

1316 The Failure of a Political  
system that was already badly  
broken

# Who am I

- Majored in political science and international relations in college
- Lived independently in Germany for over a year
- Speak 3 foreign languages
- Passion for Internet research and news in general
- Will cite books for further research
- Please introduce yourself

# Goals of the class

- Class participation
- Feel free to raise your hand with comments at any time
- If you know more about a subject or disagree, don't hesitate to speak up!!
- Respect for each other
- Have you ever developed a bad habit?
- During the Pandemic I had to teach with a mask on.
- Since it was difficult to talk through a mask I relied too much on videos
- This class will not rely as much on video presentations and they will be short.

# Voting Schedule

**Voting in the November 3, 2026 General Election** 

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER OR UPDATE NAME/ADDRESS:**

|            |                           |               |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| October 05 | Board of Elections        | 8am-9pm       |
| October 05 | BMV                       | normal hours  |
| October 05 | Public Library            | normal hours  |
| October 05 | Online Reg/Address Change | until 11:59pm |

**VOTE EARLY IN PERSON AT BOE - 4700 SMITH RD 45212**

|          |       |     |               |
|----------|-------|-----|---------------|
| October  | 6-9   | T-F | 8am-5pm       |
| October  | 12-16 | M-F | 8am-5pm       |
| October  | 19-23 | M-F | 8am-5pm       |
| October  | 24    | Sat | 8am-4pm       |
| October  | 26    | M   | 7:30am-7:30pm |
| October  | 27    | T   | 7:30am-8:30pm |
| October  | 28-30 | W-F | 7:30am-7:30pm |
| October  | 31    | Sat | 8am-4pm       |
| November | 1     | Sun | 1pm-5pm       |

Fill out & submit an absentee application to get your ballot in the mail.  
Applications accepted **NOW** until 8:30 pm on October 27th.  
**We start mailing absentee ballots on October 6th, 2026.**  
All ballots must be returned to the BOE by 7:30pm on Election Day.

**ELECTION DAY** Tuesday, November 3 (Polls Open 6:30 am - 7:30 pm)

Call us at: 513-946-8500

Visit our Website: [VoteHamiltonCountyOhio.gov](https://VoteHamiltonCountyOhio.gov)

 @Hamilton County, Ohio Board of Elections  @Hamilton County Board of Elections  @VoteHamCoBOE  @hamiltoncountyboe

Rev.5/19/2026

# Make Sure You're Registered

- [votehamiltoncountyohio.gov](https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov)

# How did we get here?

- This class will look at the flaws in our system that got us where we are
- Our country is pretty isolated and we haven't developed through interaction with other countries
- We will look at other countries and what we might learn from their systems
- We will also look at other systems such as health care, law enforcement, Transportation, the economy and the issue of mass shootings
- There is a lot of interest in this type of class.
- There are two other classes with similar topics: 1001 Political Polarization History (Mon 9:30-10:45) ,1401 Finding Solutions to America's Problems and 2201 "On Tyranny" and "On Freedom" featuring books by Timothy Snyder
- Is anyone here attending either of those classes?

# Areas to Cover

- Political system
- Health Care system
- Mass murders (no long videos)
- Crime and police
- Transportation
- Economic problems
- Mail system and charities
- Class will include excerpts from videos and books for further reading

# Controversial class

- Much of this class will involve criticism of American institutions and what we could learn from how other societies handle these problems
- If you would take criticism of the United States personally, you may be offended by the content of this class.
- As a society we don't have as deep roots in our community of origin as many other countries where families have lived in the same region for centuries, have distinct dialects
- Therefore, people tend to identify with their political views more than perhaps other societies

# Country Ratings Worldwide

## Safest Countries

Finland  
Hong Kong  
Singapore  
Norway  
Switzerland  
Portugal  
Austria  
Sweden  
Spain  
Netherlands

## Highest Quality of Life

Netherlands  
Norway  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Australia  
Denmark  
Canada  
Finland  
UK  
Iceland

## Best For Children

Denmark  
Sweden  
Norway  
Finland  
Canada  
Netherlands  
Switzerland  
New Zealand  
Australia  
Austria

## Best Healthcare

Luxembourg  
Singapore  
Switzerland  
Japan  
Netherlands  
Sweden  
Hong Kong  
Australia  
Israel  
Germany

### Why are so many Americans under the illusion that the United States is the best place on Earth?

Most Americans cannot vacation abroad. If they did, they'd quickly discover they're being screwed. Unfortunately, they don't get enough paid time off and/or don't make near enough money for such a trip.



**It's NOT unpatriotic to want to make things better.**

# Politics and Government

- The Constitution
- Amendments
- The Electoral College
- The Influence of money
- Cost and length of Campaigns
- Republican/Democratic Duopoly
- Concentration in Media

# U.S. Constitution

- What was the purpose of the U.S. Constitution?
- Under the Brits we were 13 individual colonies
- The Articles of Confederation was the original constitution but the federal government had little power
- The government didn't even have the power to raise money to pay the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War
- The purpose of the constitution was to set up a central government
- Note that the southern states called themselves the Confederate States of America

# U.S. Constitution

- Revered by most Americans
- Sometimes we have to swear to defend and protect the constitution
- Does it have any flaws? Discussion
- It was written in 1787. The world has changed a great deal since then.
- In some ways it is vague
- A lot of concerns we have today didn't exist in 1787

# Bill of rights

- 1<sup>st</sup> freedom of religion and speech, no established religion, protest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> right to bear arms
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Homeowners may not be forced to quarter soldiers
- 4<sup>th</sup> no unreasonable search and seizure
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grand jury indictment, no double jeopardy, no self-incrimination

# Bill of rights

- 6<sup>th</sup> speedy trial
- 7<sup>th</sup> Civil suits where value exceeds \$20, right to trial by jury
- 8<sup>th</sup> no excessive bail no cruel and unusual punishment
- 9<sup>th</sup> Rights that are not enumerated are retained by the people
- 10<sup>th</sup> powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people
- What's missing?
- Right to travel (Cuba)
  - European Union constitution has the right to travel within the EU
- Privacy

# 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- Designed to protect privacy
- In 1787 you didn't have the following threats to privacy
- Identity theft
- Phishing schemes
- Flock cameras
- Malware
- Drones
- Data captured by social media

