

United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 9.28.2020

[Jackson and Wolff, “Trump embraces political battle, Picks Amy Coney Barret,” *USA Today*, 9.26.20.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/09/26/trump-set-battle-pick-amy-coney-barrett-supreme-court/3524999001/)

1. Briefly describe Judge Amy Coney Barrett.
2. Who else has President Trump appointed to the judiciary?
3. How will the likely confirmation of Barrett impact the makeup of the Supreme Court?
4. Describe Judge Barrett’s position on one issue.
5. How do you think this Supreme Court tussle will impact the 2020 Election? Why?

[King and Gaudiano, “The pandemic could widen the achievement gap…,” *Politico*, 9.24.20.](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/09/23/how-the-coronavirus-is-making-school-segregation-worse-420839)

1. What are some of the challenges facing school districts surrounding remote learning?
2. What are learning pods? How might they exacerbate inequality? Should school districts push families not to initiate them?
3. How has Title I sought to deal with inequities in education? Has it been successful?
4. Do you think remote learning will widen the achievement gap between students? Why or why not?
5. What is one thing schools can do to make learning more equitable for all?

[Pilkington, “’Not special anymore’: how the Senate has failed…,” *The Guardian*, 9.26.20.](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/25/us-senate-supreme-court-democracy-minority)

1. What does Mitch McConnell’s refusal to go to the White House tell us about checks and balances in American politics?
2. Why did the founders want to give each state two Senators? Do you think this is still appropriate today given the vast size differences between California and Wyoming?
3. In your opinion, is the United States Senate anti-democratic today? Why or why not?
4. What is one reform you would make to improve the Senate? If you would not make any changes please explain why.