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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 8.23.21

[Loofbourow, “Just How Big a Mess the California Recall Is,” *Slate*, 8.20.2021.](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/just-how-big-a-mess-the-california-recall-is/ar-AANvfWX)

1. What is a recall election and how does it work?
2. What is unique about Governor Gavin Newsom’s status in the recall?
3. What two things/questions can California citizens vote on in this recall election?
4. What’s the mathematical standard to initiate a recall election, to recall the official, and to win as the replacement candidate?
5. What could be unfair or unconstitutional about the recall system?
6. What mistake did Newsom make during the Quarantine that may have hurt him?
7. What has been the Democratic strategy of fielding a candidate, and what impact do you think this will have?

[Page & Hassanein, “No Vaccination? Americans back tough rules . . .” *USA Today*, 8.22.2021.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/08/22/americans-back-mask-covid-vaccine-mandate-protect-common-good/8134392002/)

1. Where do Americans stand on a mask mandate?
2. For this poll, what was the sample size? The date/time frame of the poll? The margin of error?
3. How can one of the above components impact the readout of a poll?
4. What was a surprising statistic to you? Why?
5. Why won’t some Americans get the vaccine?
6. What partisan trend do you see?
7. How do Americans view other scenarios about liberty versus order?

[Anderson, “Explainer: . . . What is Critical Race Theory?” Associated Press, 6.24.21.](https://apnews.com/article/what-is-critical-race-theory-08f5d0a0489c7d6eab7d9a238365d2c1)

1. What is critical race theory (CRT)?
2. Is critical race theory commonly taught in K-12 schools?
3. When has CRT worked its way into a school?
4. What has brought CRT into the news, the public discussion?
5. Why do Republicans oppose it?
6. What did Cheryl Harris of UCLA say about the Republican actions/efforts toward CRT?