# Who can be President?

- What are the requirements under the constitution to be President?
- One of the following two people would be ineligible to run for President under the constitution: Jeffrey Dahmer and Paul McCartney
- Paul McCartney could not be president because he wasn't born in the United States
- No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.
- Why was birth in the U.S. so important?
- We had just achieved independence from Britain. Perhaps the founders were concerned the Brits would try to rule us by proxy (They did attack 25 years later)

# Why has it worked?

- For the most part, our country has respected the election process
- The Constitution isn't the reason: it's pretty vague
- "How Democracies Die" Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt (2018)
- Forbearance
  - It's more important to respect the electoral process than whether my side has control
  - Liz Cheney – right wing Republican
  - Georgia Secretary of State reported infamous Trump call to the media
- Levitsky's book talks about how democracies failed elsewhere and the danger in the United States

# Amendments

- 239 years later there have been only 27 amendments but 10 of those were included with the original constitution
- Difficult to amend
- 2/3 of the members of the House and Senate must approve plus the legislatures of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the states
- Alternative: two-thirds of the states could request a convention for purposes of proposing amendments
  - Slippery slope
  - vague

# Amendments in my lifetime

- When was the last amendment passed and what did it do?
- 1992
- If Congress gives itself a raise, that raise doesn't take effect until next congress
- [List of amendments to the Constitution of the United States – Wikipedia](#)
- Twenty-two 1951 limits president to two terms (Roosevelt) (1947) took 3 years 343 days to pass
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-second\\_Amendment\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_Constitution#:~:text=by%20the%20Congress,-Background,been%20debated%20in%20American%20politics.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-second_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution#:~:text=by%20the%20Congress,-Background,been%20debated%20in%20American%20politics.)
- Twenty-three 1961 Washington, DC voters can vote for President
- Twenty-four 1964 prohibit poll taxes used in the South to prevent Blacks and poor whites from voting
- Twenty-five 1967 presidential succession (who takes office if a president is unable to serve)
- Twenty-six 1971 18-year-old vote (If a citizen can be drafted to fight and possibly die for his country, the least we can do is let him vote (Vietnam era)
- Twenty-seven 1992 pay raise for congress passed by congress doesn't take effect until next congress.
- Equal rights Amendment didn't get ratified
- How many amendments will pass in the next 50 years?
- Trump wants to end birthright citizenship (14<sup>th</sup> amendment would need to be repealed)
- The courts have ruled against this so far

# Constitutional Convention

- Under Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is required to hold a constitutional convention if 2/3 of the state legislatures (34 states) call for one.
- Between 19 and 28 states have already called for one
- <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/articles/article-v>
- This would bypass the need for each house of Congress to approve the amendments with a 2/3 majority
- $\frac{3}{4}$  of the state legislatures would have to approve the amendments proposed by a constitutional convention
- How do you feel about the prospect of a constitutional convention?
- Perhaps Trump will pressure state legislatures to call one. He may push for an amendment allowing him a third term
- Could be used to outlaw abortions through the constitution

# Electoral College

- Written into the constitution
- Article 2, section 1
- The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted.
- The last sentence was the process Trump supporters tried to disrupt 1/6/21
- Note: political parties are not mentioned in the constitution
- One reason the Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominee are never from the same state

# Problems with electoral college

- All votes in the presidential election don't carry equal weight
- The number of electors equals the number of senators and representatives
- Since each state regardless of size gets two senators this gives the smaller state voters more say in the outcome. Each state is also guaranteed at least one representative (340 million Americans divided by 435 representatives equals one representative per 782,000 people)
- Each voter in Wyoming is represented by .0000005187 electors (587,000 people, 3 EV)
- Each voter in California is represented by .0000001376 electors (39.43 million, 54 EV)
- A Wyoming voter's vote counts 4 times as much as a Californian's vote
- Many are concerned that if everyone's vote counted equally, the voters in New York and California would control the election results
- In order to implement the constitution all 13 states had to sign off
- How many pieces of legislation pass with 100% of the votes
- Electoral college was a compromise to get the southern slave states to sign on. In Virginia, 60 percent of the inhabitants were slaves with high percentages in other Southern states
- Winner take all system in all states except Maine and Nebraska
- <https://www.history.com/news/electoral-college-founding-fathers-constitutional-convention>

# Problems with electoral college

- 2004 election a tale of two cities
- By law, television and radio stations are obligated to carry political ads by candidates and charge the lowest rate.
- Harrisburg, PA is in a tossup state with 19 electoral votes
- Baltimore, MD is in a safely democratic state with 10 electoral votes
- In Harrisburg, normal advertisers were unable to buy ad time. The presidential campaign took it all.
- In Baltimore, there was no presidential advertising.

# New political vocabulary

- To primary someone
- To recruit someone to run in the Republican primary to unseat a Republican who is not 100% loyal
- In many cases, the primary is the real election
- New Noun
- A Trumpcation
- Traveling to a foreign country or a remote area where one will not see, hear or hear of Donald Trump

# Democrats blew it!

- In my opinion the Democrats could have beaten Trump in 2016 and in 2024 with the right candidate
- Why Hillary in 2016? Unpopular no reason for her to get the nomination
- Two negatives movie “Hillary’s America” (RFH) and book “Clinton Cash” published May 5, 2015
- Movie “13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi” based on 9/11/2012 attack when Hillary was Secretary of State was released 1/12/2016
- In 2008 when Barack Obama was running Hillary refused to end her campaign
- I believe that Obama promised her his support if she would drop out
- An incumbent president largely controls the party apparatus
- Hillary’s message “It’s time for a woman president and I’m the one”
- No sound byte like MAGA
- She also thought Trump was so unpopular she could coast in.
- “Shattered Inside Hillary Clinton’s Doomed Campaign” by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes

# Democrats blew it, part 2

- While Biden originally said he wouldn't run for reelection, the fact that almost every president runs for re-election made him want to run again
- Biden selected Kamala Harris because he had promised the Vice Presidential candidate would be a woman
- DEI is a bad criteria to choose a president or vice president
- Harris was nominated out of the blue with no primary and little experience
- Democrats have neglected state politics: Bottoms up!
- <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/23/democrats-redistricting-problem-goes-much-deeper-00468638>
- We are captive to the two political parties

# Democrats Blew It

- All the campaign spending won't win an election for an unpopular candidate
- [https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisbeautiful/comments/kjimp0/us\\_presidential\\_election\\_spending\\_by\\_candidate/](https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisbeautiful/comments/kjimp0/us_presidential_election_spending_by_candidate/)
- Trump spent less money than his opponents
- Republicans focused on winning state legislatures since state legislatures control redistricting and redistricting has a great impact on who wins control of the House of Representatives
- Have Democrats taken their base for granted?
- Where is the liberal Charlie Kirk?

