



***Becoming One Indivisible
Nation In the Era of
Divisiveness***

Class 1

April 23 – May 28

Bob Viney

My Purpose – Lead Positive Change in Politics, Citizenship, and Government: Restoring the Mission of Service to Country and New levels of Transparency and Accountability in Governing

- Re-Married, 2 Sons, 3 Step Sons, 2 Step Grandchildren
- U.S. Navy – Nuclear Subs – Vietnam War – Cold War -- Team Leader – Trainer – Teacher
- Corporate Executive – Large Business Growth – International Business – Small Business
- Business and Executive Coach, Non-Profit Executive, Adjunct Professor at UC
- Author, Submarine Cincinnati Memorial Association, Hydrogen Refueling Company Leadership Council
- Frequent Presenter at Miami ILR, UC OLLI and UD OLLI Programs



Let's Learn about YOU!

How Many Here (Show of Hands in Class; Insert in Comment Section if On Line):

➤ **County of Residency:**

Warren, Butler, Hamilton, Montgomery, Clermont

➤ **Experience with OLLI Courses**

First, Second, Third, Fourth or More

Let's Learn about the Group!

How Many Here (Show of Hands in Class; Click Raise Hand if On Line):

- ▶ **Ever Taken Oath of Office to “Preserve, Protect and Defend” the Constitution?**
- ▶ **Last time read Constitution and Declaration of Independence? This year; more than 5 years; more than 10 years; never?**

Background

Key Questions

How do you feel about the state of politics and governing today?
(Show of Hands)

- (a) Unifying and Effective – Living Up to our Pledge of Allegiance
- (b) Dysfunctional and Divisive – No Longer One Indivisible Nation

Do we need some degree of reform in order to restore our National Unity, and make our governing more effective?

- (a) Some small degree of reform
- (b) Major or complete reform

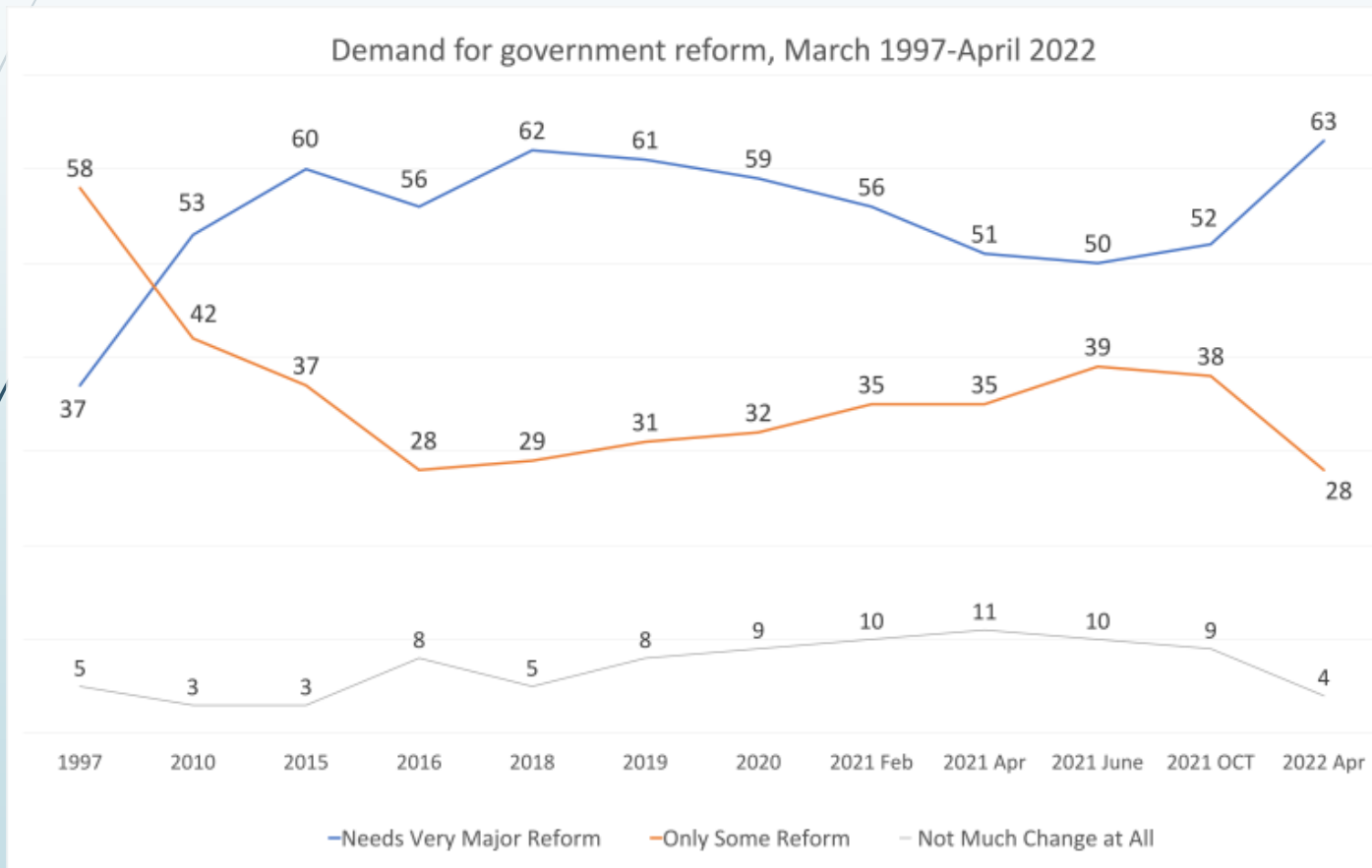
Do you trust the government to solve problems, and “do the right thing”?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Let's see how you compare to a national poll of citizens

Background

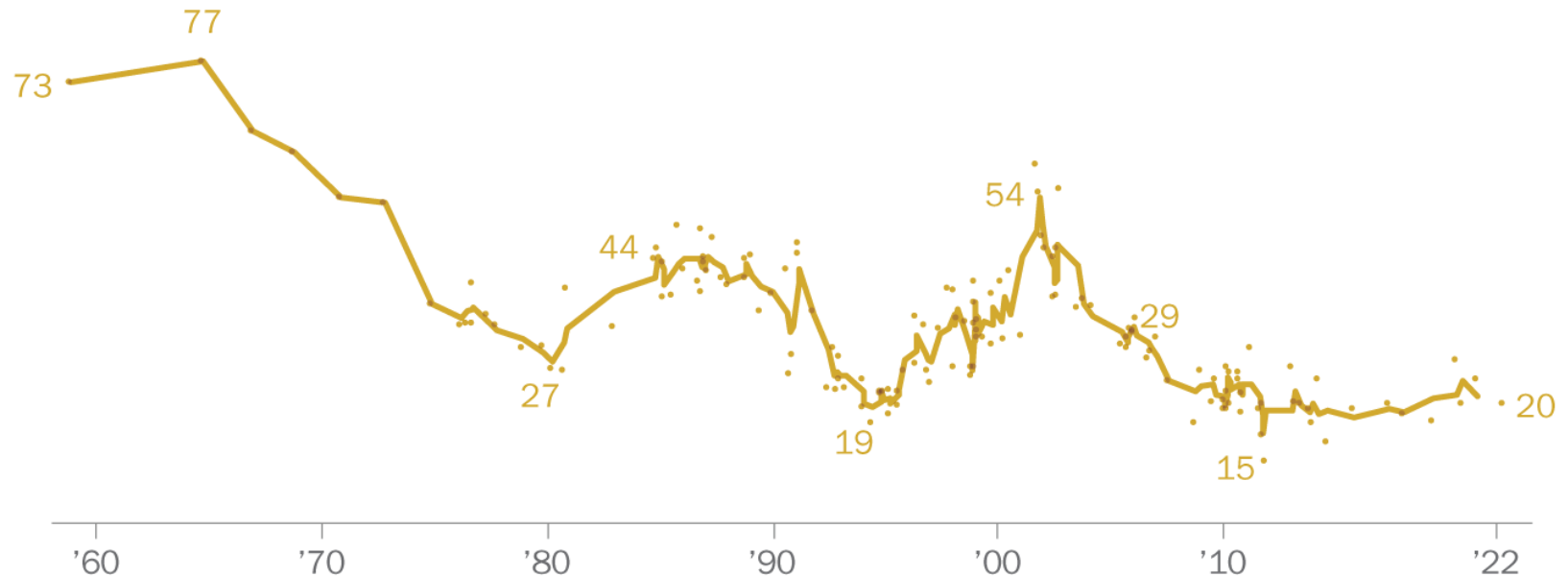
Over 90% of Americans, across all parties, believe our politics and governing need either a very major or some level of reform.



