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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 5.24.21

[Mystal, “Brett Kavanaugh Remains . . . [Incorrigible],” *The Nation*, 5.24.21](https://www.thenation.com/article/society/kavanaugh-juvenile-decision/)

1. Who is Brett Jones and why is he in prison? Who is Brett Kavanaugh?
2. What has the Supreme Court said about a mandatory sentence for juvenile offenders?
3. What did the Court rule in Jones’s case?
4. What was the vote and how was the Court divided?
5. What does the author bring up about Kavanaugh’s past?
6. How does author compare Kavanaugh’s statements regarding his personal past with his application of the law?
7. How does federalism factor into Kavanaugh’s sentencing decision?
8. How does the author compare Kavanaugh’s take in this case with his concern in the suspended cheerleader case?
9. Do you agree with the author’s overall opinion of Kavanaugh? Why or why not?

[Greenfield, “Your Guide to Why D.C. Statehood is so Hard,” *Politico*, 5.16.21](https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/05/16/washington-dc-statehood-guide-constitutional-workaround-political-obstacles-488349)

1. What was the constitutional founding and the logic behind the creation of Washington DC?
2. What compromise plan is in place to make the residential part of DC a state?
3. What is the proposed name?
4. What is a flaw with this plan?
5. How do the political parties differ on DC Statehood and why?
6. Do you think DC will ever become a state?

[Brownstein, “Don’t Sleep on Asian Voters,” *The Atlantic*, 5.21.21.](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/opinion/dont-sleep-on-asian-american-voters/ar-AAKcD9E)

1. To what degree did Asian-Americans turn out to vote last year?
2. How does the author suggest that Trump may have impacted the Asian-American vote?
3. To what degree has this cohort grown in the U.S.?
4. Where will the Asian vote count/make a difference in elections?
5. What is the GOP’s history with this bloc?
6. What is one way for the GOP to regain Asian-American voters?