

United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 3.22.21

[Joseph Biden, Executive Order 13988, Discrimination of the Basis of Gender ID, 1.20.21.](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/executive-order-13988-preventing-and-combating-discrimination-the-basis-gender-identity-or)

1. What does the president say early in his executive order about restrooms, locker rooms, and school sports?
2. Which constitutional principle is at the heart of this order?
3. What landmark 1960s’ law does he point to in order to define the spirit of his order?
4. What protected classes are included in this law?
5. What is the *Bostock* decision and how did it alter U.S. law?
6. What exactly does Biden’s executive order do?
7. How does Biden qualify his order?
8. How does the concept of federalism play into this order?
9. From a legal or constitutional perspective, do you agree with the order? Why or why not?

[Leslie Rutledge, “Why Arkansas Girls Act Levels the Playing Field,” RealClearPolitics.Com,](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/03/20/why_arkansas_girls_act_levels_the_playing_field.html)

1. What is the issue at hand?
2. Why is the Arkansas Attorney General writing this Op-Ed?
3. Why might some see an unfairness in allowing transgender student athletes compete?
4. What public policy is the author challenging, and why?
5. What is the GIRLS Act and what does it do?
6. How does federalism or factor into this story?
7. What is Title IX and why is it relevant?
8. What argument does the author make in regards to girls’ success?
9. Do you agree with the author or the state law? Why or why not?

[Leslie C. Francis, Voting Rights—Then and Now,” RealClearPolitics.Com, 3.20.21.](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/03/20/voting_rights_--then_and_now.html)

1. What did the 15th Amendment address and how did states subvert it?
2. What 1960s’ events led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965?
3. What role or impact did the media play in countering the anti-civil rights efforts?
4. What is the 26th Amendment and how easy was it to pass or ratify it?
5. How did President Nixon regard the proposal?
6. What kind of laws are states currently considering?
7. What dos the author allege the reason behind these legislative efforts?
8. Do you agree or disagree with the author? Why?