Background

Trust in government to solve problems and do “the right thing” is at historic low levels.

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Background

How Do We Feel About Government Today?

A recent Pew Research Center report found that Americans' feelings about our democracy and government are bleak.

An overwhelming bipartisan majority — more than 80% — believes there's too much partisanship, too much money in politics, and too much special interest influence.

Nearly 75% say that, overall, our political system isn't working.

How many here would say our political system at Federal level isn't working? How about State level?

Background

How Do We Feel About Congress Today?

- **Is Congress today doing a good job of governing the country? Are they adding value to our country and helping improve the lives of most citizens?**
- **What do you think are the key problems or issues with how Congress is operating now?**
- **What are the issues that cause these problems?**
- **What would the ideal operation of Congress look like to you?**
- **To what extent are we as Citizens a barrier to the ideal operation we'd like to have?**

Background

Your Purpose for Being Here

What is it that each of you would like to hear, learn or discuss during the course?

What is your main reason for taking this course?

Please think about these questions, and send your responses via email to:

bobviney70@gmail.com.

I'll share a summary, and we'll see what kind of a job we did in meeting those expectation at the end of the course.

Background

Principles for the Course

- **Ideas and discussions will be based on objective facts, data and lessons from history --- NOT based on political ideology or biases from either side.**
- **Goal is to identify changes that WORK to improve outcomes in divisiveness and the effectiveness of governing policies.**
- **We'll also look at what we as individual citizens can do to help make the changes we'd like to see, happen.**
- **How does everyone feel about this approach?**

Background

Divisiveness and Dysfunction

- **As shown earlier, about 90% of citizens believe the US needs either some level or a very major reform in politics and governing processes.**
- **Several groups working on pieces of the solution – which have you heard about?**
 - Replace electoral college system with popular vote
 - Balanced budget amendment
 - Term limits in Congress
 - Change party primary voting to open primary, and general election to ranked choice voting
 - Stop gerrymandering by having citizens on redistricting panels
- **Many books and news stories on the problems we face, but can you name a book or program that has proposed a comprehensive solution?**

Background

Causes of Problems

What are the elements of political, electoral and governmental processes that contribute to divisiveness, extreme partisanship and lack of effectiveness?

- **Running for re-election while serving:**
 - Inherent Conflict of Interest?
 - Diminishes time and action on governing.
 - Focus is on serving party's base voters, not on collaborating with the other party on legislation to benefit the country.

- **Winning re-election requires support from the party leaders, especially in primaries:**
 - Get prime committee assignments, for donations and publicity.
 - Financial support from major donors.
 - Local party members support on-the-ground campaigning.

- **Congressional rules give incredible power to officials by seniority and to members of majority party.**

Background

Are Congressional Rules Constitutional?

- Constitution is a “structure” document; no rules on “how to govern” provided.
- Each house of Congress given authority to make their own rules. Most focus on the interests of the elected officials, their parties and their donors.
- Good people come to Congress to serve the country; many get corrupted by the rules, and the need to follow the rules to run for re-election.
- How many agree with this?

Background

Divisiveness and Dysfunction – Other Aspects

Some rules made by both parties for their own benefit:

- **Gerrymandering of voting district boundaries, voting restrictions.**
- **Separate party primaries.**
- **Senate filibuster to obstruct, avoid collaboration with the minority.**
- **Single Senator can block Presidential appointments (Is it Constitutional?).**
- **Senate Majority Leader can block Supreme Court nominations (Is it Constitutional?).**
- **Putting spending and critical policy bills together with unrelated partisan policies for a single vote; or to muddy up a clean vote.**
- **There is a vote on spending that adds to the debt. Then a separate vote on the debt limit to pay borrowing needed to service the debt they voted into place. Rejecting the debt increase could lead to government shutdown or default. (appalled the debt is increasing!)**
- **Power of House Speaker and Senate Majority Party Leader to control legislation agenda, which bills come to the floor.**
- **Conflict of interest, campaign financing and other ethics violations all too frequent.**
- **Political impeachment process vs judicial process.**

Background

Importance of Unity

What are the Core Elements of America's Strength?

- 1. Democracy?**
 - 2. Personal Liberty?**
 - 3. National Unity?**
 - 4. Citizen Service to Country and Community?**
- **Does the unity, the interdependence of citizens, play any role in supporting the independence and personal liberty in America?**
 - **Do our Founding Documents have anything to say about the importance of interdependence in America?**

Background

Importance of Unity

What do you think “Unity” means? Does it mean “no differences” in policy ideas? Is It important to country?

Does unity perhaps mean mutual dependence, or interdependence?

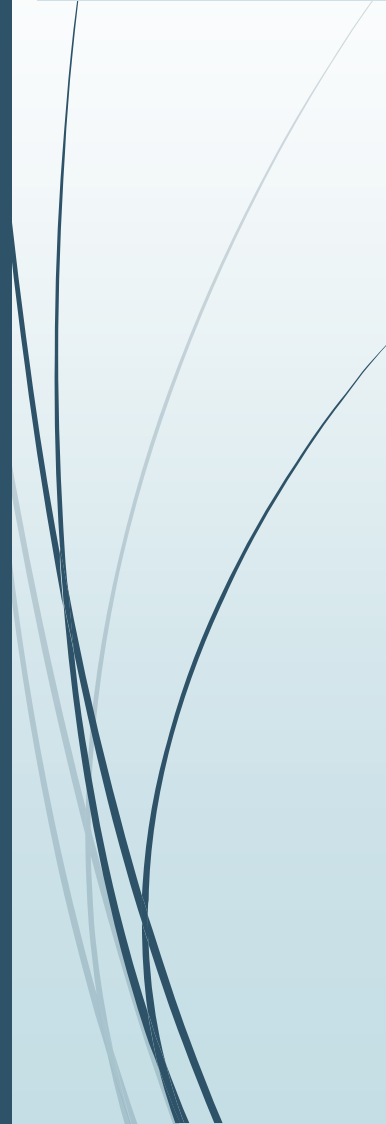
What is the importance of interdependence and service to community in a country that values personal liberty?