# Sound bytes win elections

- Who said this?
- Recession is when your neighbor loses his job, depression is when you lose yours and recovery is when Jimmy Carter loses his
- Ronald Reagan 1980
- George Bush talks a good game but he has no game plan
- Bill Clinton 1992
- The time has come to pass the torch to a new generation of Americans born in this century
- Jack Kennedy 1960

# A radical idea

- When companies create new products often they create focus groups to find out what potential customers like
- The Democrats need to find presidential candidates who appeal to the voters
- Why not set up focus groups to evaluate perspective presidential candidates?

# Problems with the Presidency

- Recently the focus has been on the man who occupies the White House
- Some other countries have a Prime Minister who is more of a servant-leader

# The Cult of the Presidency

- Other than Nixon, knowing that he would have been removed, no president has resigned from office during his term
- Almost all presidents have run for re-election
- Perhaps this tradition made it hard for Biden not to run for re-election
- Other than Biden, which president in our lifetime did not run for re-election?
- Lyndon Johnson announced on March 31, 1968 that he wouldn't run for re-election
- "I won't be the first president to lose a war"

# American Presidents

- American presidents always fill out their term unlike other countries
- Who was the only American president to resign before his term ended?
- Richard Nixon
- What had to happen before Nixon could be impeached?
- Spiro Agnew had to be charged with accepting kickbacks in exchange for government contracts
- Nixon resigned only after it was obvious that he would be removed through impeachment
- How about other countries?

# UK – six PMs in last 10 years

- Does this seem like chaos compared to our system?
- David Cameron proposed the Brexit referendum, hoping that the Brits would vote to stay in the EU
- When they voted leave he resigned (3:32)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXNV3Ad0qQ0>
- Theresa May unable to accomplish Brexit, resigned
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJlv3yzC430>
- Boris Johnson was forced out over partying during the pandemic
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnuVrYpEge4>
- Keir Starmer is the latest to resign
- [LIVE: Keir Starmer announces resignation as UK prime minister \(full speech\)](#)

# Germany and France Resignations

- In 1974, German Chancellor Willie Brandt resigned within days when it came out that a Soviet spy had penetrated his inner circle
- On this side of the Atlantic Watergate droned on and on
- In 1968 Charles De Gaul said he would resign if a referendum didn't pass
- The French said “au revoir, Charles”

# British Deputy PM Resigns

- Deputy Prime Minister resigns after admitting to underpaying property tax on 2<sup>nd</sup> home
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpCmWEOjADU>
- The rule of law exists in England
- We have a president who doesn't obey the law.
- Lawlessness is as American as cherry pie
- Think of all the outlaw/heroes in the old west and the corrupt sheriffs
- Bill O'Reilly "Killing the Mob"

# Order of Succession

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_presidential\\_line\\_of\\_succession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_line_of_succession)
- There is a list of 17 people that would be in line to become president.
- What is the likelihood that the Secretary of Homeland Security would become President?
- [Topical Bible: Seven Brothers](#)
- This is outlined in the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the constitution which also includes a process whereby the President says he can no longer continue in office or the Vice President and the majority of the cabinet says he can no longer serve
- <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xxv>
- What happens in England when a Prime Minister resigns?
- He stays on until his party designates a successor
- Keir Starmer resigned on June 22, 2026.
- Starmer stayed on until July 20, 2026 when Andy Burnham became Prime Minister

# Law of unintended consequences

- Traveling by air soon?
- Perhaps you will visit one of Al Queda's shopping malls
- What ?!!
- As a result of the September 11 attacks, security was beefed up at airports and passengers were urged to arrive 2 to 3 hours early
- What will they do when they sail through security in 10 minutes?
- Chances are good that they will go shopping
- Anyone familiar with Malcolm Gladwell?

# The housing bill

- <https://www.bing.com/search?q=housing+bill+2026&form=ANNTH1&refig=6a553763613d47268d8ee93e3ab30971&pc>
- Why didn't Trump veto it?
- His veto would have been overridden
- Most of the primaries were over so he could not threaten to primary Republican congressmen and senators who didn't vote his way

# What about the VP?

- Even if the president is removed a hand-picked vice president takes over
- How many people want to see J.D. Vance become President?
- Some VPs are chosen to rally the more extreme elements in the Presidential candidate's party: Spiro Agnew, Dan Quayle, Sarah Palin
- Some good vice presidents who became presidents: Lyndon Johnson, Harry Truman, George H.W. Bush.
- They had to get rid of Spiro Agnew before impeaching Nixon
- In England, when a prime minister resigns, he stays on until his party can appoint a successor
- Surprisingly 70 other countries have a vice president

# Presidential Election Controversies

- 2020 “Get me 11,000 votes!” (Trump to the Georgia Secretary of State)
- 2016 Hillary Clinton 65.8 million votes, Donald Trump 62.9 million
- 2000 Presidential election decided by the Supreme Court one month later
- In 1992, Bill Clinton won with 43% of the popular vote
- 1960 John Kennedy wins the White House. Charges of voter fraud in Chicago IL may have thrown the election to Kennedy (“Killing the Mob” by Bill O’Reilly)
- What do all these contests have in common?

# Does my vote really count

- Due to the electoral college, most of the campaigning in the 2024 Presidential election was done in seven swing states: Arizona Georgia Michigan North Carolina Nevada Pennsylvania Wisconsin
- [Almost All \(94%\) of 2024 Presidential Campaign was Concentrated on 7 States | National Popular Vote](#)

# Presidential Trivia

- What President in our lifetimes was never elected either as President or Vice President?
- Gerald Ford was appointed to replace Spiro Agnew as V.P.
- Ford pardoned Nixon
- Jerald terHorst, President Ford's press secretary resigned in protest
- It wasn't because Ford pardoned Nixon but because he didn't extend the pardon to lower-level officials: Chuck Colson
- Die Kleinen hängt man, die Grossen lässt man laufen
- The little people get hanged while the big people get off scott free

Auction or Election?

