there have only been 1.5 million denials.

A Morning Consult/Politico poll was taken March 26-29, 2021 among registered voters. The following are summaries from that survey.

Who do you trust to handle gun policy?

Democrats in Congress - 44%

Republicans in Congress - 35%

Don't Know/No - 21%

Do you support or oppose stricter gun control laws in the United States?

Strongly/somewhat support 68%

Strongly/somewhat opposed 34%

The survey includes a series of questions about whether respondents support or oppose certain policies relating to guns. Respondents were asked whether they strongly/somewhat support or strongly/somewhat oppose a particular policy. Summarizing the responses to various policies in the list below is limited to support or oppose and does not include all of the policies described in the survey.

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Requiring background checks on all gun sales	85%	11%
Barring gun purchases by people on federal no-fly or watch lists	77%	11%
Creating a national database with information about each gun sale	70%	11%
Banning Assault-style weapons	64%	27%
Preventing sales of all firearms to people who have been reported as dangerous to law enforcement by a mental health provider	83%	10%
Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks	79%	13%

Requiring a mandatory waiting period of three days after a gun is purchased before it can be taken home	75%	17%
Banning firearms from all workplace settings nationally	55%	32%
Banning firearms from schools and college campuses nationally	68%	23%

How much do you blame easy access to guns for mass shootings? A lot: 49%, Some: 21%, Not much: 11%, Not at all: 14%.

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Americans often have access to new medicines years earlier and can access more medicines than any people in any other country...In many other countries the government determines what medicines are worth it and which ones are not – and availability of medicines suffers as a result.

In the United States, nearly 90% of new medicines launched globally since 2011 are available, compared to less than half on average in OECD countries which allow the government to determine whether and how much to pay for medicines.

More than 90% of all medicines dispensed in the United States are lower-cost generic medicines. Only 69% of medicines prescribed in other OECD countries are generics. Generics are generally less expensive in the United States on average than in other developed countries. [Catalyst.pharma.org 3/24/21]

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According to Asian adults surveyed, “How responsible are each of the following for the discrimination against Asian people living in the United States?”

	Very/Somewhat	Not too/Not at all
White Americans	72%	25%
Donald Trump	69%	18%
The media	64%	19%
Republicans in Congress	62%	19%
The government	59%	23%
Democrats in Congress	44%	45%
Black Americans	43%	36%
President Joe Biden	30%	52%

Hispanic Americans	28%	46%
Asian Americans	22%	61%

[Morning Consult 3/30/21]

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The public is less concerned about COVID-19 in March than it was in December 2020.

	<u>December 2020</u>	<u>March 2021</u>
Very concerned	59%	51%
Family member or close friend has had COVID-19	30%	43%
Know someone who has died of COVID-19	17%	24%

[Morning Consult 3/29/21]

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Child Tax Credit

President Biden’s American Rescue Plan dramatically expands the Child Tax Credit and in so doing cuts the number of children in poverty nearly in half.

Beginning this summer, all but well-off families with children may begin receiving their Child Tax Credits. The plan makes several changes to the Child Tax Credit for one year.

It increases the credit to \$3,600 for kids under the age of 6. It increases the credit to \$3,000 for older kids, ages 6-17, including newly eligible 17-year-olds. It provides the authority for the IRS to give out the credit monthly, either deposited directly in recipients bank accounts, or as a check or debit card received in the mail, beginning this July (\$300 per month for young kids and \$250 per month for older kids), with the balance going to families with next year’s tax return.

If the changes in this law are made permanent the impact will be extraordinary:

- Child poverty will be reduced by 44.9%
- Asian American and Pacific Islander child poverty reduced by 37%
- Black child poverty reduced by 52.4%
- Hispanic child poverty reduced by 45.4%
- Multiracial & all other groups child poverty reduced by 38.7%
- Native American child poverty reduced by 61.5%

- White child poverty reduced by 38.6%

The estimates above come from the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University.