- **What does the Pledge of Allegiance say about unity?**
- **What is the country’s motto?**

Are we living up to those words today as in the recent past?

Declaration of Independence

What does the last sentence of the Declaration of Independence mean in the context of unity, despite ideological and partisanship divides?



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“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, ***we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.***”

There would be no United States of America today if the leaders of the 13 Colonies had not come together, respecting and accommodating the diverse concerns of the very different regions in the country. **There were slave states and free states, there were Southern states and Northern states, there were states with agricultural economies and those with industrial economies, and there were states with historical ties to England and to other “home” countries.** Yet they came together, to share their own principles and concerns, but not standing so firmly on them that they refused to accommodate other points of view.

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Does this sentence confirm that the signers recognized that the strength of our Independence as the United States depends on the strength of the Interdependence among our citizens and our leaders?

Could we have won the Revolutionary War without unity and sacrifice of leaders and citizens?

Background

Importance of Unity

What are the opening words in the Preamble to the Constitution? What is the meaning of the phrase “to form a MORE PERFECT union?” “More perfect” than what?

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What are the opening words in the Preamble to the Constitution? What is the meaning of the phrase “to form a MORE PERFECT union?” “More perfect” than what?

- Our first government document, “The Articles of Confederation”, was a loose confederation of sovereign states and a weak Central Government. Adopted in 1777 and ratified in 1781, this approach was quickly found to result in a very weak country. It was far from a United States government.
- By 1787 a Constitutional Convention had been convened to replace these Articles with a National Constitution, which was written that year and approved by the States in 1789.
- So the first Purpose of the Constitution is clearly stated in the Preamble: “...To Form a More Perfect Union ...”
- Reflects the absence of unity under the “Articles of Confederation”.

Background

Challenges to Unity

The major factor influencing divisiveness in politics and dysfunction in governing is not mentioned once in the constitution.

Our first President and Vice President (and second President) both expressed concerns with that factor (see handout):

- Adams wrote to a friend at the completion of the constitutional convention in 1789: “There is nothing which I dread as much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the largest political evil under our Constitution.”
- In his farewell address in 1797, Washington spoke in detail of the importance of national unity and the dangers of political parties to national unity.
- What party did Washington belong to?

Background

Challenges to Unity

Can the United States provide personal liberty for all if we weaken the unity of the country and the commitment of citizens to serve communities, the country, and each other?

➤ **Here are Washington's thoughts on Unity:**

-- "The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you, it is justly so, for **it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize.**"

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➤ **Here are Washington's thoughts on Parties:**

-- "I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State ... Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and **warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.**"

-- "This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, **in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.**"

Background

Challenges to Unity

➤ Additional thoughts from Washington's on Parties:

-- "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, is itself a frightful despotism. **But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.** The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, **turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.**"

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-- "Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight), **the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.** ‘

-- "It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. **It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection.** It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions."

Background

Rebuilding Unity via Reform

➤ **Washington's Guidance on how to make changes.**

- "If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. **But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.**"

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- **Jefferson's Guidance on how to make changes.**
 - "I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. ... But I know also, that **laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times.**"
- **Does this Guidance seem relevant to today's environment?**

Background

Rebuilding Unity via Reform

- **Can the United States provide personal liberty for all if we weaken the unity of the county and the commitment of citizens to serve communities, the country, and others?**
- **What are the changes that will rebuild our national unity?**
 - Minimize or eliminate partisan divisiveness and dysfunction in governing?
 - Increase the commitment to serving the country over self- interest, party loyalty?
 - Have a government that is more transparent and accountable?

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 - Have a government that is more transparent and accountable?
- **Is it enough to change “Who” governs to achieve these outcomes? Will elected officials from either major party lead these changes?**
- **Or do we need to change “How” we are governed? To change the Rules and Governing Processes?**
- **In a government that derives its powers from the consent of the governed, shouldn't citizens make the rules about how “we the people” prefer to be governed?**

Background

Developing a Solution

An effective solution requires first defining the causes of the problems we are trying to solve.

3 major factors observed as the cause of disunity, divisiveness and dysfunction

➤ **Career Self-Interest**

- Spend up to 40% of time raising funds and votes.
- Incentive to serve only their base voters.
- Little incentive to serve all their constituents or the country.

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- Winning re-election requires financial support from the party leaders, local party members for on-the-ground support.

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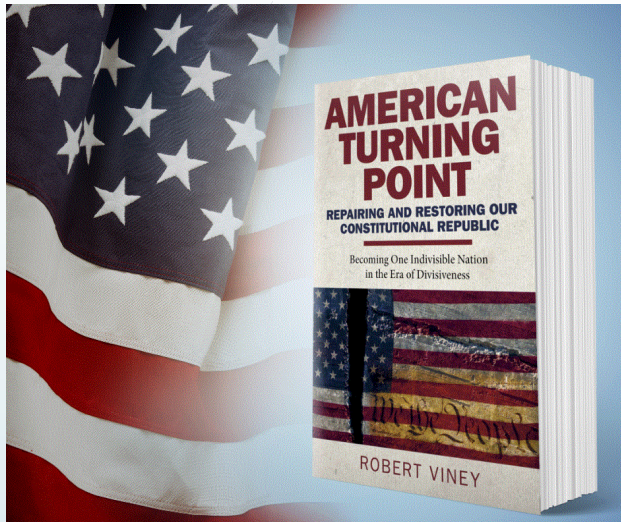
- Winning re-election requires financial support from the party leaders, local party members for on-the-ground support.

➤ **Large money contributions from special interest donors**

- Funding re-election requires major funds and large donors are key.

Repairing and Restoring Our Constitutional Democracy

Discussion of Changes to Minimize Divisiveness and Restore Unity



WEBSITE:

www.citizenrules.org

- **DETAILS OF 16 “CITIZEN RULES” (18 on Website)**
- **DETAILS OF 6 AMENDMENTS: “BILL OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY” (8 on Website) to implement the Citizen Rules**
- **“VIRTUAL” VOTING BY CITIZENS on new website**
- **CITIZEN-LED “LIMITED” CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION – CALLED BY STATES – RATIFICATION DRIVES BY STATE**
- **LED BY NEW NON-PROFIT – CITIZENS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL**

Background

The Solutions in the Book: How Were They Developed?

- 1. Unbiased Research on Past Congressional Actions.**
- 2. Define the key problems; the root causes of these problems, and the barriers to overcoming the problems.**
- 3. Review fact-based, non-partisan solutions that can eliminate or minimize the drivers and barriers effectively.**
- 4. Review the actions needed to enact the solutions.**

Purpose of the Constitution

Given Washington's and Jefferson's guidance on change, shouldn't we look to the Constitution for changes that can minimize divisiveness and restore national unity in politics and governing?

To guide the changes we might consider, it will be helpful to look at the FULL PURPOSE the Founders wanted the Constitution to accomplish.

It is important that if we change or add rules for HOW to govern, that we still need to retain the Purpose of the Constitution.

We said earlier that the Preamble stated one Purpose about the Constitution. Are there other statements of Purpose in the Preamble?

Purpose of the Constitution

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“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”.

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What is the role of the Preamble? Is it part of the Constitution?

What does the language “in order to ...” followed by a list of 6 statements mean about those statements?

Purpose of the Constitution

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What is the role of the Preamble? Is it part of the Constitution?

What does the language “in order to ...” followed by a list of 6 statements mean about those statements?