- Campaign Finance

# Cost of American Elections

- [US election spending exceeds GDP of numerous countries | The Hill](#)
- <https://www.mic.com/articles/118598/7-facts-from-the-around-the-world-show-how-absurd-america-s-elections-really-are>
- Longest campaign in Canadian history was 10 weeks
- In the UK, political parties can only spend \$30 million in the year before an election
- In 2025 I started getting requests for donations for those running in 2026
- **Official election cycle.** The 2025–2026 federal election cycle officially began the day after the November 2024 election. This allows candidates to legally raise funds specifically for the upcoming 2026 primary and general elections.
- **Contribution limits.** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) sets new, inflation-adjusted contribution limits for each two-year cycle. For 2025–2026, individuals can contribute up to \$3,500 per election (primary and general are separate) to a candidate.
- As I remember the individual contribution limit used to be \$100 in the 60's and 70's

# Use of Political Donations

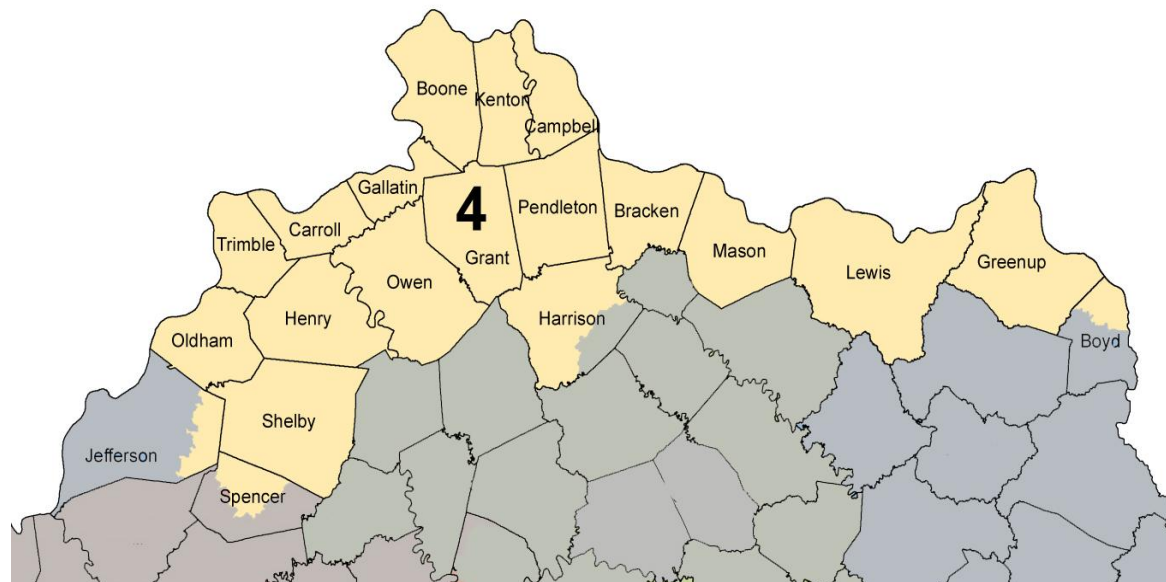
- Much of it is used to buy negative ads on the commercial media
- How many of you watch news on a regular basis on the commercial stations?
- View ship of local newscasts is declining
- This report shows a decline in May 2024
- [May ratings reveal continuing drop in local news, primetime viewing | WVXU](#)

# Ohio Senate Race

- One of two U.S. Senate races where Trump won in both 2016 and 2020 in which Democratic Senators sought re-election
- <https://adim pact.com/blogs/blog/2024-ohio-senate-general-election>
- Most expensive Senate race in 2024 with \$483.4 million spent in total and the highest for any non-Presidential election on record
- Almost \$88 was spent for each vote cast
- Trump won the state by 11.21%, Brown lost by 3.62%
- 60 to 70% of the commercials in the local newscasts were for this race
- How many saw the commercials? Did they change anyone's mind?
- In Montana's Senate race \$459 was spent for each vote cast.

# 2026 Kentucky 4<sup>th</sup> District

- Donald Trump recruited Ed Gallrein to run against Thomas Massey who didn't vote with him 100% of the time
- Ky 4<sup>th</sup> district Republican primary
- [Inside the record-breaking spending in the Massie, Gallrein race](#)
- \$32 million spent: the most expensive congressional primary in history
- How many people here were eligible to vote in that primary?
- Did all of this money influence anyone's vote?
- In one half hour of news the day before the primary there were about 20 ads for this campaign
- How many people were so sick of those ads that they stopped watching television altogether?



# 2026 Ohio Races

- Former Ohio Senator Sherod Brown (D) will be running against Jon Husted who was appointed to J.D. Vance's seat
- Brown may be able to win without the top of the ticket
- Governor's race – Republicans have held the governorship for the last 51 years except Dick Celest (1983-91) and Ted Strickland (2007-2011)  
Both Democratic governors won in time of recession
- Amy Acton (who worked with DeWine during the Pandemic) versus Vivek Ramaswamy (a Trump supporter)

# Ohio Governorship for sale?

- [Massive spending gap in Ohio governor race: Ramaswamy drops \\$9M on ads, Acton spends just \\$100K • Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- In addition to raising \$5 million in the first quarter, Ramaswamy cut his campaign a check for \$25 million. That's separate from the Super PAC supporting Ramaswamy, which has raised another \$29.5 million thus far.
- [Elon Musk puts \\$5 million behind ex-DOGE partner Vivek Ramaswamy's governor bid - cleveland.com](#)
- Will all this spending buy the governorship?
- [Analysis: Cook Political Report moves Ohio governor race to 'toss up' | WVXU](#)
- Although he is a Trump supporter he has not mentioned Trump in his ads.
- In my 46 years as an Ohio resident only two Democrats have been governor

# Spending Higher this year

- Billionaires have heavily contributed to Republican campaigns
- Democrats, in response, have been sending out long texts including links asking to contribute to candidates all over the country.
- Has your phone been blown up by such requests?
- Here's a partial record of my calls
- What do you think of this strategy?
- These may be AI-generated. Sometimes blocking one number causes the text to morph to another number.



# Is this spending working?

- Much of the spending is on television ads, most of them negative about the other candidate.
- How many people here watch commercial television news regularly?
- Viewership of local newscasts is declining
- [May ratings reveal continuing drop in local news, primetime viewing | WVXU](#)
- Spending on political campaigns diverts money from many needs around the world (natural disasters, wars, food insecurity, diseases)

# Money wins races

- [Campaign finance in the United States - Wikipedia](#)

# What is CPV?

- From a text from a candidate for Congress
- “Our field team estimates the cost per vote (CPV) is \$24
- “Could you you make a donation of the price of one Louisiana vote \$24...”

