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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 12.14.20

[Saundry Torry, “Reality Check for Trump . . . Judges Aren’t Pawns,” *USA Today*, 12.11.20.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/12/11/trump-election-lawsuits-and-judges-chaotic-aftermath-courts-column/3877651001/)

1. What is the author’s overall point?
2. Why does the author point out Supreme Court justices rejecting President Trump’s most recent legal claims were Trump appointees?
3. Besides Trump whom else has joined or endorsed the lawsuit?
4. Besides the Supreme Court, what other judges have rejected Trump’s legal claims?
5. Which constitutional principle(s) are at stake/relevant here?
6. What have Trump’s “relentless attacks” on the election done?

[Crowley and Schmitt, “Biden Asks for Waiver . . . Defense Pick,” *New York Times*, 12.9.20.](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/09/us/politics/biden-lloyd-austin-pentagon-waiver.html)

1. Who is president-elect Biden’s nominee for Secretary of Defense?
2. What is one quality or trait that Biden points regarding his nominee?
3. What is unique about this nomination?
4. What legal step would have to be taken for this nominee to be eligible?
5. Have such waivers to serve this post been passed before?
6. For people who know this nominee, what do they say about him?
7. Do you think the Congress should approve him? Why or why not?

[Gresko and Sherman, “What’s in Store . . . Electoral College,” Associated Press, 12.13.20.](https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-joe-biden-donald-trump-inaugurations-elections-7e3a27783ffaa1661551f0729e4a3947)

1. What takes (took) place on December 14?
2. What brought about the electoral system?
3. Where do the electors meet to cast their votes? Why like this?
4. Can/do electors vote for someone else? Does this happen often? Why or why not?
5. Describe the winner take all system. Which two states do not follow this method?