Does this statement of Purpose have any impact on how the Articles and Amendments should be enacted to fulfill these Purposes?

Should our laws that must be Constitutional, be judged as to whether these 6 statements are being fulfilled? Should that part of being “Constitutional?”

Becoming One Indivisible Nation Means to Minimize Divisiveness and Restore Unity.

There are Five Key Areas We Need to Fix to Restore Unity and Effectiveness in Governing.

- 1. Reform Electoral Processes.**
- 2. Reduce Partisanship and Ineffective Governing.**
- 3. Strengthen Ethics.**
- 4. Limit Campaign Contributions and False Messages.**
- 5. Create National Service Requirement for Citizenship.**

Homework For Next Class

Review the summary of Citizen Rules 8, 10, 13, and 18 that implement the Election Reform changes. These are listed on the book's website: www.citizenrules.org.

At the end of each class, we'll ask the following questions:

- Will these changes repair and restore our constitution, our national unity, our economic and national security?
- Will these changes help achieve the goal of getting the country on the right track?
- Are any of these rules not needed? Any rules missing that should be added?



Questions?

Comments?

END

Citizen Rules

1. Setting Term Limits, Compensation, Health and Retirement Benefits for Member of Congress and Senior Administration Officials.

Citizen Rules

2. Defining New Rules for The Legislative Processes to Limit Partisanship;
Confirming Primacy of Citizen Rules in Constitution over Procedural Rules
Enacted by Members of Congress.

Citizen Rules

3. Define Timing Requirements for Senate Votes on Treaties and Presidential Appointments; Limit the Duration of Acting Presidential Appointments; Limit Absolute Presidential Reprieves and Pardons.

Citizen Rules

4. Strengthening Congressional Oversight of Executive Implementation; Strengthening the Independence of Inspectors General and Key Executive Departments in the Administration.

Citizen Rules

5. Defining Rules for Budgeting, Taxing and Spending Process – Balanced, Timing, Accountability, Transparency, and Effectiveness.

Citizen Rules

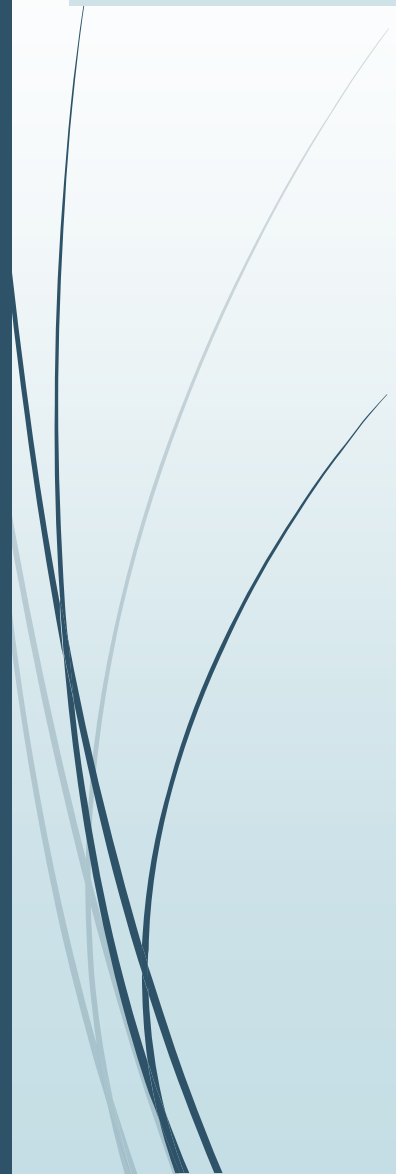
6. Prohibiting Congress Members from Paid Lobbying Roles After Serving in Congress or the Administration.

Citizen Rules

8. Prohibiting Laws Exempting Congress from Laws Enacted on Citizens.

Citizen Rules

9. Limiting the Terms of Supreme Court Justices and Federal Court Judges.



Citizen Rules

10. Ensuring Fair and Equitable Access to Registration and Voting for all Citizens, and Elections Free from Fraud.

Citizen Rules

11. Defining Rules for Campaign Financing – Donation Limits and Disclosure Requirements.

Citizen Rules

12. Defining Rules for Truthful Messaging and Timing of Campaign Advertising.

Citizen Rules

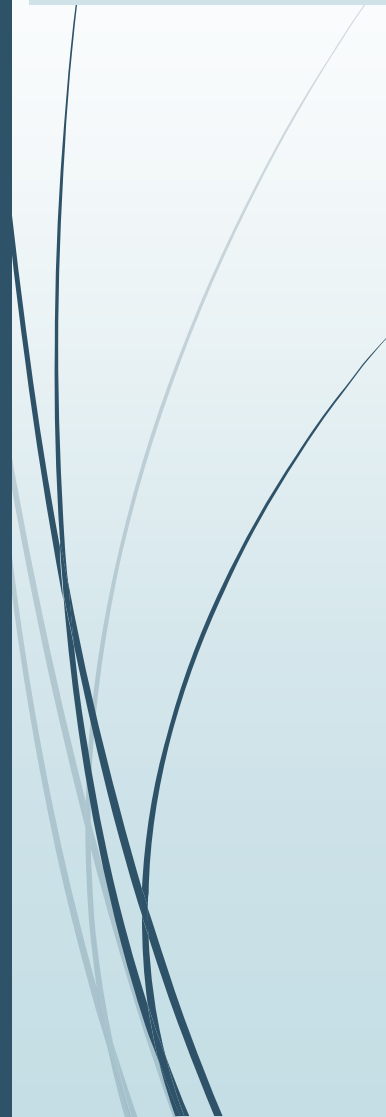
13. Providing an Independent Council to Oversee Voting District Alignments after Census.

Citizen Rules

14. Defining Rules for Ethical Behaviors and Financial Conflict of Interest, and for Handling Non-Salary Personal Income for President, Vice President and all Senior Elected and Appointed Officials.

Citizen Rules

15. Defining a Non-Partisan Judicial Process for Impeachment and Actions as Impeachable Offenses.



Citizen Rules

16. Establishing a Program of Required National Service for all Citizens Between the Ages of 18-29.

Citizen Rules

17. Enshrining a Right to Privacy in the Constitution and Confirming the Priority of the Overall Purposes Stated in the Preamble to Laws Enacting Enumerated Rights in the Constitution.

Citizen Rules

18. Replacing Separate Partisan Primaries with a Single Open Primary in Federal Elections, with the Top Four Candidates Moving on the General Election, Conducted in a Ranked Choice Voting Process.