# A safe district for Republicans

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Ohio

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio%27s\\_2nd\\_congressional\\_district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio%27s_2nd_congressional_district)
- 2024 election results from second district: 73.6% for Republican David Taylor, 26.4% for Democrat Samantha Meadows
- 2022 Republican candidate (Brad Wenstrup) 74.5% of the vote, Democrat (Samantha Meadows) 25.5%
- 2020 Republican candidate received 61.1%, Democrat 38.9%
- Unfortunately, the 2<sup>nd</sup> district of Ohio is far from unique

# Safe Districts

- Almost 85% of the districts were not competitive in the 2024 election
- <https://www.uniteamerica.org/articles/research-brief-why-are-most-congressional-elections-uncompetitive>
- Major committee assignments in the House of Representatives are decided by seniority.
- Guess who has the most seniority: Congressmen from noncompetitive districts
- 10 congressional districts may determine control of the House of Representatives in the 2026 election
- <https://www.governing.com/politics/ten-house-districts-define-the-narrow-2026-battleground>

- Redistricting and Gerrymandering

# Redistricting

- US Supreme Court decision Wesberry v Sanders in 1964 that districts in the U.S. House of Representatives must be roughly equal in population (Warren court)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesberry v. Sanders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesberry_v._Sanders)
- The number of U.S. representatives is fixed at 435.
- This means faster growing states often gain representatives and slower growing states lose some
- As a result of the 2020 census Ohio went from 16 to 15 representatives

# Redistricting (2)

- The apportionment of the number of representatives per state is relatively non-controversial as it is based on math
- If all incumbents run for re-election one representative would lose his or her seat so there is probably some maneuvering among incumbents to run in a “safe” district.
- The controversy concerns drawing of Congressional districts within each state.
- Widespread data about voting patterns is available and many precincts are very predictable

# Gerrymandering

- This means packing districts so that your party gets the most districts
- You could pack all of the voters of one party or race into a single district so that your party would take the rest of the districts
- The Republicans are gerrymandering Texas because they have a razor thin margin in the House and incumbent presidents typically lost seats in an off-year election
- In 2018 Democrats gained control of the House and Trump was impeached.

# Book on Gerrymanders

- “Ratf\*\*\*: Why Your Vote Doesn’t Count” by David Daley
- Book/ebook chronicles the Republican use of election mapping software to increase the number of Republican Congressmen and state assemblymen out of proportion to vote totals
- Voter result software shows which precincts have voted Republican and which have voted Democrat in previous elections
- The map makers (controlled by Republicans who control the state assembly) pack Democrats in one district which is 85% Democrat and create two more districts that are 55% to 60% Republican
- Result: Republicans elect two congressmen, Democrats only one
- Thus the Republicans can capture the majority of Congressmen in a state even if more voters voted for the Democrats

# Gerrymandering

- During the Obama years the Republicans gained 10 governorships by 2014 to control 32 of the 50 governorships and they controlled 33 of 49 state houses and 35 of 49 state senates
- Redistricting is generally controlled by the state legislature
- In the 2011 redistricting following the 2010 census the Republicans using REDMAP software gerrymandered the congressional districts in several states so that they would have more seats
- The Democrats under the Obama administration were asleep at the switch. They didn't realize that redistricting controlled by the state determines who controls Congress

# Gerrymandering

- In addition to determine control of Congress, gerrymandering reduces the number of competitive seats by giving one side an overwhelming advantage
- The party primary then becomes the real election
- Republicans can fall victim to more extremely conservative Republicans in the primary and Democrats to more extreme Liberals in their primary
- This happened in my district several years ago with Gene Schmidt
- Liz Cheney was primaried out of her seat because she spoke out against Trump
- One possible way to eliminate gerrymandering: at large districts

# A blatant case: Utah

- Utah has one large city: Salt Lake City and 4 representatives
- Salt Lake City voters, like urban voters elsewhere, tend to vote Democratic
- Rural voters tend to vote Republican
- Republican-controlled legislature divided Salt Lake City into four districts, each of which has a majority of rural, Republican voters
- Republicans won all districts by wide margins
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMWPfTle6XY>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/judge-rules-utahs-legislature-must-redraw-states-congressional-map-for-2026-elections>

# Gerrymandering in Ohio

- Ohio has 10 Republican Congressmen, 5 Democrats (67%)
- Republicans received 56.47% of the votes, Democrats 43.43%
- Issue 1 in 2024 was supposed to set up a non-partisan commission for redistricting
- Despite a valiant petition effort, it failed
- Todd LaRosa, Secretary of State, a Republican, controlled the wording of the issue on the ballot, making it look complicated
- The entire issue was posted on a wall at the polls
- When voters are uncertain about an issue, they generally vote no

# Commission of Citizens to draw up districts

- This has not always worked
- It worked in Iowa
- One solution would be at-large districts
- Cincinnati has this with city council

# Mid-decade gerrymandering

- July 2025 Trump, afraid of losing his majority in the House, urged Texas Republicans to redraw House districts to favor Republicans
- In August Texas Governor Gregg Abbott signed a bill that enacted a new Congressional map that shifted five Democratic districts to Republican-leaning districts
- The Republican controlled legislature approved these new maps
- Democrats responded in other states
- [Redistricting in Texas ahead of the 2026 elections - Ballotpedia](#)

# The 2000 Election and Ranked Choice Voting

- Electoral college votes go to whoever wins a plurality of votes
- Many elections have been won with less than 50% of the popular vote
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000\\_United\\_States\\_presidential\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_presidential_election)
- Neither candidate got 50% of the popular vote
- Full election results
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-2000>
- Maine became the first state to adopt ranked choice voting (explained below)

# 2000 Election

- Chances are Nader took more votes from Gore than from Bush
- Hypothetical ranked choice voting
- Voter chooses 1. Ralph Nader 2. Al Gore 3. George W. Bush
- Nader finishes third so he is taken out
- Those who voted for Nader are switched to their second choice: Gore
- This continues until one candidate has a majority of votes
- Alternative solution used in many countries: run off elections

# 2000 Election were hanging chads really the problem?

- Florida's electoral votes were crucial and the results were very close
- News media concentrated on vote counts in a few precincts but there were other factors
- There were about 1.5 million anti-Castro Cuban refugees in Florida at this time
- Elían Gonzalez, a five year old Cuban refugee, was returned to Cuba on the wishes of his father on June 28,2000 (his mother drowned)
- Many anti-Castro Cuban refugees were angry with the Clinton-Gore administration about this
- If 51% of those refugees voted for Bush, that really decided the 2000 election, not hanging chads

# What is voter suppression?

- It isn't the sheriff preventing Blacks from voting or using poll taxes or literacy tests to prevent them from voting as happened in the old South
- The same software that creates gerrymandered districts also shows voting patterns by race, ethnic group, etc.
- If the software shows that most Blacks are voting by mail three weeks before the election or are using utility bills rather than driver's licenses as their means of identification they can change the circumstances or requirements for voting in the name of combatting "voter fraud" (which is extremely rare)
- Ohio once allowed utility bills as a means of identification. They are no longer valid
- Proof of citizenship?

