

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

No. 202

August 13, 2022

State of the Nation – page 2
Employment – page 8

* * * * *

This and That – page 10
Odds and Ends – page 13

* * * * *

President Biden – page 14
Judges Nominated and Confirmed – page 16

* * * * *

2022 election – page 17

Congress – page 17
House – page 18
Senate – page 19

2024 Election – page 21

* * * * *

Women Will Get It Done – page 23

* * * * *

WW Recommends Books (& other things) – page 23

* * * * *

Restaurants – page 26

* Any statements in this issue of the Watch which are not sourced are mine and identified by “WW”.

* * * * *

State of the Nation

22% of registered voters say the country is headed in the right direction.
69% of registered voters say the country is on the wrong track.

	<u>Right track</u>	<u>Wrong track</u>
Male	24%	67%
Female	18%	70%
Democrats	39%	50%
Republicans	9%	87%
Independents	14%	72%
Urban	33%	58%
Suburban	18%	71%
Rural	13%	76%

[Econ/YouGov 8/2/22]

In the previous issue of the Washington Watch, on July 2, 2022, Econ/YouGov reported that 27% of registered voters said the country was on the right track and 67% said it was on the wrong track.

* * * * *

On July 12th, for the first time in 20 years, the Euro and the US dollar are at parity. [CNN 7/12/2022]

* * * * *

In the year between June 2021 and June 2022, there was a significant decline in Americans’ confidence in 16 major U.S. institutions ranging from 0 to -15 percentage points. Only one of these institutions has had no change in the country’s confidence: Organized Labor.

Of the 3 institutions which happen to be a part of the federal government (the Supreme Court, the presidency, and the Congress) the average drop in confidence is 11 percentage points.

Only 2 institutions, small business and the military, have a confidence score over 50%.

	2021 <u>Great deal</u>	2022 <u>Great deal</u>	Change <u>% points</u>
Small Business	70	68	-2
The military	69	64	-5
The police	51	45	-6
The medical system	44	38	-6
Church/organized religion	47	31	-6
Public Schools	32	28	-6
Organized labor	28	28	-0
Banks	33	27	-6
Large Tech companies	29	26	-3
U.S. Supreme Court	36	25	-11
(In 2014 the great deal number was 30%)			
The presidency	38	23	-15
Newspapers	21	16	-5
Criminal Justice system	20	14	-6
Big business	18	14	-4
Television news	16	11	-5
Congress	12	7	-5

[Gallup 7/5/22]

* * * * *

The Future of Abortion Rights

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade there has been a growing response from folks who support the decision as well as those who oppose it.

There are two states in which there has been complete and fulsome action.

Kansas voters resoundingly decided 59 to 41% in a referendum, against removing the right to abortion from the State Constitution, a major victory from the abortion rights movement in a reliably conservative state. Abortion is legal in Kansas up to 22 weeks of pregnancy.

The battle is not over in Kansas, but it was unexpected in turns of the result, the large turnout, and the spread.

Indiana became the first state in the country after the fall of Roe v. Wade to pass sweeping limits on abortion access. Republican Gov. Holcomb signed into law a bill that constitutes a near-total ban on the procedure.

The Republican-dominated state Senate approved the legislation after it passed Indiana’s lower chamber. It allows abortion in cases of rape, incest, lethal fetal abnormality or when the procedure is necessary to prevent severe health risk or death. [NYT 8/2/2022, WP 8/6/22]

* * * * *

America is getting older: Since 2000, the national median age – the point at which half the population is older and half younger – has grown by 3.4 years, to 38.8 years. Only one state, Maine became slightly younger.

America is getting more diverse: Every race and origin group grew from July 2020 to July 2021 – except the white population, which fell 0.03%. “Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander” was the fastest growing category, increasing 1.54%. Hispanic was the largest category in numerical gain (800,000) and second-fastest growing, up 1.24%. [Axios local 7/5/22]

* * * * *

The National Fraternal Order of Police said that shootings of police officers are up 19% from this time last year. 178 officers have been shot this year and 33 of them were killed. [NBC nightly 7/1/22]

* * * * *

One-third of American newspapers that existed roughly two decades ago will be out of business by 2025. 2,500 dailies and weeklies have shuttered since 2005; there are fewer than 6,500 remaining.

