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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 10.26.2020

[Stracqualursi , “'Trump signs executive order . . .,” CNN, 10.23.20.](https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/23/politics/trump-executive-order-federal-employees/index.html)

1. Describe the recent executive order regarding civil servants that President Trump signed.
2. What is the rationale for such an executive order? In other words, why did President Trump take this action?
3. What are the tradeoffs of having an apolitical bureaucracy that is not beholden to office of President?
4. Do you support the President’s actions? Why or why not?

[Everett, “Biden’s Court ‘punt’ Gets Lukewarm Response,” Politico, 10.22.20.](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/22/biden-supreme-court-commission-response-431302)

1. What is Joe Biden’s proposal for the Supreme Court?
2. To what extent do you think this proposal is politically palatable for progressives?
3. How do you think the 2020 General Election is influencing Biden’s proposal?
4. Do you think adding additional Supreme Court justices to the Court is a good idea? Why or why not?

[Werner and Stein, “Mnuchin downbeat on economic relief talks with Pelosi…,”](https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/10/23/trump-congress-coronavirus-bailout/) *[Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/10/23/trump-congress-coronavirus-bailout/)*[, 10.23.20.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/10/23/trump-congress-coronavirus-bailout/)

1. Describe the status of current negotiations for economic stimulus in Congress?
2. What are the factors hindering progress for a deal between the White House and the House?
3. What generalizations can you take away from this story about the functioning of Congress, divided government, and the relationship between the Congress and the Presidency?
4. Why do you think it is so difficult to find compromise in American politics today? How can we better encourage bipartisanship, especially during a crisis?