# Winner take all system alternatives

- If 51% of the voters choose, the other 49% are disenfranchised
- Proportional representation
  - Used in most other countries
  - Seats in legislatures are divided up in proportion to the votes received by each party
- German system
  - Half the legislature is elected by district
  - The other half by PR nationwide
    - Each party receives seats from a list so that the composition of the legislature matches the percentage of votes gained by each party

# Winner take all alternatives

- Preference voting or ranked choice voting
  - Voters rank their choices
  - If no one gets a majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes gets his votes redistributed according to supporters' second choice
  - Redistributions continue until someone gets a majority
- Runoff elections
  - Some countries have a runoff election if no one gets a majority in the initial election
    - France
    - Brazil
- Source “Great American Political Repair Manual” by Sam Smith

# Why elections in November?

- <https://www.history.com/news/why-is-election-day-a-tuesday-in-november>
- 1845 law
- Many Americans were farmers who lived a long way from polling places
- Tuesday because farmers didn't travel on Sunday and wanted to be back for Wednesday market day
- Early November is after most harvests are in and before bad weather in most parts of the U.S.
- Personal gripe: because elections are on a week day, polls have to open at 6:30 AM so people can vote before work
- Until recently, you had to prove that you were unable to vote on election day due to circumstances beyond your control. You had to find time in your busy work schedule to vote.

# Voter turnout in the U.S.

- Voter turnout in the U.S. lower than many other countries
- <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/01/turnout-in-u-s-has-soared-in-recent-elections-but-by-some-measures-still-trails-that-of-many-other-countries/>
- Turnout is lower in midterm elections
- [https://ballotpedia.org/Voter turnout in United States elections](https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_turnout_in_United_States_elections)
- Democrats don't vote as much in midterm elections
- While 94.1% of registered voters turned out in the 2020 presidential election, only 62.8% of the voting age population turned out.
- In Uruguay, 90.1% of the voting age population turned out.
- Australia, which fines those who don't vote, 84.6% of registered voters voted and 76.0 % of the voting age population

# American resistance to change

- Oldest constitution (1787)
- Elections based on 1845 law (horse and buggy age)
- We still use the English system of measurements while almost all other countries use the metric system
- Complaints about twice-a-year one hour time change
- Citizens want to dismantle a township because of roundabouts
- Where have Americans embraced change?
- Technology

# Why Americans Afraid of Change

- To resist change is human
- Americans haven't been forced to change like people in other countries
- No invasion of American since 1812 (look at Europe)
- Same political system with minor changes
- Big, isolated country means we encounter relatively few non-Americans

# Why are candidates so old?

- Before Biden dropped out in 2024, we would have had to choose from the same two old men who ran in 2020
- Most voters don't do a lot of research on Presidential candidates
- Primary system makes it hard for younger candidates with less name recognition to raise money
- Those who don't do well in Iowa and New Hampshire have money dry up
- New Hampshire and Iowa are not typical states
- Iowa Blacks 3.86%, New Hampshire 1.4%
- Exception: Barack Obama won at 47 years old, Kennedy at 43 (before primaries)

# 2016 Republican Primary Elections

- In 2016 the Democrats were in charge and the Republicans had no front-runner candidate
- [Republican presidential nomination, 2016 – Ballotpedia](#)
- In the primary system, candidates who don't do well in the early primaries lose funding and are forced to drop out
- Most were surprised when Trump won.
- Trump had name recognition
- He captured the attention of the mass media with outrageous statement (Mexican rapists)

# 2016 dropout dates

- **September 21, 2015:** Scott Walker
- **November 17, 2015:** Bobby Jindal
- **December 21, 2015:** Lindsey Graham
- **December 29, 2015:** George Pataki
- **February 3, 2016:** Rick Santorum
- **February 10, 2016:** Carly Fiorina, Chris Christie
- **February 20, 2016:** Jeb Bush
- **March 4, 2016:** Ben Carson
- **March 15, 2016:** Marco Rubio
- **May 3, 2016:** Ted Cruz
- **May 4, 2016:** John Kasic

Election fatigue

# Too many elections

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/08/american-election-frequency-voter-turnout/675054/>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/>
- It's always election season in America: 90,000 local governing bodies
  - We have too many elections, for too many offices on too many days
  - Americans are asked to fill numerous and obscure executive, legislative, and judicial positions
- There are many off-cycle elections (August in Ohio)
- Senior citizens have high turnout, 18 to 34 voters low
- Who said this: "With off-cycle elections, the side that wins is often the one that has a vested interest in the passage of the issue up for consideration"
- Frank LaRose who opposed off-cycle elections and then rammed one through in August 2023
- Turnout often low for off-cycle elections, as low as 15%
- Even in August, 2023 in Ohio only 34 % of voting-age citizens voted
- 2020 61% of city races, 78% of county races, 62% of school board races and 84% of judicial races were uncontested
- When voters disappear, special interests rush in

# Too many polls

- Media keeps running polls and reporting results
- Candidates send texts “I’m down 3 points in the polls”. I urgently need donations
- The only poll that really counts is the election!