Seventy million Americans now live in areas without enough local news to sustain grass-roots democracy. More than 200 American counties have no local newspaper and in most cases, nothing has come along to replace those that once served their communities. [WP 6/30/22]

* * * * *

More about Guns

43 million guns were purchased between 2020 and 2021 and now there are 400 million guns in the United States. There were 90,498 gun deaths in 2020-21 of which 38,796 were homicides. [WP 7/8/22]

* * * * *

More than 95% of gun homicides this year have been shootings with one to three victims. [NYT 7/9/22]

* * * * *

Assault weapons makers have pulled in over \$1 billion in revenue over the past decade as gun violence across the country has surged. [NYT 7/27/22]

* * * * *

In 2020 and 2021, of 1,002,274 background checks, 4.2% took longer than the three days that the FBI has to complete a background check. After the three days, a gun dealer may sell the weapon to the customer whether they've received the results of the background check or not. This could, therefore, result in a sale to someone who legally can't own a gun because of mental illness or criminal history.

The FBI ultimately completed about 1/4th of those delayed background checks and discovered that 11,564 people were able to buy guns who should not have been allowed to do so. Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives then had to retrieve the weapons.

The FBI never completed the remaining 734,604 background checks from January 2020 through November 2021 because they took longer than 88 days, after which the Bureau must stop and purge the unfinished checks from its system.

Some dealers choose not to sell weapons without a completed check. [NBC news 7/8/22]

* * * * *

454 people were killed in workplace homicides in 2019. 80% of these homicides were shootings. In 1992 there were 1,044 workplace homicides. [Axios Closer 7/21/22]

* * * * *

74% of the Supreme Court cases in the term that ended on June 30 had a conservative ruling. This year, with a six-justice conservative majority, was the most conservative since 1931. The two justices who agree most often in divided

rulings were Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh at 98%. The two justices least likely to vote together in such cases were Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Clarence Thomas at 14%. Among appointees of presidents of different parties, the highest rate of agreement was Roberts and Justice Elena Kagan at 48%. [Axios 6/30/22]

* * * * *

Roughly one in three American adults have criminal records. [NYT 7/10/22]

* * * * *

1.6% of U.S. adults say their gender is different from their sex assigned at birth. They are transgender or nonbinary. This description applies to 5.1% of those aged 18-29; 1.6% of those aged 30-49; and 0.3% of those aged 50+.

44% of all adults say they know a trans person. This includes 42% of those who say they are Republican/Lean Republican and 48% of Democrats/lean Democrat. 20% of all adults say they personally know someone who is nonbinary. [PEW 6/7/22]

* * * * *

In 19 countries surveyed by the Pew Research Center this spring (24,525 adults from February to June 2022), the people in 17 of these countries see the United States more favorably than they do China. (The order below is based on the positive difference between the two countries.)

	<u>China</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Difference</u>
South Korea	19%	89%	+70
Poland	28	91	
U.S.	16	78	
Japan	12	70	
Sweden	16	66	
Germany	20	63	
Canada	21	63	
Australia	14	54	+40
Netherlands	21	60	
UK	27	64	
Israel	48	83	
Spain	29	60	
France	26	57	
Italy	31	61	+30

Belgium	28	56	
Hungary	38	55	
Greece	44	48	+4
Singapore	67	51	-16
Malaysia	60	44	-16

It's no surprise that Malaysia and Singapore have a greater percentage have confidence in Xi (of China) as a leader than they do of Biden.

In 18 of the 19 countries, folks say that China's influence in the world is getting stronger. Poland is the single exception. [PEW 6/29/22]

* * * * *

India is set to surpass China as the most populous country in the world sometime next year. It is the world's largest democracy and is viewed by the West as a key counterweight to China's influence in the region.

The world's population will reach 8 billion by November 15 and climb to 9.7 billion in 2050.

More than half of the population growth through 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries – The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tanzania. [Mike Allen, Axios PM 7/11/22]

* * * * *

Imports Would Give America a Boost

Fred P. Hochberg

Former Chairman and President of the Export Import Bank

Over the past several years, trade has been blamed for much of what is wrong in America, and there is no question that trade policy must take into account labor rights and the environment. Voters today are worried about inflation and how it's eating into wages. And they are worried about the power of big companies and their unleashed pricing power. Trade can help curb both.

For the eight years I chaired the Export-Import Bank under President Obama, I championed the power of U.S. exports to boost our economy by creating American jobs. Today I'm convinced that imports are what will give us a boost—by easing price increases and effectively putting money back into the pockets of inflation-struggling Americans. To get these benefits, however, we'll need to embrace trade

again.

Inflation may be with us for some time. Monetary policy, the pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine are contributing to it, and a needed transition to alternative energy will raise prices in the short run. Transitions are never without cost.

