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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 10.4.21

[Clifford and Cohen, “R. Kelly convicted of luring Women . . . ,” Reuters, 9.27.21.](https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/jurors-resume-deliberations-r-kelly-trial-2021-09-27/)

1. Did this article appear after Kelly was in state or federal court?
2. What is R. Kelly accused of? What law did he break? Why this jurisdiction?
3. What was the verdict?
4. What range of prison time could he get for these convictions?
5. Why does the article have pastel/painted pictures instead of photos?
6. Describe some of the testimony at trial?
7. What civil rights leader did R. Kelly’s defense attorney try to invoke in his closing?
8. What do you make of that?
9. What other charges or potential trials does Kelly have?
10. Does it violate his right against double jeopardy for him to have additional trials? Why or why not?

[Silver, “Do I buy . . . Virginia Governor’s Race?” 538 & ABC, 10.3.21.](https://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/video/buy-democrats-worried-virginia-gubernatorial-race-silver-80379206) (1:20 min.)

1. Who are the two candidates in the Virginia Governor’s race?
2. Which one is in the lead according to the polls?
3. What evidence did Silver look at to answer the question?
4. What was the differential in the vote for Trump and Biden a year ago in Virginia?
5. What other factors may change opinion in Virginia or impact this upcoming election?

[Sherman, “Abortion, guns, religion . . . SCOTUS,” Associated Press 10.2.21.](https://apnews.com/article/religion-courts-us-supreme-court-mississippi-gun-politics-3ebb5b39577515d2b6da2a140521a878)

1. What topics will the Supreme Court hear in upcoming cases?
2. What notable precedent seems to be on the line?
3. What did David Strauss mean when he said “the culture wars” might be returning to the courtroom?
4. The ACLU lawyer Cole said the court has already heard the substance of this case. In 1992. Explain why the Court might hear it again and what might be different this time.
5. How are religion and affirmative action potentially going to be determined at the Court?
6. Which justice is considering retiring? Why does that matter?