In the House, Appropriations Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi have been champions of such an expansion for years. Senators Michael Bennet, Cory Booker, and Sherrod Brown have been championing these expansions as well. This past summer, the Biden-Harris campaign came out in favor of such a provision. The expansion is initially for one year. Champions hope to turn it into permanent policy.

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2021 is 6.0%. That unemployment rate is lower than the 6.7% in November and December, and greater than the 4.4% unemployment rate of a year ago.

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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 10.7%, down from 11.1% in January, and 12.0% in November, and up from 8.8% a year ago.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is 61.5% up from 61.4% in February 2021. [BLS 3/20]

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The Demographics of Unemployment for March 2021

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women –5.0% (down from last month)

Men –5.2% (down from last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 5.4% (down from last month)

Black – 9.6% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 7.9% (down from last month)

Asian –6.0% (up from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –8.2% (down from last month)

High School –6.7% (down from last month)

Some college –5.9% (same as last month)

Bachelor’s Degree or higher – 3.7% (down from last month)

In February, 30 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 6.7%. 20 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, had unemployment rates that were above the national average. The unemployment rate in two states is even with the national average.

The state with the highest unemployment rate in February is Hawaii at 9.2%.

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62% of health-care workers overall say their mental health has suffered from coronavirus worry. The youngest of these workers seem to be the most affected.

18–20-year-olds	75%
30–39-year-olds	71%
40–49-year-olds	58%
50–64-year-olds	51%
65+ year-olds	40%

55% feel “burned out” going to work. [WP/KFF 3/7/21]

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Here are the five strongest job markets with 1 million-plus residents.

1. Salt Lake City, Utah
2. Austin, Texas
3. Denver, Colorado
4. Indianapolis, Indiana
5. Washington, D.C.

[Wall Street Journal]

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There is a gender tariff gap between gender-classified items. The average tariff rate on men's clothing is 11.9% while the average tariff rate on women's apparel is 15.1%. [BroadStreet 3/23/21]

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In 2015, 76% said they watch television via cable or satellite. This year that number is 56%. 34% of those Americans ages 18-29 get TV through cable or satellite, down from 65% in 2015. [PEW 3/20/21]

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The average annual Social Security benefits for women are \$15,237 while for men it is \$19,391. Within each of these groups there are differences driven by race.

Women \$15,237
Blacks \$14,659
Hispanics \$13,509
Asians \$14,964
Whites \$15,506

Men \$19,391
Blacks \$17,137
Hispanics \$16,078
Asians \$17,454
Whites \$20,033

[AARP 3/24/21]

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This and That

45 million people in the United States owe \$1.7 trillion in education loans. [WP 4/9/21]

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44% of U.S. adults think it is appropriate for professional athletes to kneel during the national anthem to bring attention to racial injustice. 54% think it is inappropriate.

	<u>Appropriate</u>	<u>Not appropriate</u>
Total	44%	54%
White	32%	67%

Black	82%	14%	
Hispanic	59%	38%	
Asian	57%	42%	
Republican	10%	89%	
Democrat	74%	25%	
Independent	48%	51%	[Axios AM 3/20/21]

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295,052,679 Total votes cast in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.
284,323,422 Total votes cast Trump/Clinton-Biden in 2016/2020 elections.

136,669,276 Total votes cast in the 2016 presidential election.
158,383,403 Total votes cast in the 2020 presidential election.
137,200,984 Total votes cast for Trump in the 2016/2020 elections.
147,122,438 Total votes cast for Clinton/Biden in the 2016/2020 elections.

122,071 A change in this number of votes between the two elections and the results would have been different.

78,379 A change in this number of votes in 2016 and Donald Trump would not have been president.

43,692 A change in this number of votes in 2020 and Trump would have been re-elected.

[Doug Sosnik, Wikipedia]

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“Do the benefits of doing away with the filibuster, immediate and obvious as they are, outweigh the risks of what a different majority would do down the road? That should be a sobering concern for anyone pressing for its abolition, because a return to complete GOP control is a matter of only a few seats, and the damage that Republicans could do would be immense.” [Ruth Marcus WP 3/19/21]

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Odd and Ends

I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.