Source of Charts: Trading Economics And US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic Analysis

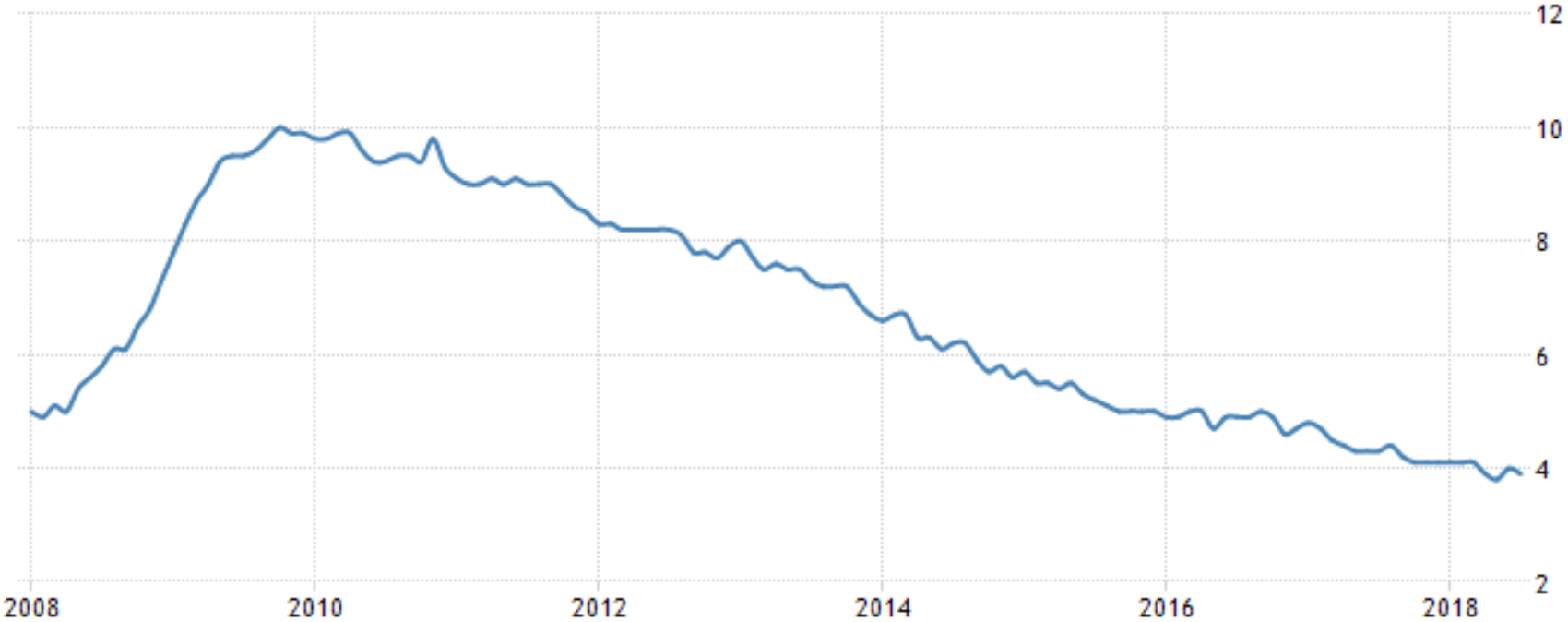
Trading Economics provides its users with accurate information for 196 countries including historical data for more than 20 million economic indicators, exchange rates, stock market indexes, government bond yields and commodity prices.

Our data is based on official sources, not third party data providers, and our facts are regularly checked for inconsistencies.

Trading Economics.com has received more than **380 million page views** from more than 200 countries.

Unemployment Decline

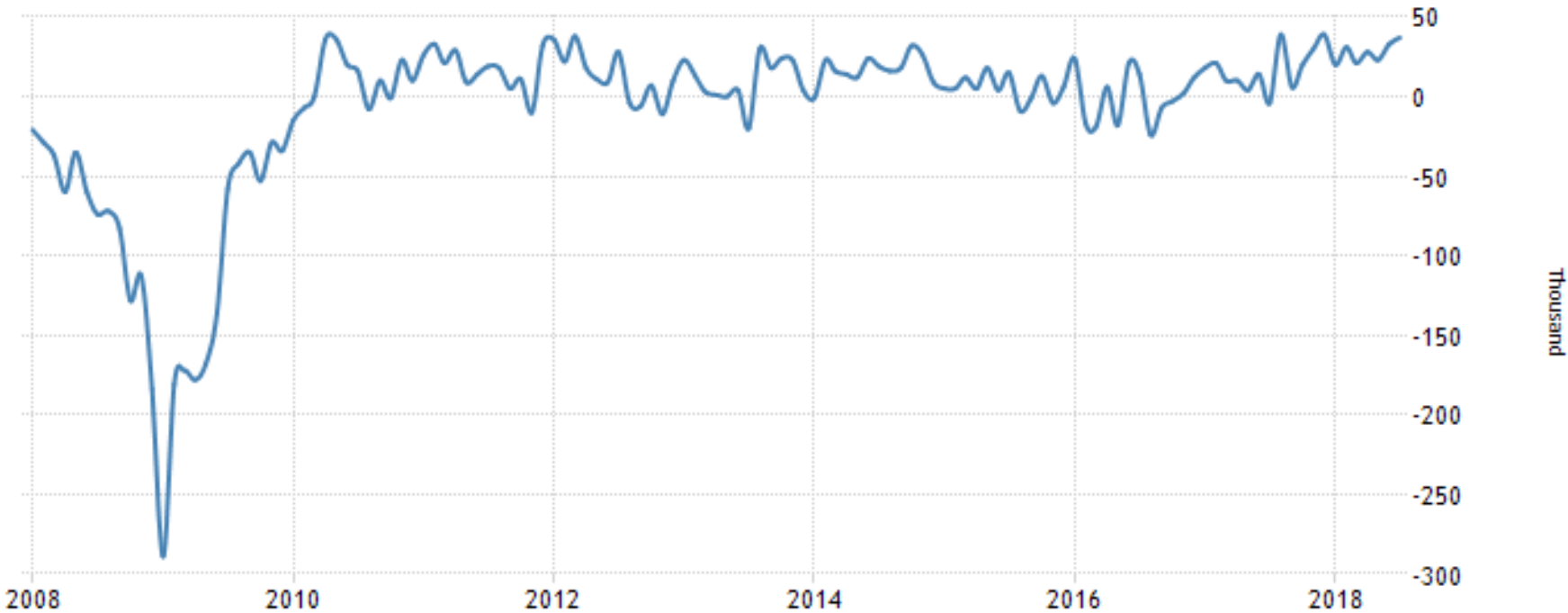
US UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Manufacturing Payrolls

US MANUFACTURING PAYROLLS



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Wage Growth

US WAGES AND SALARIES GROWTH



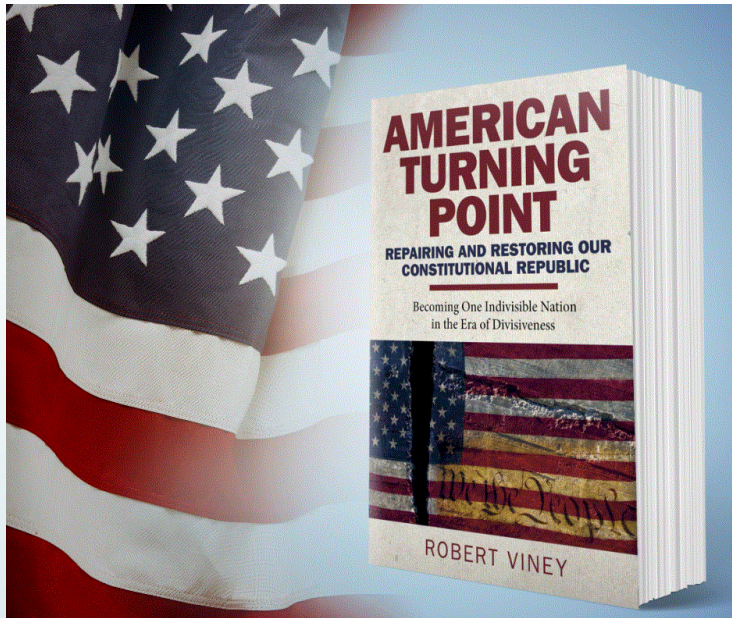
SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

politics

Scan the summary of the 16 “citizen rules” to replace rules made by congress, and reform certain areas of the constitution to better serve the country today.