Allowing more imports will give consumers more choice and tame the power of companies to set prices. During the pandemic, American spending habits tilted away from services toward tangible goods and have stayed there. That put a strain on supply, and disruptions to supply chains caused further strain.

Some relief will come as supply chains heal. As the Biden administration identified, some relief will come as supply chains heal, reducing scarcity. Ocean-freight reforms and last year's infrastructure bill will also help reduce backlogs and ease prices. But another, more immediate way to help lower prices is to reduce or eliminate certain tariffs.

We can start with rolling back the Trump-era tariffs on Chinese goods. But let's not stop there. Clothes and footwear, which account for a large percentage of U.S. imports, have tariffs as high as 18.7%, well above the 3% average.

American consumers, not foreign businesses, end up paying for tariffs. By one recent estimate, Trump-era restrictions on Chinese goods have cost U.S. households nearly \$800 a year. It's time to put that money—as well as more choice and pricing power—back in the hands of American consumers.

The recent baby-formula shortage is another example of how easing import restrictions can forestall a crisis. From beef to tires and household appliances, our economy is at risk from high levels of concentration. Inflation and rising prices are kitchen-table issues that all voters understand. Easing import restrictions and reducing tariffs need to be part of our toolkit to tame inflation.

* * * * *

Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2022 is 3.5%. The last time the unemployment rate was less than 3.5% was 1968 when the rate was 3.4%

If one considers the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate in July was 6.7% down from 7.0% in April and less than 9.2% a year earlier. The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in July is 62.1%, down from 62.3% in May 2022.

* * * * *

The Demographics of Unemployment for June 2022

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women –2.6% (down from last month)

Men –3.0% (down as last month)

Unemployment by Race

White – 3.1% (down from last month)

Black –6.0% (down from last month)

Hispanic – 3.9% (down from last month)

Asian –2.6% (up from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

Less than high school –5.9% (up from last month)

High School –3.6% down last month)

Some college –2.8% (up from last month)

Bachelor's Degree or higher – 2.0% (same as last month)

In June 2022, 28 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 3.6%. 22 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, had unemployment rates that were above the national average. Two states, Oregon and West Virginia, had unemployment rates that were the same as the national average.

The state/territory with the highest unemployment rate in June was Puerto Rico at 6.1%.

* * * * *

U.S. employers posted 10.7 million job openings in June. [WP 8/2/22]

* * * * *

Here are the most common reasons people gave for quitting previous jobs from April '21 to April '22.

- Lack of career development/advancement – 41%
- Inadequate compensation – 36%
- Uncaring/uninspiring leaders – 34%
- Lack of meaningful work – 31%
- Unsustainable work expectations – 29%
- Unreliable/unsupportive colleagues – 26%
- Lack of workplace flexibility – 26%
- Lack of support for health/well-being – 26%

[Statista 7/25/22 – Thanks to Jay Berman]

As of 7/25/22, 65% of those who quit their jobs in the year described have not so far returned to the same industry

* * * * *

60% of people saw an increase in real earnings after they switched employers, compared with 47% of those who remained in the same job. [Axios/What is Next 7/29/22]

* * * * *

This and That

71% of Americans say they support legal same-sex marriage. When Gallup first polled about same sex marriage in 1996, 27% supported legalizing such unions.

In 2015 public support reached 60% and in in 2021 support reached 70% for the first time. However, only 40% of Americans who report they attend church weekly support gay marriage while 58% oppose same sex marriage. [Gallup 5/22/22]

* * * * *

91% of U.S. households have air conditioning. In the United Kingdom only 5% of households have air conditioning. In Europe 20% of households have air conditioning but in Germany only 3% of households have air conditioning. [Time 7/20/22]

* * * * *

During June, 7.1% of American workers teleworked, down from 15.4% in January. The teleworking number has been hovering around 7% since April.

Remote work rates have varied from one industry to another: 20% of “information” workers, 19.7% of those in finance/insurance, and 17.6% in “professional and technical workers”.

No surprise, the number of workers in areas that do not have remote friendly roles is much lower; 2.2% in construction, 2.7% in transportation and warehousing and 3.6% in retail. [Bureau of Labor statistics]

There is a new term used by economists “shrinkflation.” Consumers are paying more for food, and restaurants and stores are shrinking portions. [NBC News 7/23/22]

* * * * *

A recently enacted California law requires that all forms of single use packaging, including paper and metals, be recyclable or compostable by 2032. California will require a 25% reduction across all plastic packaging sold in the state, covering a wide range of items including shampoo bottles, plastics utensils, bubble wrap or takeaway cups. [NYT 7/1/22]

* * * * *

Usually, around half of the Supreme Court’s rulings are unanimous. That was not the case in this term. 21% of rulings were polarized by party of the appointing president. Only 29% were unanimous. In a survey conducted in May 2022, 55% of Americans disapprove of the Supreme Court while 44% approve. [538 7/5/22]

* * * * *

The following were created by Gerry Kauvar.

