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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 11.7.22

[Kinnard, “Vocabulary of Voting,” Associated Press, 11.5.22.](https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-government-and-politics-8841e3c0f3bd4d161b66b82bc5ce0192)

1. List 3 terms or phrases discussed in the article and define in your own words.
2. Of the many terms the article, which one was most enlightening to you? Why?
3. What is the difference between a “plurality” and a “majority,” and when does that matter?
4. How do provisional ballots impact democracy?
5. What is the National Election Pool? How does its declaring election winners differ from state governments declaring winners?

[Petras, et al., “Who Will Control Congress?” and “As Midterms Loom . . . ,” *USA Today*, 10.27.22.](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/graphics/2022/10/27/republican-undecided-voters-inflation-midterm/10605127002/)

1. How many U.S. Senate seats are up for re-election? Why? House seats? Why?
2. What fraction or percent of House and Senate seats are close, competitive races?
3. Scan the competitive race listings. Pick one Senate and one House race to look at. Who are the candidates? How far apart are they in the polls?
4. What is the current breakdown of Republican-to-Democrat governors in the U.S.?
5. What is the outlook of governorships after the election?

From the 2nd article, “As misterms loom, Undecided Voters . . .”

1. What is one unique finding about undecided voters?
2. What are those polls/surveys measuring?
3. What is American public opinion like on those measures?
4. How have these measures changed over recent months?
5. What do these charts tell you about what undecideds will do on election day?

[Cannon, “The Current State of Political Polling,” RealClearPolitics.Com, 11.6.22.](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2022/11/06/the_current_state_of_us_political_polling__148431.html)

1. How have pollsters/polling, as an overall industry, faired in last two presidential elections?
2. Have pollsters themselves acknowledged a less-than-admirable performance?
3. Name two ways a pollster could err in designing or administering a poll.
4. How do enthusiasm levels impact an election?
5. How do independents and undecided voters complicate the polling prediction business?
6. How does timing, when the poll is taken, matter?
7. What do errors of the Marquette Poll and Remington Research Poll reveal?
8. Why was that Iowa poll so accurate?
9. Why might Trump voters approach to polling impact the polling readout?
10. Based on your prior knowledge and this article, what is your overall take on polling?