- Will these changes repair and restore our constitution, our national unity, our economic and national security?
- questions on the relevance of any of these changes to the goal of getting the country on the right track?
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politics



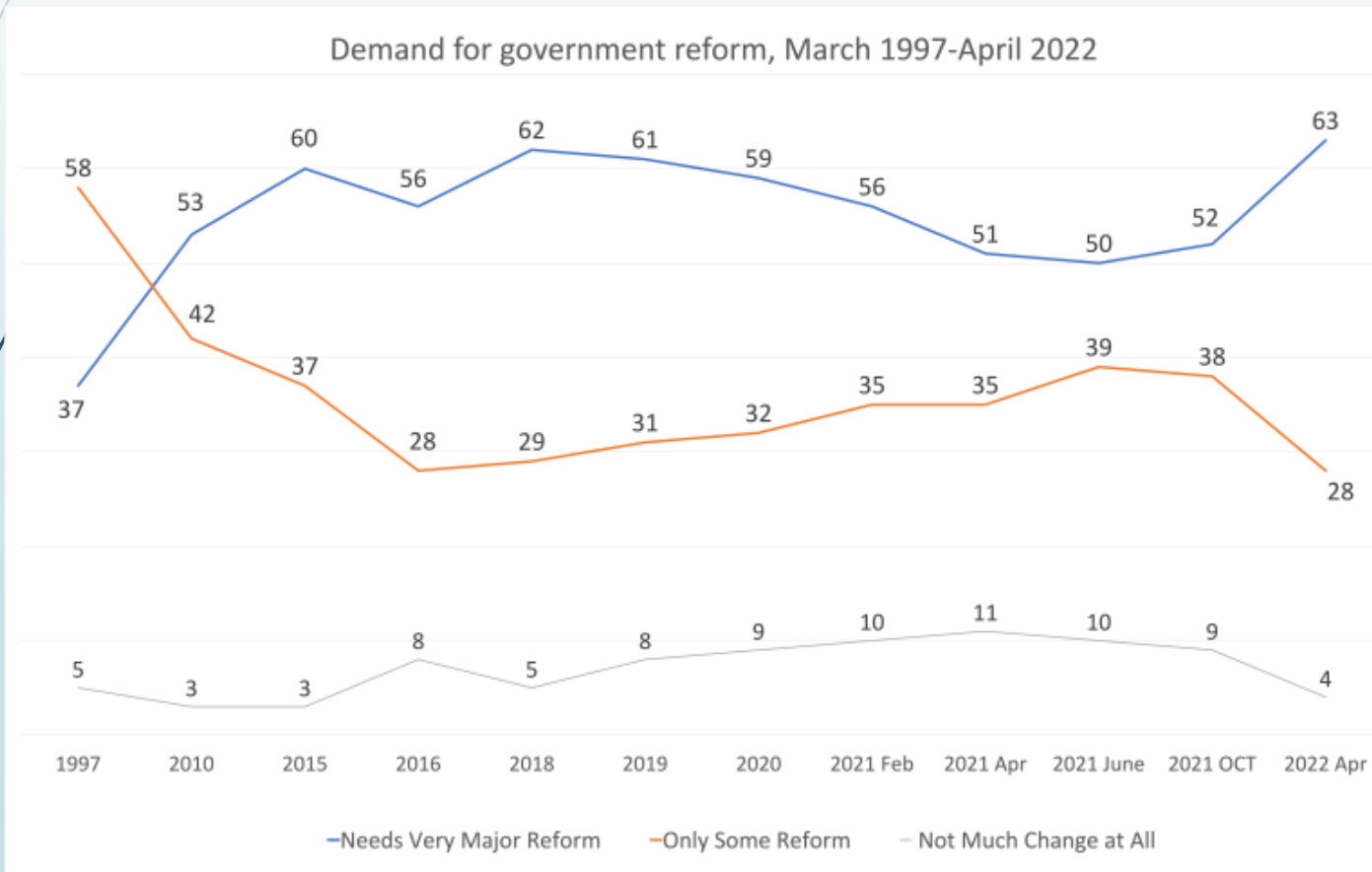
WEBSITE:

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- **SUMMARY OF 16 “CITIZEN RULES” (17th on Website)**
- **SUMMARY OF 6 AMENDMENTS: “BILL OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY” (7th on Website)**
- **ROAD MAP TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES – CITIZEN LED “LIMITED” CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, RATIFICATION DRIVES BY STATE**

Background

1. Over 90% of Americans, across all parties, believe our politics and governing need either a very major or some level of reform.

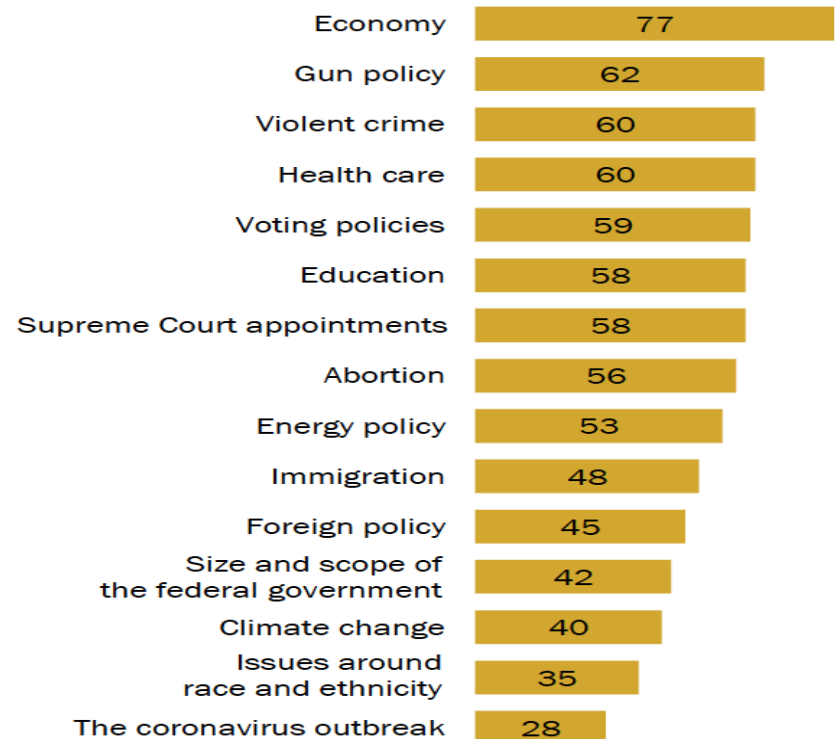


Background

2. There are a wide range of issues that are important to voters, where there are major divisions between the parties and voters on how to address and resolve.

The economy viewed as top voting issue in midterm elections

*% of registered voters saying each is **very important** to their vote in the 2022 congressional election*



Note: Based on registered voters.