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This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought the cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog...we laughed a lot.

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Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?

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Why does “slow down” and “slowup” mean the same thing?

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Why do “tug” boats push their barges?

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Why are they called “stands” when they are made for sitting?

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Why are a “wise man” and a “wise guy” opposites?

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INSULTS

“Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.”
-Oscar Wilde

“He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts...for support rather than illumination.”
-Andrew Lang

“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music.”
-Billy Wilder

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I’m afraid this wasn’t it.”
-Groucho Marx

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QUOTES

“Suppose you were an idiot. And supposed you were a member of Congress...but then I repeat myself.”
-Mark Twain

“Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stopped moving, subsidize it.”

-Ronald Reagan

“The dead continue to live with us in the moments when we are sad and terrified. They cheer for us. They coax us through.”

-Anakana Schofield

“I like to have a martini/two at the very most/after three I’m under the table/after four I’m under the host.”

-Dorothy Parker

“There is not a crime, there is not a dodge, there is not a trick, there is not swindle, there is not a vice which does not live by secrecy.”

-Joseph Pulitzer

“There is no level of status, accomplishments or power that will protect you from the clutches of inequity.”

-Megan Rapinoe

“Liberals need conservatives to hold them back and conservatives need liberals to pull them forward.”

-Oscar Hammerstein

“Life is to be enjoyed, to laugh, to sing, to love...”

-Alfred A. Montapert

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Riddles

1. A man calls his dog from the opposite side of the river. The dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat? How?
2. What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?
3. What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?
4. I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red. What am I?

5. The person who makes it has no need for it; the person who buys it has no use for it. The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?

Answers can be found on page 15.

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President Biden

43% of Americans strongly/somewhat approve of the way in which Biden is handling gun policy while 43% somewhat/strongly disapprove. [Morning Consult, Politico 3/29/21]

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President Biden has announced that the United States will withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021. This date marks the 20th anniversary of when the United States was first drawn into this war. [Political Playbook 4/13/21]

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President Biden says that under his tax plan no one will who makes less than \$400,000 per year will experience a tax increase. That means that only the top 1.8% of income earners will experience a tax hike. [WW]

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President Biden has issued an executive order creating a bi-partisan commission to study expanding the Supreme Court, instituting term limits, and other relevant topics as he promised during the campaign. The commission is to report in six months.

Co-Chairs of the 36-member commission are Bob Bauer, White House Counsel under Barack Obama and a top lawyer on the Biden Campaign, and Cristina Rodriguez, a professor at Yale Law School.

Of the nine justices currently on the court, Stephen Breyer is 82 years old and has been on the court since 1994. (I was part of his confirmation prep team.)

Clarence Thomas is 71 years old and on the court since 1990.

Samuel Alito is 71 years of age and on the court since 2006.

Sonia Sotomayor is 66 years of age and on court since 2009.

John Roberts is 66 years of age, Chief Justice since joining the court in 2005.

Elena Kagen is 60 years of age and on the court since 2010.
 Brett Kavanaugh is 56 years of age and on the court since 2018.
 Neil Gorsuch is 53 years of age and on the court since 2017.
 Amy Barrett is 49 years of age and on the court since 2020.

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If you were wondering how SportsBetting.ag would deal with President Biden, here is a list of things you could bet on leading up to the President's first press conference.

- Will Biden have on a mask when he walks to the podium?
- What will be the primary color of tie?
- What will Biden say first?
- Which topic will Biden address first?
- Will Biden commit a political gaffe?
- Will Biden's approval rating be higher or lower?

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As of April 8th, this is Biden's approval rating based on Real Clear Politics:

	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
Over all	55.2%	39.6%
On the economy	53.2%	41.3%
On foreign policy	49.5%	42.3% (thru March 30)

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys of all adults. WW will include a periodic polling summary—Registered and Likely Voters—by FiveThirtyEight. The first survey after Biden came into office is reported below.

