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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: 5.8.23

[Tran, “Clarence Thomas Scandals . . .” USA Today, 5.7.23.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2023/05/07/dick-durbin-clarence-thomas-scandals-supreme-court/70192395007/)

1. Who is Clarence Thomas, and why has he been in the news lately?
2. What kind of gifts have he and his wife received from Mr. Crowe?
3. Why is Senator Dick Durbin the relevant Senator commenting in this story?
4. Why would the Congress have established a code of conduct on the lower federal courts, but not the Supreme Court?
5. Why might citizens expect a judge to not accept donations and gifts?
6. Do you think the Supreme Court members should be subject to ethics rules? Why or why not?

[Jacobs, “The GOP Knife Fight in Race for KY Governorship,” *Vox*, 5.7.23.](https://www.vox.com/2023/5/7/23712743/kentucky-governor-race-republican-primary-cameron-craft-beshear)

1. Who are the candidates for the Republican nomination for governor?
2. Who is the incumbent governor?
3. What is a “bellwether” election?
4. How does the author characterize the primary race for the nomination?
5. What has been Craft’s campaign strategy?
6. Wat is unique about the Trump endorsement? Will that matter in the election? Why or why not?
7. Where does Governor Beshear stand in the polls?

[Neumeister, “Trump Rejects last chance to testify,” AP News, 5.7.23.](https://apnews.com/article/trump-rape-carroll-trial-40f9bf3da2474c28dc2bc869d68fdb82)

1. Who is E. Jean Carroll and why is she suing Donald Trump?
2. Why did the Judge offer Trump a chance to testify at this trial?
3. What is a deposition, and why does this process exist prior to a trial?
4. How would you characterize Trump’s deposition in this case?
5. Do you feel that former president Trump should have shown up to testify in this lawsuit against him? Why or why not?