

Just the News

*May all that is beautiful, meaningful and brings you joy be yours
this holiday season and throughout the coming year!*

Many People are skipping the Holidays This Year over Politics – Here's what to try instead

You voted one way. A family member or members may have voted another. Is it worth cutting them off? The answer is no. Instead, it's important to remember the positive connections – the good things, the ways each has contributed to the others' lives – and see if that can help everyone realize that these disagreements are okay but not worth ending relationships. To learn more, visit <https://news.northeastern.edu/2024/11/25/family-conflict-holidays/>

Key Electoral College Dates to Keep in Mind Ahead of Inauguration Day

Incremental aspects of the electoral process are worth paying attention to from Election Day to the Inauguration. To learn more, visit <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/31/nx-s1-5161596/electoral-college-count-reform-deadlines>

Confirmation Process for Donald Trump's Cabinet Nominees, 2025

Here's an overview of the confirmation process for President-Elect Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees in his second presidential term. You'll also find a table that provides an overview of the status, confirmation hearings, and committee and Senate votes for each of the President-Elect's Cabinet and Cabinet-rank nominees in his second term. To learn more, visit

https://ballotpedia.org/Confirmation_process_for_Donald_Trump%27s_Cabinet_nominees,_2025

Why Trump Shouldn't Use Recess Appointments to Force through Cabinet Nominees

The Senate should vet Trump's Cabinet nominees and then give them all floor votes. Trump and his team can and should lobby on behalf of his nominees, but they should ultimately respect the Senate's decisions. And then both should consider ways to streamline the process in the future. To learn more, visit

<https://thefederalist.com/2024/11/27/why-trump-shouldnt-use-recess-appointments-to-force-through-cabinet-nominees/>

Trump's Victory: A Historic Win with an Achilles Heel

Two things can be true at the same time: Trump's win was historic, but it also has an Achilles heel – margins of victory that are so slim that they are tenuous at best. To learn more, visit

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2024/12/trump_s_victory_a_historic_win_with_an_achilles_heel.html

Preemptive Pardons Are a Terrible Idea

No president has ever issued preemptive pardons to an entire class of people. If Biden does it, it will mark a further degradation of American politics. To learn more, visit <https://www.thefp.com/p/preemptive-pardons-biden-trump-kash-patel>

Democrats Beg Biden to Expand Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants Before Trump Takes Office

Senior Democrats on Capitol Hill begged President Biden to announce new deportation amnesties for as many countries as possible before he leaves office. The lawmakers also urged Mr. Biden to speed up asylum claims and automatically renew work permits for unauthorized migrants who are here under temporary amnesties. To learn more, visit <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/dec/10/democrats-beg-joe-biden-expand->

In response, Senator Josh Hawley asks the Democrats during a Judiciary Committee hearing, "What world do you live in?" To learn more, visit <https://www.newstalkkzrq.com/2024/12/10/what-world-do-you-live-in-hawley-blasts-democrat-plot-for-mass-amnesty/>

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

Trump Wins: Implications for Key Policy Issues

The new Congress will face two complex policy issues in 2025 that are critical to the markets: a debt ceiling fight and major tax legislation. But there are other issues to watch too. To learn more, visit <https://www.schwab.com/learn/story/trump-wins-implications-key-policy-issues>

Opinion: Pennsylvania is the key to understanding Democratic defeat in 2024

There's a special relationship between state and national dominance by Pennsylvania. The Keystone State has the most Electoral College votes of any swing state in the nation. That's why Democrats should closely examine the 2024 results and take a deep dive into the feelings of Pennsylvania voters. They were at the epicenter of the earthquake that buried Democratic hopes in 2024, including that of the state's senior U.S. Senator, Robert Casey, Jr. To learn more, visit <https://www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/opinion-pennsylvania-is-the-key-to-understanding-democratic-defeat-in-2024/ar-AA1volaH>

The State Leaders Poised to Resist Trump

As the former president gets closer to a White House reunion armed with a GOP trifecta and arguable mandate, officials from states like California and Minnesota are preparing to fight back. To learn more, visit https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2024-12-05/3-state-leaders-laying-the-groundwork-to-oppose-trump#google_vignette

Republicans Optimistic, Democrats Afraid After Election

A late-November Gallup poll found that Trump's reelection is being met with great optimism, relief, excitement and pride from Republicans but fear, anger, devastation and surprise among Democrats. Still, Democrats broadly accept Trump as the legitimate president, even more so than in 2016 when he defeated Hillary Clinton. After the Republican Party's sweep of the presidency and both chambers of Congress, Americans now view the GOP more favorably than the Democratic Party. However, the gap in favorability stems from a drop in favorable views of the Democratic Party in November rather than an increase in favorable views of the GOP following its victories. To learn more, visit <https://news.gallup.com/poll/653714/republicans-optimistic-democrats-afraid-election.aspx>

Liberals Don't Know Much about Conservative History

American liberals and conservatives have almost always shared the same goals of peace and prosperity, although the means proposed for reaching those goals have usually been very different. Today, a growing school of academic thought believes that understanding may not be possible, or even desirable. Case in point: Heather Cox Richardson's *To Make Men Free: A History of the Republican Party* actually posits that the current GOP upholds the racist and elitist principles of the pre-Civil War slaveholding class. Richardson's account is a mélange of liberal errors regarding conservative history. It's unlikely that a more nuanced history of conservatism will emerge until this latest culture war has run its course. To learn more, visit <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/09/09/liberals-dont-know-much-about-conservative-history->

Barack Obama Criticized for being Tone Deaf and Hypocritical in First Speech after Election

During his speech, the former president took the opportunity to criticize the current state of polarization in politics. Operation Wildfire wonders if the former president realizes that he described Democratic tactics, from wanting a permanent grip on power to weaponizing the judiciary and criminal justice system to target opponents. To learn more, visit <https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/barack-obama-criticized-being-tone-deaf-and-hypocritical-first-speech-after>