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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 11.2.2020

[Rachel Martin, “What’s Changed With Polling Since 2016?” NPR, 10.28.20 (6 min audio).](https://www.npr.org/2020/10/28/928556186/whats-changed-since-polls-were-wrong-about-2016s-presidential-election)

1. Name a reason that the 2016 poll predictions were inaccurate.
2. Name and explain one point of polling methodology mentioned.
3. Do you think the pollsters and polls will be more accurate this year? Why or why not?

[Tom Brokaw, Recalling 1980 and 2000 Presidential Elections, Morning Joe, 10.30.20 (4:51 min).](https://www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/tom-brokaw-recalls-the-1980-presidential-election-94997573849)

1. What is the chief contrast in the presidential elections of 1980 and 2000?
2. What characteristics did Ronald Reagan have that helped him win in 1980?
3. What state’s votes were at issue in 2000?
4. What legal challenges were made?
5. How many days after the election was the vote finalized?
6. How was the 2000 election resolved?

[William Turvill, “U.S. Newspaper Endorsement: Do They Matter?”](https://www.pressgazette.co.uk/us-election-newspaper-endorsements-biden-trump-analysis/) *[Press-Gazette](https://www.pressgazette.co.uk/us-election-newspaper-endorsements-biden-trump-analysis/)* [(UK), 10.28.20.](https://www.pressgazette.co.uk/us-election-newspaper-endorsements-biden-trump-analysis/)

1. Name one newspaper that has tended to endorse Democrat candidates. One that tends to endorse Republicans.
2. What do editorial boards consider in their role in endorsements?
3. Name and explain one trend in newspaper endorsements over the period studied.
4. Do you think newspapers should endorse candidates? Why or why not?
5. What impact do newspaper endorsements have?