	Gallup (All Adults)		FiveThirtyEight (Reg/Likely voters)	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
3/15/21	54%	42%	53.8	40.2
2/18/21	56%	40%	54.4%	37.8%

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President Biden has signed an executive order reversing the Trump-era ban on transgender people serving in the military. The Defense Department's new policy will permit troops to serve openly under their self-identified gender and will offer access to medical treatments for gender transition. [NBCNews 3/31/21]

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Answers to the Riddles.

1. The river was frozen.
2. Day and night
3. A Road
4. Fire
5. A coffin

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Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

Because the U.S. Senate will be in Democratic hands in 2021 and the filibuster cannot be used on judicial nominees, President Biden will be able to begin affecting the federal judiciary at an early date. 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>
Biden – No judges nominated by Biden have been confirmed to date.					
Trump – 4 years	234	3	54	174	3
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	4	83	290	
Carter – 4 years	261	0	59	203	

[USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Joe Biden]

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2022 Election

The March issue of the Washington Watch included the following statement, “When all is said and done, chances are that the Democrats could lose their control of the House and Senate in the 2022 election,” citing yours truly.

One or more of the readers of that issue of the Watch challenged the veracity of that statement. Conceding that the past is not necessarily prologue, here is the

information on which that statement is based, considering the first mid-term election of the last 7 presidents, Donald Trump to Jimmy Carter.

<u>House of Representatives</u>	<u>U.S. Senate</u>
2018 – Trump – GOP lost 40 seats	GOP gained 2 seats
2010 – Obama – DEM lost 63 seats	DEM lost 6 seats
2002 – GWBush – GOP gained 8 seats	GOP gained 2 seats
1994 – Clinton – DEM lost 54 seats	DEM lost 10 seats
1990 – GHWBush – GOP lost 8 seats	GOP lost 1 seat
1982 – Reagan – GOP lost 26 seats	No changes
1978 – Carter – DEM lost 15 seats	DEM lost 2 seats

In summary:

- The sitting president’s party lost House seats in 6 of those 7 races and gained House seats in 1 of those 7 races.
- The sitting president’s party lost Senate seats in 4 of those 7 races, gained seats in 2 of those 7 races. There was no change in one of those 7 races. [WW]

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The 117th Congress

Congress

Approval of the Congress has grown since shortly after the election.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 4/6/21	34.3%	57.0%
Real Clear Pol. 3/2/21	29.7%	60.0%
Real Clear Pol. 2/22/21	26.3%	60.0%
Real Clear Pol. 1/5/21	18.7%	70.3%
Real Clear Pol. 11/10/20	18.0%	70.3%

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The 2020 census data will not be available until September 30, 2021. The legal deadline was March 31, 2021. This change of date could result in chaos in states facing tight redistricting deadlines for Congress as well as state and local offices. [NPR 2/12/21]

WW uses David Wasserman and the Cook Political Report for the House chart. Because of the situation described in the paragraph above, no chart for 2022 had been produced as of April 5th.

The following is information posted in the House Charts of the Cook Political Report.

- Democrats hold 218 seats.
- Republicans hold 212 seats.
- There are five vacancies.
 - Two members died – one special election has been scheduled for May 1st.
 - Three members resigned to go into the administration – special elections scheduled.
- Five open seats – three retiring, two running for other offices
- Twenty-one potentially open seats
 - 13 Republicans
 - 8 Democrats

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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.]

Republicans – 50
 Democrats – 48
 Independents – 2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2022	34	30	2
Safe in 2022	10	15	
	Padilla	Murkowski	
	Bennet	AL – open	
	Blumenthal	Boozman	
	Schatz	Grassley	
	Duckworth	Crapo	
	Van Hollen	Young	
	Schumer	Moran	

	Wyden Leahy Murray	Paul Kennedy MO – open Hoeven Lankford Scott Thune Lee
Likely	2 Hassan Cortez Masto	2 Rubio OH – open
Lean	2 Kelly Warnock	1 Johnson
Toss Up	0	2 NC – open PA – open

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2024 Election

The following people have indicated or been named as someone thinking about or planning to run for president in 2024.