Texas Educational Proposals

A group of Texas educators proposed using the term 'involuntary relocation' rather than slavery when teaching 2nd graders. (CNN)

Also considered: the description of World War II as “A European Dust-up.” The Civil War would be described as “A family feud.” The sign “No Irish Need Apply” meant that Irish were hired without filling out paperwork. References to

Jim Crow would be limited to Thomas Dartmouth Rice's singing and dancing ability. Reconstruction would be described as: "Rebuilding Historic Homes." The holocaust would be described as: "Train trips to other European countries." The term "Native Americans" refers to vacationers who have adopted the way people from other countries dress or behave. The Battle of The Little Big Horn refers to a competition among brass players as to whether the trumpet or the trombone was the most useful musical instrument.

COMPARING

We used to joke about State mottos.

For example, Alabama's is "At least we're better than Mississippi."
(true for football)

The U.S. motto is: E Pluribus Unum.

Time for a change? We aren't doing so well on the Unum part.

At least we're better than Sri Lanka.

At least we're better than Italy (currently)

At least we're better than Haiti.

How about E Pluribus Divisus?

Or "Furorum"

No Joke.

What the L?

Stollen: A sweet bread made from a rich dough usually containing nuts and raisins.

Stolen: An election made from rich people's sweet dough usually contributed to craven nuts.

[Thanks to Gerry Kauvar]

* * * * *

The other day, someone referred to something as being the "full Ginsburg". That was not a term with which WW was familiar. This is the description that WW found in Wikipedia.

The "full Ginsburg" refers to an appearance by one person on all five American major Sunday morning talk shows on the same day: This Week on ABC, Fox News Sunday, Face the Nation on CBS, Meet the Press on NBC, and State of the Union on CNN.

The term is named for William H. Ginsburg, the lawyer who was the first person to accomplish this feat, on February 1, 1998.

Purists argue that it is not a “full Ginsburg” if one or more of the appearances are not in a studio.

* * * * *

Odds and Ends

Chinese Food, known all over the world, is certainly one of everyone’s most loved cuisines. With an average of over 3.5 million searches per month in the U.S. alone, Chinese is Americans absolute favorite food.

The second most popular food is Mexican with an average of 1.22 million google searches in the USA per month. [Thanks to Rita Braver]

* * * * *

The renowned Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan was thought to have once said a Ferrari 12-cylinder engine achieved “a harmony no maestro could play.” [NYT 7/3/22]

* * * * *

Andy Jassy, who took over from Jeff Bezos as Amazon’s chief executive last year, was paid 6,474 times that of the company’s median employee. His compensation last year was \$213 million. [NYT 6/26/22]

* * * * *

Large epidemiological studies have shown that light during sleep – particularly from a TV left on in the bedroom – is a risk factor for obesity. [NYT 7/10/22]

* * * * *

In a recent survey by the investment firm TIAA, just 19% of women said they felt they would be able to retire without running out of money. For men that number is 35%. [NYT 7/24/22]

* * * * *

Older Americans are more likely to know their neighbors than younger ones.

	<u>All</u>	<u>Most</u>	<u>Only some</u>	<u>None</u>
Ages 18-29	2	20	54	23

30-49	4	24	57	15	
50-64	5	29	59	7	
65+	6	34	56	4	[PEW 8/15/19]

* * * * *

President Biden

President Biden is the oldest president in U.S. history. And the question that is put to him or his team daily is, “will he run for re-election in 2024?”

(The following is based on registered voters unless indicated otherwise.)

President Biden’s job approval ratings

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>FOX</u>	<u>QUINNIPIAC</u>
JULY’22	xxx	xxx	xxx	36/58	33/59
JUNE’22	xxx	xxx	xxx	43/57	35/56
MAY’22	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	38/55
MAY’22	42/54	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
APR’22	xxx	42/52	41/59	45/53	40/51
APR’22	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	35/55
MAR’22	41/54	xxx	xxx	45/54	38/55
FEB’22	xxx	38/57	42/57	xxx	37/56
JAN’22	44/54	xxx	xxx	47/52	35/54
DEC’21	xxx	xxx	48/52	47/51	xxx
NOV’21	xxx	38/57	48/52	44/54	38/53
OCT’21	45/52	xxx	xxx	xxx	40/51

<u>Date</u>	<u>ECON/YOUGOV</u>	<u>POL/MORNCON</u>
JULY’22	40/55	39/59
JULY’22	41/53	xxx
JUNE’22	44/51	40/56
MAY’22	44/51	42/56
MAY’22	43/51	44/54
APR’22	46/50	41/55
APR’22	43/51	45/52
MAR’22	45/49	42/54
FEB’22	42/53	43/53
JAN’22	45/51	40/56
DEC’21	42/53	46/51

NOV'21	45/49	46/51
OCT'21	44/49	45/52

* * * * *

As of August 3, 2022, the following is Biden's approval rating based on Real Clear Politics.

