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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 10.25.21

[Busch, “Third Parties on the Horizon . . .” RealClearPolitics.Com.](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/10/20/can_third_parties_make_a_difference_in_2024_146589.html)

1. What minor parties competed in the 2016 presidential election?
2. How did they perform, and how did that performance compare to prior elections?
3. What is the typical success rate of third parties?
4. How does the electoral college impact minor parties’ chances in the presidential race?
5. Describe how ballot access may differ for candidates from different parties?
6. Though they rarely win, how are third parties still relevant?
7. Is it easy to know which major candidates third-party voters would vote for if not voting third-party?

[Cook, “Can Dems make the Mid-Terms about Republicans?” Cook Political Report, 10.21.21.](https://cookpolitical.com/analysis/national/national-politics/can-democrats-make-midterms-about-republicans)

1. Which elections is Mr. Cook examining? When will they take place?
2. What classic analogy is made with laws and lawmaking?
3. How closely did the Dems win control of the Congress in 2020?
4. How does he describe the proposed Democrat agenda?
5. Why will this agenda be hard to accomplish?
6. How does Cook describe the bill’s chances of passage?
7. What is the faction he describes and what do they want?
8. How does Biden’s approval rating compare to prior presidents?
9. What seems to be the chief thing to impact Mid-Term elections?

[Jennings, “Biden is Losing Ground . . .” CNN.com, 10.23.21.](https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/22/opinions/joe-biden-is-losing-ground-jennings/index.html)

1. What are Joe Biden’s two problems according to the author?
2. What are his “approval” and “disapproval” ratings of late?
3. What did the author give him credit for doing?
4. What other criticism does the author make on Biden?
5. Do you think this critique of Biden is fair? Why or why not?