Donald Trump
 Kristi Noem – Governor of South Dakota
 Nikki Haley – Former governor of South Carolina (Announced she will not run if Trump runs)
 Mike Pompeo – Former Secretary of State
 Ben Sasse – U.S. Senator
 Ron DeSantis – Governor of Florida
 Tom Cotton – U.S. Senator
 Josh Hawley – U.S. Senator
 Rick Scott – U.S. Senator
 Ted Cruz – U.S. Senator
 Mike Pence – Former Vice President

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Women Will Get It Done

Women currently hold less than one-third of congressional and state legislative seats. As of mid-March, women made up 26.4% of the U.S. Congress and 30.8% of state legislative seats.

Of the 36 non-incumbent women who won U.S. House seats in 2018, 35 were Democrats. Then in 2020, of the 28 non-incumbents who won seats in the U.S. House, 19 were Republicans.

40% of non-incumbent women who won in state legislative races in 2020 were Republicans, up from 24.5% in 2018.

As of the end of March, in the 435-seat U.S. House there were 118 women, 87 Democrats and 31 Republicans. In the 100-seat U.S. Senate there are 24 women, 16 Democrats, and 8 Republicans.

In 2020, less than one-third of candidates who filed to run in congressional races were women and subsequently accounted for less than 36% of party nominees, 27.4% of House winners and 20% of Senate winners. [19thnews.org 3/23/21]

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Dr. Rachel L. Levine, President Biden's nominee as Assistant Secretary for Health, is the first openly transgender individual to win U.S. Senate confirmation. [LAW360 3/24/21]

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Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico has been confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of the Interior. Haaland is the first Indigenous cabinet secretary in our history. [Heather Cox Richardson 3/16/21]

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Tishaura Jones, the current treasurer of the city of St. Louis, has been elected as the city's first black female mayor.

There are currently 300,000 residents of St. Louis. The city has lost 556,000 residents since 1950. It ranks 13th among cities with concentrations of Fortune 500 companies. [theguardian.com/us-news 2021]

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Globally, women hold a number of jobs affecting the global economy; Janet Yellen as U.S. Treasury Secretary, Christine Lagarde at the helm of the European Central Bank, Kristalina Georgieva at the International Monetary Fund, and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the World Trade Organization. [Broadsheet 4/7/21]

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Kimberly Godwin, EVP of CBS News, has agreed to become president of ABC news. [NBC News 4/9/21]

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Women now make up 20% of the Air Force, 19% of the Navy, 15% of the Army, and almost 9% of the Marines. Women now make up 10% of the current veteran population. [Google 3/12/21]

Women will have equal opportunities with men in
Western Europe women – 52.1 years
North American women (U.S. and Canada) – 61.5 years
Worldwide women – 135.6 years
East Asia and Pacific women – 165 years
South Asian women – 195.4 years [Axios 3/30/21]

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Aretha Franklin, who had twenty No.1 R&B hits, was the first woman inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of fame. [NYT 3/21/21]

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Restaurants

The last time the Washington Watch included a new restaurant review was in the April 2020 issue. It was a review of Danny Meyer's Maialino Mare, which I visited on March 2, 2020 with Debbie, Bev, and Brady.

The last time I went to a restaurant in the year 2020 was I Ricchi for lunch with Jim R. on March 12, 2020.

Thereafter, until the next time I went to a restaurant a year later, it was all takeout or delivery: Annabelle, Buck's, Capitol Grille, Chef Geoff's, Cheesecake Factory, Dumplings & Beyond, Et Voila, Ghost Line DC, I Ricchi, Little Beast,

Lupo Verde, Matisse, Merci Me, Passion Fish, Popeyes, Profish, Surfside, Tatee, unconventional diner, and Versatile Foods.