	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	
Overall	39.6%	56.4%	8/3/22
On the economy	32.9%	63.8 %	8/2/22
On foreign policy	37.0%	55.8%	8/2/22

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys of all adults. WW will include a periodic polling summary of 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>
7/2/22	38%	59%	38.6%	56.6%
5/22/22	41%	54%	41.1%	54.3%
4/19/22	41%	56%	42.4%	53.1%
3/18/22	42%	54%	42.1%	52.8%
2/17/22	41%	55%	41.4%	53.0%
1/16/22	40%	56%	42.5%	52.1%
12/16/21	43%	51%	43.7%	50.7%
11/16/21	42%	55%	42.8%	51.7%
10/19/21	42%	52%	44.1%	49.9%
9/17/21	43%	53%	45.7%	48.8%
8/17/21	49%	48%	48.5%	45.9%
6/18/21	56%	42%	51.8%	42.4%
5/18/21	54%	40%	52.7%	40.7%

Using Gallup (all adults) as the marker – Biden's approval rating has fallen by 11 points in the last year and his disapproval has grown by a similar number.

* * * * *

Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

As of August 2, 2022, the United States Senate has confirmed 76 federal judges nominated by President Biden. One Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 18 judges for the United States Courts of Appeals, and 36 judges for the United States District Courts.

There are currently 6 vacancies on the U.S. Courts of Appeals, 64 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts, and 2 vacancies in the United States Court of International Trade.

The chart below reflects the number of Article III court judges appointed by every U.S. president since Jimmy Carter.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>	<u>Int'l Trade</u>
Biden – 1+ year	76	1	18	57	
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]

* * * * *

There are roughly 4,000 politically appointed positions in the executive branch and independent agencies, including more than 1,200 that require Senate confirmation.

The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service are tracking 808 of those 1200 positions.

- 416 have been confirmed by the Senate
- 146 nominees are being considered by the Senate
- 3 picks are awaiting formal nomination
- 87 positions have no Biden nominee

- 156 appointees are serving in termed positions or were held over from previous administrations
- 355 females
- 462 males

[WP 8/2/22]

* * * * *

The following are the favorability ratings for a variety of political leaders based on the Real Clear Politics averages for 7/31/22:

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Biden	44.1	55.4
Harris	35.8	53.0
Pelosi	32.8	56.3
McConnell	23.3	55.7
McCarthy	20.0	41.7
Schumer	29.3	44.0

* * * * *

2022 Election

How important will each of the following issues be in determining your vote in the November election:

	<u>One of the most important</u>	<u>Not as important</u>
Abortion	69%	31%
Rising prices	84%	16%
Crime	71%	29%
Immigration	59%	41%

[WP/Schar Poll 7/24/22]

* * * * *

The 117th Congress

Congress

* * * * *

Approval of the Congress is down roughly 12 points from where it was a year ago and disapproval is up 11 points.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 8/2/22	19.6%	71.0%
Real Clear Pol. 6/15/22	21.2%	69.0%
Real Clear Pol. 5/17/22	22.4%	68.0%
Real Clear Pol. 4/16/22	22.2%	67.5%
Real Clear Pol. 3/15/22	21.8%	67.8%
Real Clear Pol. 2/18/22	20.8%	68.32%
Real Clear Pol. 1/17/22	22.4%	66.4%
Real Clear Pol. 12/21/21	23%	65.8%
Real Clear Pol. 11/30/21	22.2%	68.6%
Real Clear Pol. 10/12/21	25.0%	65.8%
Real Clear Pol. 9/1/21	28.5%	60.3%
Real Clear Pol. 8/3/21	31.4%	59.6%

* * * * *

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Are there no limits? Apparently not.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has taken to providing financial support to candidates running in Republican primaries who the DCCC thinks will be the weaker in the general election.

One of the most questionable decisions was to support the opponent of Representative Peter Meijer who was one of the 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Donald Trump.