# Too much on the ballot

- Many people go to the polls not knowing what's on their ballot
- Here's how to see your ballot
- <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/sample-ballot/>
- League of Women voters publishes a guide to elections
- <https://www.lwvohio.org/>
- League of women voter guides aren't available yet
- A German election ballot

# Elections Elsewhere

# English Elections

- Six weeks between the prime minister calling a general election and the election itself
- Strict spending limits \$1,845,098 or 54,010 pounds times the number of seats the party is contesting
- No political advertising allowed on TV and radio in the U.K.
- Candidates aren't as old. British PM Andy Burnham is 56 years old, Kire Starmer was 61
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/04/how-british-election-races-are-very-different-from-american-ones.html>

# A German Election ballot

| Erststimme |                                                                                                                                | Zweitstimme           |                                                                                                                                                                             |   |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1          | <b>Hiller, Ulrike</b><br>Erzieherin<br>Bremen<br><b>SPD</b><br>Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands                         | <input type="radio"/> | Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands<br><b>SPD</b><br>Ulrike Hiller, Uwe Schmidt, Anke Kozlowski,<br>Pascal Lars Robin Schmidt, Luisa Greenlees<br>BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN | 1 |
| 2          | <b>Dr. Kappert-Gonthier, Kirsten</b><br>Ärztin<br>Bremen<br><b>GRÜNE</b><br>BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN                              | <input type="radio"/> | <b>GRÜNE</b><br>Dr. Kirsten Kappert-Gonthier, Michael Labetzke,<br>Josephine Talena Assmus, Emanuel Herold, Elena Schiller<br>Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands   | 2 |
| 3          | <b>Röwekamp, Thomas</b><br>Rechtsanwalt und<br>Notar<br>Bremen<br><b>CDU</b><br>Christlich Demokratische Union<br>Deutschlands | <input type="radio"/> | <b>CDU</b><br>Thomas Röwekamp, Sandra Schmall, Mario Sander-von Torklus,<br>Jessica Gorontzy, Dr. Marc-André Heidelmann<br>Freie Demokratische Partei                       | 3 |
| 4          | <b>Dr. Redder, Volker</b><br>Unternehmer<br>Bremen<br><b>FDP</b><br>Freie Demokratische Partei                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <b>FDP</b><br>Dr. Volker Redder, Tiara Behrmann, Bettina Schiller, Paul Siems,<br>Jule Wohlers<br>Die Linke                                                                 | 4 |
| 5          | <b>Achelwilm, Doris</b><br>Angestellte<br>Bremen<br><b>Die Linke</b><br>Die Linke                                              | <input type="radio"/> | <b>Die Linke</b><br>Doris Achelwilm, Dariush Hassanpour Fard Khorashad,<br>Anna Fischer, Christian Glöde, Elena Budinski<br>Alternative für Deutschland                     | 5 |
| 6          | <b>Minich, Sergej</b><br>Wirtschaftsingenieur<br>Bremen<br><b>AfD</b><br>Alternative für Deutschland                           | <input type="radio"/> | <b>AfD</b><br>Sergej Minich, Jürgen Hauschild, Arno Staschevski,                                                                                                            | 6 |

# Pity the poor congressman

- In order to achieve checks and balances the constitution mandated a six-year term for Senators, four-year for the President, while Congress terms last only two years
- This means that congressmen are always fundraising
- In 2024 the average congressman raised \$2.1 million dollars but in Georgia's 7<sup>th</sup> district in 2020 \$14 million was spent
- <https://www.termlimits.com/congress-fundraising-priority/>
- The seniority system for committee assignments favors congressman from safe seats.

# Dark Money

- Citizens United v FEC
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens\\_United\\_v.\\_FEC#:~:text=The%20court%20held%205%E2%80%934,labor%20unions%2C%20and%20other%20associations.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._FEC#:~:text=The%20court%20held%205%E2%80%934,labor%20unions%2C%20and%20other%20associations.)
  - The US Supreme Court held 5-4 that the freedom of speech clause of the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from restricting independent expenditures for political campaigns by corporations, including nonprofit corporations, labor unions and other associations
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqhDHLgTJGw>
- Front line PBS
- While some are concerned that weighing everyone's vote equally will result in dominance of large states over small states, the real problem is that small states are very vulnerable to large amounts of money swooping in.
- [Big Sky, Big Money | FRONTLINE | PBS | Official Site | Documentary Series](#)
- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/archives-citizens-united-campaign-spending-documentary/>
- In 2015, the donations of 400 super wealthy families composed nearly half of public disclosed presidential financing

# Pink Journalism in Ohio

- This was the issue that would have required 5% of all voters in every single county sign a petition for it to get on the ballot
- During the August 2023 issue 1 campaign a document showed up in people's mail which pretended to be a newspaper
- <https://www.wcpo.com/news/government/local-politics/experts-buckeye-reporter-showing-up-in-ohio-mailboxes-isnt-what-it-appears-to-be>
- [What is pink-slime journalism, how to recognize it and how to avoid it | WVXU](#)

# Republican-Democratic Duopoly

# The System is Rigged!

- Who was the last President who wasn't a Republican or a Democrat?
- Andrew Johnson who succeeded Lincoln after his assassination
- Who was the last third party candidate to win ANY electoral votes?
- George Wallace who ran as an American independent in 1968
- Before him, Strom Thurmond as a Dixiecrat in 1964.
- The need to win a majority in at least one state or district makes it almost impossible for any third party to get traction
- Most other countries have more than two parties and some are ruled by a head of state who belongs to a new party

# Third parties?

- Had Biden not dropped out voters would have had to choose between the same two old men who stood for election in 2020
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/03/increasingly-dissatisfied-voters-favor-getting-a-third-party-choice.html>
- Basically, the two things that prevent third parties from gaining traction are the winner take all system and the tremendous cost of American political campaigns
- In France, Emmanuel Macron, the president, formed his own political party, Renaissance
- Germany is ruled by a coalition consisting of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU, conservative), the Christian Social Union (CSU, conservative, Bavaria) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD, Liberal)
- Does a coalition government seem chaotic to Americans?