The next time I went to a restaurant was in 2021 for dinner at I Ricchi with Debbie, Bev, and Brady on March 10, 2021.

Since then, on March 13th Debbie, Carol, and I went to Kinship; on March 20th, Debbie, Carol, and I went to the Glover Park Grill; on March 21st Debbie, Bob, Rita, and I went to the Four Seasons for dinner; on March 26th Debbie, Tom, and I went to Café Milano for dinner; on April 7th Peter, Decker, and I went to the Capitol Grille at Mazza for lunch; on April 9th Debbie, David, Susan, and I went with eight others to Equinox for dinner; on April 10th Debbie, David, Susan, and I went to Café Milano for dinner.

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The Glover Park Grill
Glover Park Hotel
2505 Wisconsin Avenue NW
Washington, DC
202-62545400

I first wrote about this restaurant in the summer of 2016 when it was the Casolare Restaurant-Bar. Casolare closed in late spring 2020 as a result of the pandemic and a change in ownership of the hotel.

The previous restaurant had seating for 154 people and a separate bar area with 12 high seats and a few tables and chairs through which one passed to get to the main dining room. The reception desk is at the entry to bar area.

The new Glover Park Grill is far more limited in space. The main dining area is not being used although the open kitchen still operates in that room.

The bar area is now the main indoor dining area. There is no seating at the bar although the bar itself is still used to hold various items. The broader area has a limited number of 2 tops, 4 tops, and a way to create a 6 top.

Outside, a specious deck adjacent to the restaurant has been outfitted with a turquoise bar, a firepit in one corner, and a plastic tarp to ward off the rain but allow for a breeze. It has roll-up canvas sides and of course there are overhead heaters which were being used when we were there but are probably off now.

Debbie, Carol, and I went there for dinner and chose to sit inside. We ended up with a 4-top near the entry to the room. You will have noted that this is the third restaurant we attended after returning to the restaurant scene.

As we entered the restaurant, we were greeted by the Maitre d', Dominique. I thought I remembered her from my last visit to Casolare and I was right.

For the table we ordered Duck Carpaccio, Arugula, Goat cheese, sprinkled pistachios, and grilled bread.

Debbie started with Buffalo Chicken Wings, Pickled Celery, Maytag Blue Cheese followed by GPG Wood Fired Pizza Margherita, San Marzano Tomato, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil.

Carol started with Potato & Leek soup, Smoked Trout, Apples, Dill followed by a second appetizer Jumbo Lump Crab Cake, Lemon, Chives, Heirloom Beans, Smoked Bacon.

I started with Spicy Deviled Eggs, Crispy Soppresata followed by Homemade Cavatelli, Lump Crab, Chiles, Tomato Confit, Toasted Breadcrumbs.

I was the only one to order dessert, Chocolate-Banana Bread Pudding, Caramel Sauce, Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream.

The service was attentive, the portions were ample, and the bartender was as busy as any bartender I can recall and was fun to watch. One of the things that I noticed was how far the servers had to go carrying food or drink from the kitchen or bar to the deck.

At some point in the near term the new owners of the hotel plan to renovate the entire property.

[Thanks to Tom Sietsema in the WP for information about the outdoor area]

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**WW Recommends Books
& other things**

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

Out of Many, One:
Portraits of America's Immigrants
George W. Bush

In this powerful new collection of oil paintings and stories, President George W. Bush spotlights the inspiring journeys of America's immigrants and the contributions they make to the life and prosperity of our nation.

The issue of immigration stirs intense emotions today, as it has throughout much of American history. But what gets lost in the debates about policy are the stories of immigrants themselves, the people who are drawn to America by its promise of economic opportunity and political and religious freedom—and who strengthen our nation in countless ways.