The DCCC spent more on the race than the other Republican candidate, John Gibbs, a far-right candidate.

Will these actions by the DCCC have a negative impact on its future fundraising? [WW]

* * * * *

Washington Watch uses the Cook Political Report for its report on elections in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Currently:
 Democrats – 220 seats
 Republicans – 211 seats
 Vacancies – 4 seats

* * * * *

As of 8/3/22, there are currently 61 seats in which House incumbents have announced they are not running for re-election. 25 of those seats are currently held by Republicans and 36 by Democrats.

* * * * *

Solid Democrat	162	Solid Republican	191
Likely Dem	13	Likely GOP	13
Lean Dem	12	Lean GOP	11
Dem Toss up	26	GOP Toss up	7
Total	213	Total	222

* * * * *

THE SENATE

Among the 10 most popular Senators, 7 are Republicans, 1 is a Democrat, and 2 are Independents. Among the 10 most unpopular Senators, 8 are Republicans and 2 are Democrats.

10 Most Popular Senators

	Approve	Don't Know	Disapprove
John Barrasso (R-WY)	70%	7%	23%
Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)	63	12	25
Mike Rounds (R-SD)	60	8	32
John Thune (R-SD)	60	6	33
John Hoeven (R-ND)	57	10	32
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)	56	13	31
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)	56	10	34
Angus King (I-ME)	56	10	34
John Kennedy (R-LA)	54	17	29
Shelley M. Capito (R-WV)	54	17	29

10 Most Unpopular Senators

Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	31%	7%	62%
Ron Johnson (R-WI)	37	10	53
Susan Collins (R-ME)	43	6	51
Ben Sasse (R-NE)	39	14	48
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	43	10	47
Patrick Toomey (R-UT)	35	20	45
Mitt Romney (R-UT)	43	11	45
Ted Cruz (R-TX)	45	10	44
Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)	41	16	43
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	41	16	43

[Morning Consult]

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

Six U.S. Senators are retiring from public office; 1 Democrat and 5 Republicans. None are running for other office.

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2022	34	30	2
Safe in 2022	9	14	
	Padilla	Murkowski	
	Murray	AL – open	
	Blumenthal	Boozman	
	Schatz	Grassley	
	Duckworth	Crapo	
	Van Hollen	Young	
	Schumer	Moran	
	Wyden	Paul	
	VT – open	Kennedy	
		Hoeven	
		OK - open	
		MO - open	
		Scott	
		Thune	

		Lee
Likely	1 Bennet	2 Rubio OH - open
Lean	1 Hassan	1 NC - open
Toss Up	3 Cortez Masto Warnock Kelly	2 Johnson PA - open

* * * * *

2024 Election

The 2024 Republican National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin which was also the site of the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

The site of the 2024 Democratic National Convention has not been selected. Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, and New York City have submitted bids.

* * * * *

The following people have indicated or been commonly named as someone thinking about or planning to run for president in 2024. These lists are a result of the mining of a variety of other lists published in the last few months.

For the Republican nomination (A number of the folks on this list have said they will not run if Trump runs again.)

Donald Trump
 Ben Sasse – U.S. Senator
 Tom Cotton – U.S. Senator
 Josh Hawley – U.S. Senator
 Rick Scott – U.S. Senator
 Ted Cruz – U.S. Senator
 Tim Scott – U.S. Senator
 Marco Rubio – U.S. Senator
 Liz Cheney – U.S. Representative - Wyoming
 “I haven’t made a decision about that yet.”

Kristi Noem – Governor of South Dakota
Larry Hogan – Governor of Maryland
Asa Hutchinson – Governor of Arkansas
Greg Abbott – Governor of Texas
Ron DeSantis – Governor of Florida
Mike Pence – Former Vice President
Mike Pompeo – Former Secretary of State
Nikki Haley – Former governor of South Carolina
Chris Christie – Former Governor New Jersey
Glenn Youngkin – Governor of Virginia

For the Democrat nomination if Biden does not run

Kamala Harris – Vice President
Pete Buttigieg – Secretary of Transportation
Gina Raimondo – Secretary of Commerce, former Governor of Rhode Island
Elizabeth Warren – U.S. Senator
Amy Klobuchar – U.S. Senator
Bernie Sanders – U.S. Senator
Cory Booker – U.S. Senator
Sherrod Brown – U.S. Senator
Michael Bennet – U.S. Senator
Jamie Raskin – U.S. Representative, Maryland
Tim Ryan – U.S. Representative, Ohio
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – U.S. Representative, New York (She will be 35
years of age on October 13, 2024)
Roy Cooper – Governor of North Carolina
Gavin Newsom – Governor of California
Gretchen Whitmer – Governor of Michigan
Andy Besher – Governor of Kentucky
Phil Murphy – Governor of New Jersey
J.B. Pritzker – Governor of Illinois
Tim Walz – Governor of Minnesota
Jared Polis – Governor of Colorado
Stacey Abrams – currently running for Governor of Georgia
Mitch Landrieu – former Mayor of New Orleans (now working to
implement infrastructure bill)

(There are folks who believe that one or more of these will challenge Biden
if he decides to run.)