# Changes that would make Third Parties more feasible

- Replace single-member districts with proportional representation
- In Germany, voters vote for the party. Parliament seats are apportioned by party according to the percentage of votes won by the party. Parties gaining more than 5% of the vote are represented
- Majority elections
  - This could be done via ranked choice voting or a runoff election if no candidate receives a majority

# Congress flexes its fiscal muscle

- Congress uses its control of money to force states to take certain actions which the constitution gives the states
- Congress passes a law that federal highway money will be withheld from any state not taking a mandated action
- In the 70's it was used to force the states to adopt the 55 MPH speed limit (reserve clause – 10<sup>th</sup> amendment)
- 1984 National Minimum Drinking Age Act forced all states to adopt 21 as the minimum drinking age as pushed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- The courts upheld Congress' use of the power of the purse
- May have opened the door for Trump to use it many times

# Judiciary

- Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution describes the judiciary
- [The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription | National Archives](#)
- Why lifetime appointment? Good behavior clause
- Nine Supreme Court justices named by the President and confirmed by the Senate Why 9?
- The Judiciary Act of 1869 set that number. It had fluctuated before.
- Fairly diverse – six Caucasians and three non-Caucasians there is one Jew – four women – six are Catholic – only one Protestant
- Donald Trump diversified the Supreme Court. How?
- Eight of nine went to Harvard or Yale Law School
- Amy Coney Barrett from Notre Dame is the only justice not from Harvard or Yale
- Selected from a fairly exclusive group
- Appointed by the President with consent of the Senate
- Is the final arbiter of legal questions but gets to decide which cases they take

# Problems with the court

- Supreme Court hears fewer and fewer cases
- Used to review almost all cases sent to it
- Judiciary Act of 1925 gave the court discretion to select cases
- 1980's the court decided over 160 cases per year
- Early 2000's this was reduced to about 85 per year
- Recent years down to 50-60 cases
- This leaves power with lower courts

# Unequal influence of Presidents

- Presidents who get to appoint Supreme Court justices influence the course of events for many years afterwards
- Presidents and the number of justices appointed:
- Eisenhower (8 years – 5 justices) Kennedy (3 ½ years – 2 justices)
- Johnson (5 years – 4 justices) Nixon (5 ½ years – 5 justices)
- Ford (2 ½ years – 1 justice) Carter (4 years – 0 justices)
- Reagan (8 years – 5 justices) George H W Bush (4 years – 2 justices)
- Clinton (8 years – 2 justices) G.W. Bush (8 years- 2 justices)
- Obama (8 years – 2 justices) Trump ( 4 years- 3 justices – 1 stolen)
- Biden (4 years – 1 justice)

# Biggest damn thing I ever did!

- Who said this? (SCOTUS)
- President Dwight Eisenhower after he appointed Earl Warren Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Eisenhower thought he was appointing a conservative. Warren was liberal
- Miranda decision required police to read the rights of anyone being arrested.
- Supreme Court justices are a check and balance on the executive and legislative branches, not servants of the President

# Right wing takeover of Courts

- “The Scheme: How the Right Wing Used Dark Money to Capture the Supreme Court
- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse from Rhode Island
- Right wing control could get worse and won’t end soon
- Age of Supreme Court Justices
- [Clarence Thomas](#): 76 Conservative
- [Samuel Alito](#): 75 Conservative
- [Sonia Sotomayor](#): 71 liberal
- [John Roberts](#): 71 Conservative
- [Elena Kagan](#): 65 liberal
- [Brett Kavanaugh](#): 60 Conservative Trump
- [Neil Gorsuch](#): 58 Conservative Trump
- [Amy Coney Barrett](#): 54 Conservative Trump
- [Ketanji Brown Jackson](#): 55 Liberal
- 3 of the four youngest justice are conservative

# Court system problems

- It often takes years for a case to wind its way up to the Supreme Court and lots of legal fees
- Lower court rulings may contradict each other
- The American Civil Liberties Union funds appeals through the court system
- Example: for years people could be picked up for vagrancy: hanging around an area with no visible means of support. Someone had to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court to get vagrancy laws declared unconstitutional
- Still some problems for homeless people

# Concentration in the Media

- Recently ABC suspended The Jimmy Kimmel show over comments he made about Charlie Kirk's murder. The show was restored after massive protests.
- The decision was motivated by threats by FCC chairman Brendan Carr, a strong Trump supporter, and the decision by Nexstar Media and Sinclair Broadcasting not to carry the show
- <https://www.nexstar.tv/stations/>
- It wants to merge with Tegna which has 64 news stations
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tegna\\_Inc.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tegna_Inc.)
- <https://sbgi.net/tv-stations/>
- Nexstar owns or partners 200 stations in 116 markets reaching 220 million people.
- Sinclair is also powerful. It owns channel 12 and programs channel 64

# Concentration in the Media

- Before 1984, an organization could only own 14 radio stations and seven television stations
- This limit has been raised several times
- <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/fccs-review-broadcast-ownership-rules>
- 220 million is more than 39% but UHF stations are assumed to reach only 50% of the market

# Jimmy Kimmel interview with Texas Senate candidate James Talerico

- Trump administration claimed the interview violated the Fairness Doctrine
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairness\\_doctrine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairness_doctrine)
- Stations were required to be open to all points of view
- It was abolished in 1987 by the Reagan administration
- This paved the way for Conservative talk shows like the Rush Limbaugh program
- Stations are required to air political ads from all parties
- [laws requiring television stations to carry political ads - Search](#)

# Change averse

- Our society has welcomed many technological change, it resists political change
- Major changes: all required a major fight
- Abolition of slavery 1865
- Women being able to vote
- Social security
- Civil rights movement
- Medicare
- Most new immigrant groups have had to struggle against discrimination before being accepted
- Court-initiated changes
  - Legalized abortions (rescinded)
  - LGBT marriage

# Women's suffrage movement

- An example of how averse to change our system is.
- 50 years to get women the vote, almost a century to get Black women the vote.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj1UQuJrXI>

# What can we do?

- Common Cause: <https://www.commoncause.org/about-us/>
- League of Women Voters: <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights>
- American Civil Liberties Union: <https://www.aclu.org/>
- Follow Ralph Nader, Heather Cox-Richardson, and other blogs
- Inform yourself with magazines such as “The Atlantic”
- A constitutional amendment to limit campaign spending thus overriding *Citizens United*
- Follow foreign media since Trump has intimidated the American media
- 9 AM BBC news WVXU 6 pm BBC World News WCET 6:30 The Day (German, WCET)
- Write congressmen, senators
- Read books like Nader’s “Breaking Through Power”
- <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040.pdf>

# What can we do?

- It is tempting to try to talk your friends who take the opposite position over to your side
- Remember that the only way to end the current presidency is removal by impeachment. Even if you could win your friends over to your side, it wouldn't change anything
- Find common ground
- Anyone like these endless elections?
- Who looks forward to all of the negative ads?

Whose house is this?



# The Coat of Many Colors

- [Dolly Parton - Coat Of Many Colors](#)
- America is still the land of opportunity

# Next week

- The Health Care system
  - Highest costs in the world but results limited
  - How do other nation's health systems compare