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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 8.12.2020

[Bart Jansen, “From Rival to Running Mate: Kamala Harris,”](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/08/11/what-does-kamala-harris-bring-democratic-ticket-joe-biden/3348838001/) *[USA Today,](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/08/11/what-does-kamala-harris-bring-democratic-ticket-joe-biden/3348838001/)* [8.11.20.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/08/11/what-does-kamala-harris-bring-democratic-ticket-joe-biden/3348838001/)

1. What political benefit(s) does Senator Harris bring to the Democratic ticket?
2. What is something unique about Harris’s background?
3. How much impact does the vice presidential candidate have on election day?
4. Do you think Harris would make a good vice president? Why or why not?

[Editorial, “U.S. Could Control Pandemic by October,” *New York Times*, 8.8.20.](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-response-testing-lockdown.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage)

1. How long do the experts cited in this article say it would take to get the pandemic under enhanced control?
2. How does the *Times* suggest the U.S. arrived at this point?
3. Name two things that complicate the handling or minimizing the virus.
4. Explain two steps or approaches the *Times* recommends that will help.

[Heilbrunn, “A Tribute to Brent Scowcroft,” *National Interest*, 8.7.20.](https://nationalinterest.org/feature/tribute-brent-scowcroft-166440)

1. What is unique about Brent Scowcroft’s background?
2. How did Scowcroft approach government or foreign policy?
3. What national security events or dynamics shaped Scowcroft’s career?
4. What did you learn about the foreign policy process through Scowcroft’s story?
5. How would you characterize the tone of this article?