* * * * *

Women Will Get It Done

Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in on June 30, 2022, as the Supreme Court's 116th justice and the first Black woman on the bench, a historic change for an institution that for the first time is not composed of a majority of white men. Four women will simultaneously serve on the court for the first time in its history. [WP 7/1/22]

* * * * *

The Las Vegas Raiders NFL football team has hired the first Black female team president – Sandra Douglas Morgan. [WSJ 7/8/22]

* * * * *

Emily Engel-Natzke, of the Washington Capitals, is the first woman to hold a full-time position on a National Hockey League coaching staff. [New York Post 7/1/22]

* * * * *

The Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's elite flight demonstration squadron, has named its first female jet pilot, Lt. Amanda Lee, who will be part of the team for the 2023 season. [WSJ 7/18/22]

* * * * *

WW Recommends Books & Other Things

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

* * * * *

The Desperate Hours: One Hospital's Fight
To Save a City on the Pandemic's Front Line
Marie Brenner

AWARD-WINNING *VANITY FAIR* WRITER Marie Brenner shares a remarkable depiction of New York—a city in crisis—based on new, behind-the-scenes reporting that captures the resilience, peril, and compassion of the early days of the Covid pandemic.

In the spring of 2020, COVID-19 arrived in New York City.

Before long, America’s largest metropolis was at war against a virus that mercilessly swept through its five boroughs. It became apparent that if Covid wasn’t somehow halted, the death count in New York alone would be in the hundreds of thousands. And if New York’s hospitals failed, what chance did the rest of the country have?

Brenner, having been granted unprecedented 18-month access to the entire New York-Presbyterian hospital system, tells the story of the doctors, nurses, residents, researchers, and suppliers who tried to save lives across Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn and the northern periphery of the city. Drawing on more than 200 interviews, Brenner takes us inside secure ICU units, sealed operating rooms, locked executive suites, unknown basement workshops, and makeshift clinics to provide extraordinary witness to the war as it was waged on the front line.

But *The Desperate Hours* is more than a thrilling account of medicine under extreme pressure. It is an intimate portrait of courageous men and women coming together in their devotion to duty, their families, each other, and the city they loved more than any other.

Read less

* * * * *

Smart Brevity: The Power of Saying More with Less
Jim Vanderhei, Mike Allen

This guiding principle turned first Politico and then Axios into hugely influential media companies. It’s also in the dna of Smart Brevity™, the Axios spin-off that teaches Fortune 500 companies, organizations, professional writers and other individuals how to get their message heard. Now they’ve distilled their lessons into an essential guide—and manifesto—for writing effectively in the digital age.

Smart Brevity is a system and strategy that will teach anyone who works with words how to think more sharply, communicate more crisply, and save your readers time. It’s about how to say more with less. And how, on a deeper level, to clean up and reframe your thinking.

You’ll learn how to create a muscular tease—the thing that will flag down your reader’s attention. How to craft a “lede”—a short, sharp, memorable opening

sentence. How to round up, prioritize, weigh and whittle down your most important points. There are dozens of tips choosing the right words, kicking bad habits (hello, irony), and staying provocative. And rules-of-thumb: Would you read it if you hadn't written it?

Today we're drowning in words. Back when the authors worked at *The Washington Post*, web trackers revealed an eye-opening truth: hardly anyone it clicked through a story's first page. Here's how to fight through that fatigue and ensure that your message is finally and fully heard.

* * * * *

Split Decision: Life Stories
Ice-T, Spike, Douglas Century

Award-winning actor, rapper, and producer Ice-T unveils a compelling and astonishing memoir of his early life robbing jewelry stores until he found fame and fortune—while a handful of bad choices sent his former crime partner down an incredibly different path.

Ice-T rose to fame in the late 1980s, earning acclaim for his music before going on to capture television audiences as Odafe “Fin” Tutuola in *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. But it could have gone much differently. In this gripping and candid memoir, Ice-T and Spike, his former crime partner—collaborating with *New York Times* bestselling author Douglas Century—relate the shocking stories of their shared pasts, and how just a handful of decisions led to their incredibly different lives.