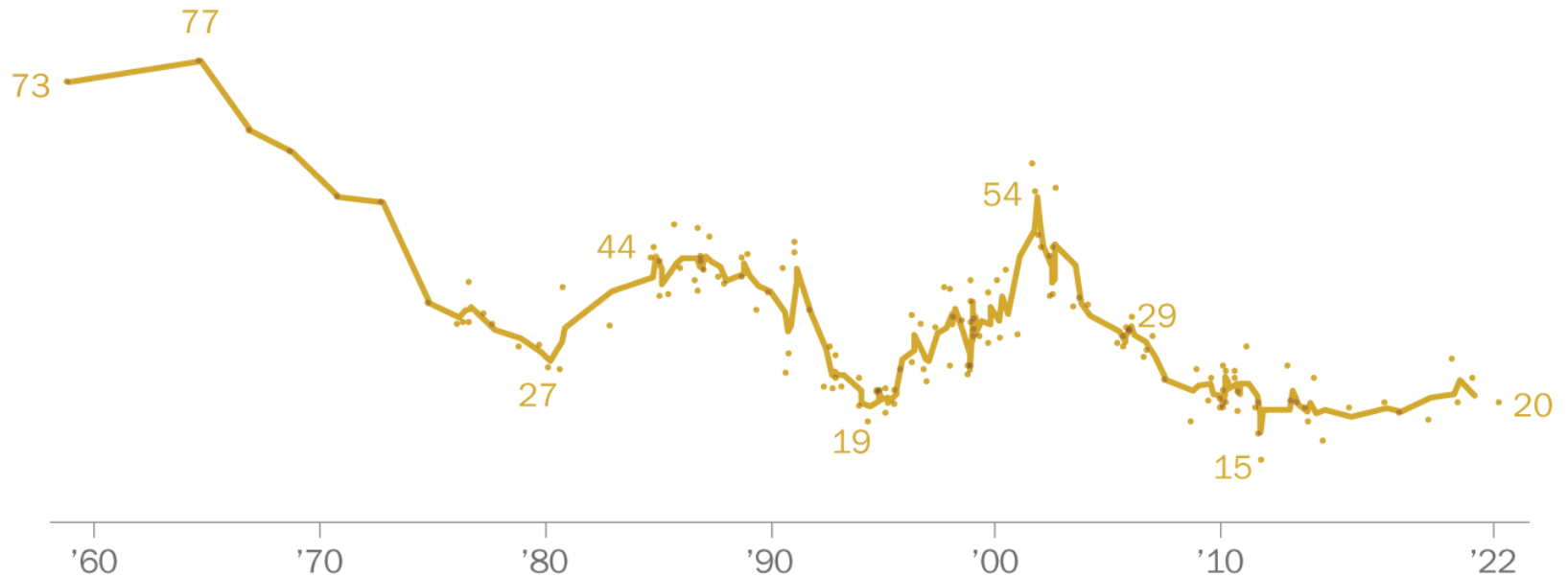
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 1-14, 2022.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Background

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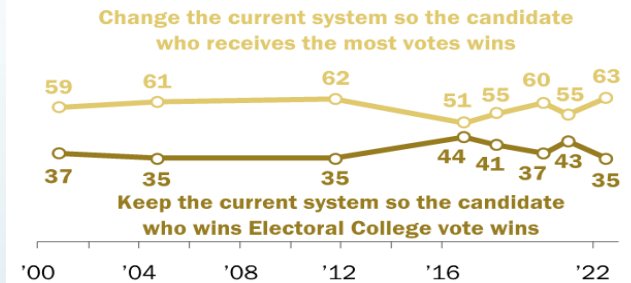


Background

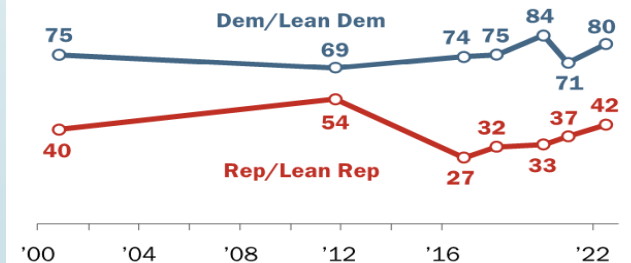
4. Preference for the Electoral College process and outcome in Presidential elections is falling.

Support for electing presidents by popular vote has been fairly steady over the last two decades

Thinking about the way the president is elected in this country, would you prefer to ... (%)



% who say the presidential election system should be changed so the candidate who receives the most nationwide votes wins



Notes: Data prior to 2020 comes from telephone surveys. Data for 2016 from CNN; data for 2000-2011 from Gallup. Prior to 2020, question asked about "amending the Constitution." See methodological note for details. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 27-July 4, 2022.

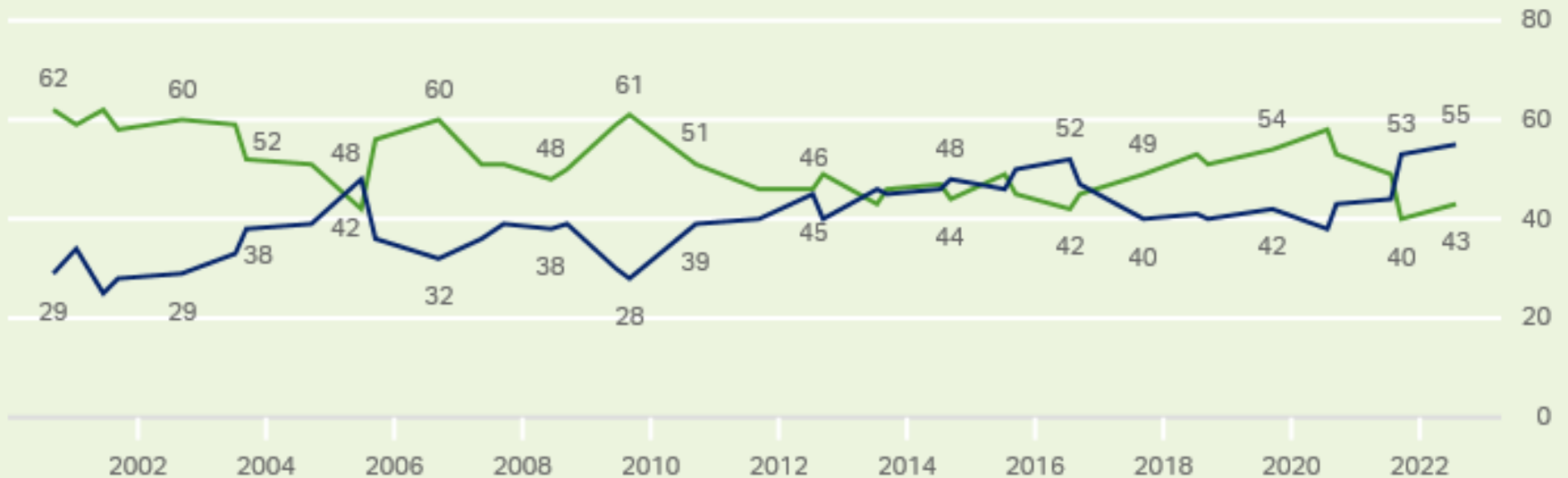
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Background

5. Trust in the Supreme Court has fallen to historically low levels.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court is handling its job?

