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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 8.17.2020

[Sen. Richard Durbin, Trump’s Assault on Postal Service,](https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2020/8/12/21365010/usps-postal-service-budget-cuts-louis-dejoy-mail-in-elections-dick-durbin) *[Chicago Sun-Times](https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2020/8/12/21365010/usps-postal-service-budget-cuts-louis-dejoy-mail-in-elections-dick-durbin)*[, 8.12.20.](https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2020/8/12/21365010/usps-postal-service-budget-cuts-louis-dejoy-mail-in-elections-dick-durbin)

1. Name a needed item that Durbin’s constituents typically receive in the mail, but did not receive lately.
2. What does senator Durbin point to that has caused a slow down or errors in mail delivery?
3. What does he say Congress should do to enhance mail-in voting in the upcoming election?
4. How does federalism play into this issue?
5. What is Durbin’s strategy or goal with this article? Will it work? Why or why not?

[Rainy](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-response-testing-lockdown.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage) & King, COVID-19 Has Already Defunded Police, *Politico*, 8.15.20.

1. Name a locality that has experienced cuts in police funding and by how much.
2. What vivid scenario did AFL-CIO president Richard Trumpka offer to warn about the potential dangers of the cuts?
3. When funds were re-directed from police departments, where did they go?
4. When law enforcement funding is cut, what programs or employees are usually cut?
5. What impact do those cuts have?

[Nate](https://nationalinterest.org/feature/tribute-brent-scowcroft-166440) Silver, Introducing the 2020 Election, FiveThrityEight.Com, 8.15.20 (Video).

1. Which presidential candidate has the advantage right now in the Five Thirty Eight 2020 forecast?
2. What example does Silver offer to prove that polls can change?
3. What “tipping-point states” does he emphasize will be major determiners in this election?
4. What variable does he offer that might make this election prediction even harder than normal?