Both grew up in violent, gang-controlled Los Angeles neighborhoods and worked together to orchestrate a series of jewelry heists in LA and across the US. But while Ice-T was discovered rapping in a club and got his first record deal, Spike was caught for a jewel robbery and did three years in prison. As his music career began to take off, Ice made the decision to leave the criminal life; Spike continued to plan increasingly ingenious and risky jewel heists. And in 1992, after one of Spike's robberies ended tragically, he was sentenced to thirty-five years to life. While he sat behind bars, he watched his former partner rise to fame in music, movies, and television.

Harrowing, timely, and thoughtful, two men with two very different lives reveal

how their paths might have very well been reversed if they made different choices. All it took was a *Split Decision*.

* * * * *

Restaurants

In BOCCA Al Lupo
2400 Wisconsin Avenue NW
1st Floor
www.inboccaallupdc.com
202-750-7909

When “Mike’s Washington Watch” began including restaurants in 1998, restaurants chosen then and now had been around for a while and had decent reputations.

Using the same standards to select the first 411 restaurants reported on in WW, there is no way that BOCCA Al Lupo would be included on the list, at least at this time, because it is so new.

Debbie and I had seen the signs indicating that a new restaurant had opened on Wisconsin Avenue.

Given its location, Debbie called/emailed the restaurant to see whether it is handicapped accessible. She received the following email.

“Unfortunately, the building is not. The space we took over was grandfathered. The front steps are long and wide and I believe there are only four down in all. There is a handrail.”

Even though this is a new restaurant, the fact that it is replacing a previous restaurant location means it is not required to meet the current handicapped accessible rules in DC. Al Lupo replaced the Acouri restaurant.

We went to the restaurant for dinner on July 14. The restaurant had been open for less than two weeks.

When asked, the manager told me that the restaurant could seat up to 130.

Just before you enter the restaurant there is a small courtyard in which there are a number of two and 4 tops. As you enter the actual restaurant there is a greeter's station to the left.

To the right is a bar with a dozen tall chairs. To the left are several white tables, each with a couple of chairs against a wall.

On the other side of this wall is a long bench and a half-dozen square black tables for two people, one on each side. One person on the bench and the other in a chair. Debbie was seated on the bench and I across the table from her. One can move one or more of the tables to make a table for a larger number of people.

Across the way from these tables are a number of other tables and at the end of this area is the kitchen with an open window where the servers pick up the dishes for delivery

On the table there is a card with a QR code that includes the menu. There are no paper menus available. At Nina Mae, which also uses the QR code "menu", one could get a paper menu if you requested it. I had printed a copy of the menu from Al Lupo's website in advance.

Debbie noticed that there was an error in the menu that popped up from the QR code. The manager said he could not do anything about it. A while later the manager came back to our table to show Debbie that he was able to make the change.

The process for ordering is a little different than other restaurants.

One orders each item as you are ready to eat it. For example, you do not order your main course until you have eaten the appetizer. This gets a little complicated when, as was our case, I ordered an appetizer, but Debbie did not. She did not order her main course until I was ready to order my main course. Of course, she could have ordered her main course when I ordered my appetizer. However, we were planning to share each of the two pizzas we ordered for the main course.

Debbie ordered Pizze Bianche Boscaiola - sausage, mushroom and mozzarella and no starter.

I started with FRITTO AMATRICIANA ARANCINI The menu calls for an order of 6 fried rice balls...with pancetta and tomato sauce. I ordered two.

I then ordered PIZZE ROSSE FUNGHI mozzarella, pomodoro, mushrooms.

In fact, we ate half of each of the two, 16-inch pizzas. The rest we took home and had them for dinner with some vegetables the next night.

We passed on dessert.

The other thing that is different about this restaurant is that there is no need for cash, in fact the folks there do not accept cash. Everything is paid by credit card, and you don't actually need the card, all you need to do is insert the numbers from the credit card.

There is no tipping. When you get your check, it has a place for a hospitality charge, which includes a 20% tip for the staff. (We left a \$20 bill at our table when we left.)

The two gender specific restrooms are down a hall at the back of the restaurant. The men's restroom door is narrower than the women's restroom door and is very heavy.

The basic walls in the men's room are white, the interior metal walls are red. Immediately to the right as you enter is a black marble wash basin top with an oblong white ceramic wash basin. Next are two wall hanging urinals of different heights with dividers between the urinals. Another red wall leads to a good size commode room. There is a red waste container that looks like a hydrant used by firemen.

Mike

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