— % Approve — % Disapprove



GALLUP

Background

Partisan Divisiveness is a Barrier to Building Unity

BPC Research Example -- Report on Political Reform -- June 24, 2014

- Poll respondents were presented with the following statement: “To improve education, Democrats have proposed reducing class sizes in our schools and making sure teachers teach the basics, and Republicans have proposed increasing teacher pay while making it easier to fire bad teachers.”
- **75 percent of the Democrats polled either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” with the Democratic proposal, while only 13 percent of Republicans took this position.**
- However, when the same proposal to reduce class size and emphasize the basics was later described as a Republican initiative, **only 12 percent of Democrats strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with it, while 70 percent of Republicans supported it in some fashion.**
- Similar results were found with respect to the proposal to increase teacher pay and fire bad teachers. **Most poll respondents supported each proposal only if it was ascribed to their own party.**

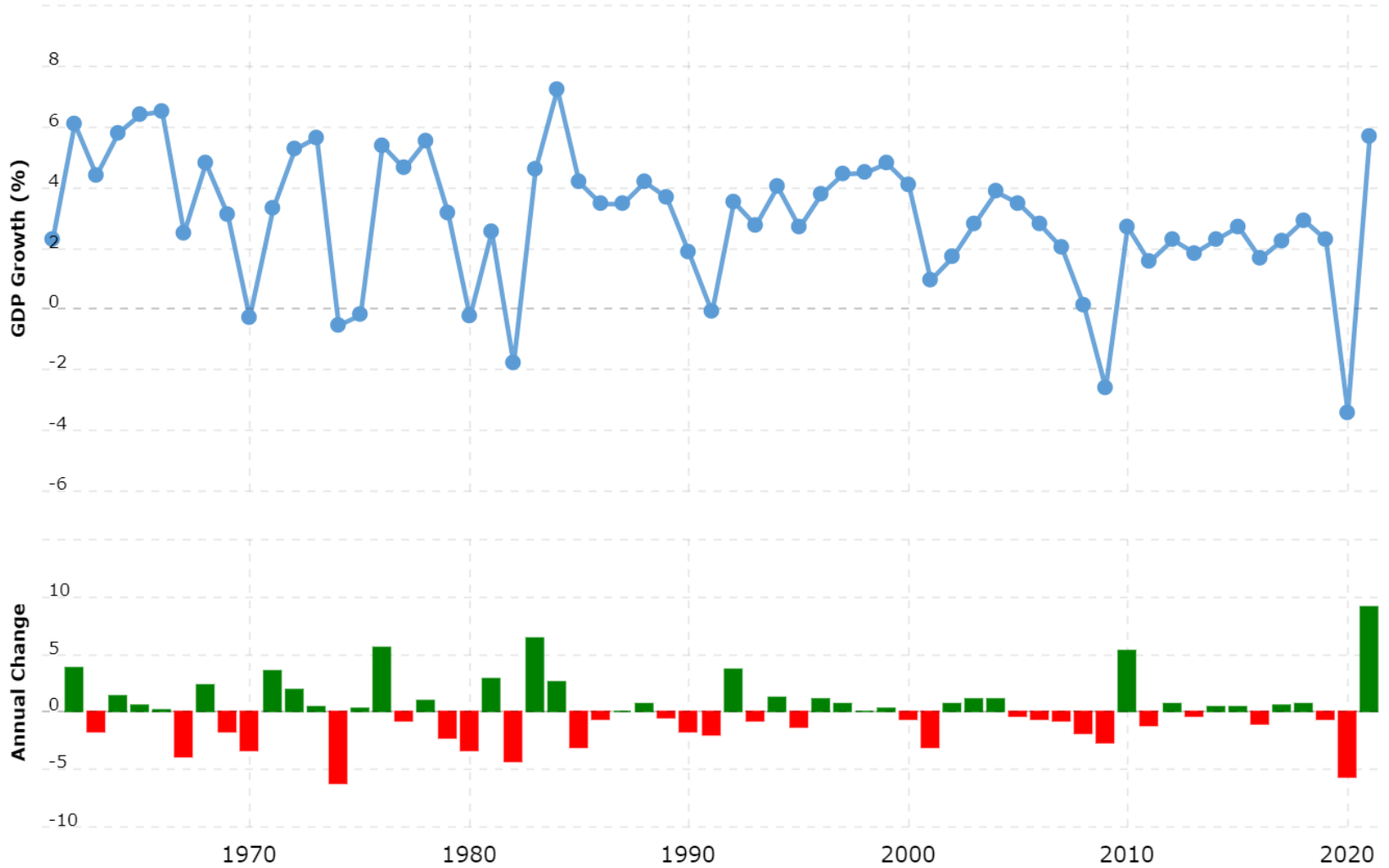
Background

- **Are these trends positive signs for our Democracy?**
- **Where might these trends lead if not reversed?**
- **Can we count on our elected leaders to lead the changes needed to reverse these trends?**
- **If not, then how can we possibly fix this ... or is it now hopeless?**

How Do We Feel About the State Of Policies and Politics Today?

- **Are we fulfilling the purposes of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble? Have we established justice for all? Do our policies provide domestic tranquility? Do they promote the general welfare?**
- **Do our political leaders adhere to the principles of “serving the nation”, or are they focused on serving their careers, their donors, even their own voters, instead of serving the nation?**
- **When parties “play politics”, does the minority party seem to be working to make the President or party in majority fail? Are they working for or against the American people as a whole?**
- **Are our major policies working? Is our economic growth rate where we need it to be? How about our ability to manage our debt?**

GDP Growth



How Do We Feel About the State Of Policies and Politics Today?

- Is the political system “rigged” against serving the people versus the special interest groups or the “elites”? What causes this?
- How do you feel about “gerrymandering” of voting districts in state or Congressional elections by the majority party? Do you feel there should be a bi-partisan commission to draw new district boundaries after a census, or should the majority party control it? Should a citizen commission be involved?

How Do We Feel About the State Of Policies and Politics Today?

- **How do you feel about the kind of campaign ads and messages we are seeing today? Do you believe they are truthful? If not, should we be looking at trying to ensure campaign ads and messages are truthful? Or should we just depend on voters and other press sites to determine facts from fiction?**

How Can Citizens Support Changes in Congress by Our Actions and Choices?

- **Do we as voters support only those people in one party? Is our party always right, and the other party wrong? Do we hold the leaders in our party accountable for their actions?**
- **Do we want our Congressional representatives to collaborate and compromise on key issues? Or do we want them to stand rigidly only on our needs ... our beliefs, our party, our region?**
- **Do we care about finding solutions that work for both sides? Is this important? Is this how we get policies that work for the country? Or do we expect the country to unite behind the policies of only one party?**
- **Do we believe that “win-win” solutions that would address the needs of both parties are possible? Are these worth trying to achieve?**

Follow Up Questions ...

- **Who “owns” this country? Who’s responsible for the state of our Republic, our Democracy? Is it the elected leaders? Is it the citizens?**
- **Do we “share” ownership with others or is it “our” country and not “theirs”? What does “take back our country” as an election slogan imply?**
- **What does it mean to be “One Nation ... Indivisible”? Is that a true description of our country today? Is it important, does it matter?**
- **Would you like to see changes in the ways Congress and Politics operate today? Are you willing to be part of a “change generation”?**

HOMEWORK – For Class 2

- **Review the Principles that are expressed in our Founding Documents and are most important to you.**
- **Make a list of the Principles you feel are not being followed today.**
- **Make a list of or highlight the areas where you feel changes are needed to improve how Congress operates?**

Hybrid Class Process

Questions During Presentation:

➤ In Class

- Will Answer A Few Questions When Asked During Class to Stay on Schedule

➤ After Class

- Will Respond to Questions by Email If Not Answered in Class (Email: bobviney70@gmail.com)