In the tradition of *Portraits of Courage*, President Bush's #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *Out of Many, One* brings together forty-three full-color portraits of men and women who have immigrated to the United States, alongside stirring stories of the unique ways all of them are pursuing the American Dream. Featuring men and women from thirty-five countries and nearly every region of the world, *Out of Many, One* shows how hard work, strong values, dreams, and determination know no borders or boundaries and how immigrants embody values that are often viewed as distinctly American: optimism and gratitude, a willingness to strive and to risk, a deep sense of patriotism, and a spirit of self-reliance that runs deep in our immigrant heritage. In these pages, we meet a North Korean refugee fighting for human rights, a Dallas-based CEO who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico at age seventeen, and a NASA engineer who as a girl in Nigeria dreamed of coming to America, along with notable figures from business, the military, sports, and entertainment. President Bush captures their faces and stories in striking detail, bringing depth to our understanding of who immigrants are, the challenges they face on their paths to citizenship, and the lessons they can teach us about our country's character.

As the stories unfold in this vibrant book, readers will gain a better appreciation for the humanity behind one of our most pressing policy issues and the countless ways

in which America, through its tradition of welcoming newcomers, has been strengthened by those who have come here in search of a better life.

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The Hero Code
Admiral H. McRaven
(U.S. Navy Retired)

THE HERO CODE is Admiral McRaven's ringing tribute to the real, everyday heroes he's met over the years, from battlefields to hospitals to college campuses, who are doing their part to save the world.

When Bill McRaven was a young boy growing up in Texas, he dreamed of being a superhero. He longed to put on a cape and use his superpowers to save the earth from destruction. But as he grew older and traveled the world, he found real heroes everywhere he went -- and none of them had superpowers. None of them wore capes or cowls. But they all possessed qualities that gave them the power to help others, to make a difference, to save the world: courage, both physical and moral; humility; a willingness to sacrifice; and a deep sense of integrity.

THE HERO CODE is not a cypher, a puzzle, or a secret message. It is a code of conduct; lessons in virtues that can become the foundations of our character as we build a life worthy of honor and respect.

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Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue: A Life's Work Fighting for a More Perfect Union (Law in the Public Square) (Volume 2)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's last book is a curation of her own legacy, tracing the long history of her work for gender equality and a “more perfect Union.”

In the fall of 2019, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited the University of California, Berkeley School of Law to deliver the first annual Herma Hill Kay Memorial Lecture in honor of her friend, the late Herma Hill Kay, with whom Ginsburg had coauthored the very first casebook on sex-based discrimination in 1974. *Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue* is the result of a period of collaboration between Ginsburg and Amanda L. Tyler, a Berkeley Law professor and former Ginsburg law clerk. During Justice Ginsburg's visit to Berkeley, she told her life story in conversation with Tyler. In this collection, the two bring together that conversation and other materials—many previously unpublished—that share

details from Justice Ginsburg's family life and long career. These include notable briefs and oral arguments, some of Ginsburg's last speeches, and her favorite opinions that she wrote as a Supreme Court Justice (many in dissent), along with the statements that she read from the bench in those important cases. Each document was chosen by Ginsburg and Tyler to tell the story of the litigation strategy and optimistic vision that were at the heart of Ginsburg's unwavering commitment to the achievement of "a more perfect Union."

In a decades-long career, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an advocate and jurist for gender equality and for ensuring that the United States Constitution leaves no person behind. Her work transformed not just the American legal landscape, but American society more generally. Ginsburg labored tirelessly to promote a Constitution that is ever more inclusive and that allows every individual to achieve their full human potential. As revealed in these pages, in the area of gender rights, Ginsburg dismantled long-entrenched systems of discrimination based on outdated stereotypes by showing how such laws hold back both genders. And as also shown in the materials brought together here, Justice Ginsburg had a special ability to appreciate how the decisions of the high court impact the lived experiences of everyday Americans. The passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September 2020 as this book was heading into production was met with a public outpouring of grief. With her death, the country lost a hero and national treasure whose incredible life and legacy made the United States a more just society and one in which "We the People," for whom the Constitution is written, includes everyone.

Mike

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