

November 20, 2022 SUN. 6:11 AM.

Between the Bars
2885 Sanford Ave SW #30428
Grandville, MI. 49418

RE: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/275/>

Dear Friends:

AS IS EVERMORE, I THANK YOU ZILLIONS
TIMES FOR YOUR GENEROUS ALLOWANCE PROBONO
TO ME (US) THIS PRICELESS ACCESS TO THE
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO THE "MIND"

Accordingly, Please post my ENC.
P. 22-23 and P. 24, inadvertently
OMITTED FROM MY IMMEDIATE PREVIOUS
PAPERS: ENTITLED THUS:

We made it to the Friday before Election Day. Here's what to know

Days to the election: 4 as of Friday
Ballots already cast: >80 million

Interesting new tone from President Donald Trump on masks: CNN's Maegan Vazquez reports that after making the case that "lockdowns" to prevent the spread of coronavirus don't work, Trump told rallygoers in Tampa, Florida: "We know the disease. We social distance. We do all of the things that you have to do."

"If you get close, wear a mask. 'Oh, it's controversial.' It's not controversial to me. You get close, you wear a mask. Social distance, social distance," he told the audience.

Problem: Vazquez notes the audience Trump delivered this message to was largely maskless. They were packed so tightly that several people required medical attention due to the heat and a nearby fire truck had to cool supporters down. Staff was also seen without masks.

How Trump's favorite doctor helped influence Florida -- It's not news that infectious disease experts have been replaced at Trump's side by Scott Atlas, the Stanford neurologist (not infectious disease doctor) who the President saw and liked on Fox News.

But this report from CNN's John Avlon and Michael Warren shows how Atlas's guidance, which runs counter to orthodoxy, has gone from Fox, to the White House, and then filtered out to states with Trump-supporting governors, like Florida.

"Excess death" data may reveal Covid's true death toll -- CNN has tracked more than 228,000 deaths attributed to Covid. But recent CDC data suggests a much higher rate of "excess deaths" in the US from January through October. In addition to direct Covid deaths, 100,000 more Americans died than would normally. A group of senators has asked CDC and HHS to explain how they're addressing the spike.

Unintended consequences -- We're into the portion of this election where local events can influence national elections. Keep an eye on weather, Covid spikes, and racial unrest.

Will unrest in Philadelphia affect the election? It seems right now like the swingiest swing state of 2020. Trump needs at least one Rust Belt state that defected from Democrats in 2016 to stay with him in 2020 and he's within striking distance in Pennsylvania. Now, the killing of Walter Wallace, a Black man suffering from mental health issues who was advancing on police with a knife has the state's largest urban center and Democratic stronghold on edge. Protests have devolved to looting.

Trump has maintained his criticism of cities led by Democrats while former Vice President Joe Biden has tried to balance outrage at the killing of a Black man by police with disapproval of looting. Read more.

Hurricane Zeta leaves millions without power in the Southeast - Some early voting was halted. We'll track what effect this could have on voters. Louisiana may have to power up alternate voting sites.

Sleeping with the enemy -- Red or blue, Trump or Biden and, often, men and women. Trump's likely to do better with men and Biden's going to do better with women.

So it's simple math (and maybe some opposites attract) that households will be split by this election.

Take a look at this video on "Wives of the Deplorables" -- a private Facebook group started by left-leaning women married to right-leaning men and how they've fought about yard signs, considered divorce, and learned to live with each other. This is, dare I say it at this supercharged and divisive moment, sweet.

Prediction models run possible scenarios. Biden wins in more of them. There are a number of prediction models out there -- from FiveThirtyEight and The Economist, among others -- that suggest Biden is much more likely to win than Trump. CNN's Oliver Darcy talked to the data journalists behind them to ask why they're any better than they were in 2016, when they also said a Trump loss was more likely (although less likely than now).

Here's Nate Silver to Darcy on this year's modeling: "We're not going out on any sort of limb here. We're just stating the obvious. Biden's pretty far ahead in polls and the candidate who's ahead in polls by a margin like that usually wins."

House and Senate seats move toward Democrats -- It's not just the presidential map that's getting more difficult for Republicans.

What's changed: According to CNN's report, Democrats are now predicted to pick up a net gain of 14 to 20 seats in the House, and a net gain of four to six seats in the Senate, which would be enough to flip the chamber.

Key details: Two US Senate races in Georgia are becoming more difficult for Republicans, but both could end up in a December runoff.

More suburban House seats are tilting away from Republicans and toward Democrats.

Cringeworthy moments:

Sen. Kelly Loeffler, the Republican running for election to the seat she was appointed to, claimed to reporters she was unaware of the infamous Trump Access Hollywood tape. So CNN's Manu Raju explained it to her.

Sen. Susan Collins, a rare moderate Republican, struggled to answer a question about systemic bias in Maine, a mostly White state, but which has a large Somali community.

Sen. Martha McSally, the Republican who lost a race in Arizona in '16 and is now running for election to the seat she was later appointed to, was rushed onstage by Trump during a rally and given a minute to speak because, he told her in front of everyone, "they don't want to hear this."

Things are getting more interesting in battleground states. Adam Levy from CNN's political unit has been closely tracking the early vote in key states -- with information CNN gets from the firm Catalist, a data firm which has Democrats, issue organizations and academics as clients. Read the full story.

Key point: Republicans are beginning to narrow the Democratic advantage in pre-Election Day voting in four key battleground states, where more than 12 million votes have already been cast.

Florida -- Trump won by 1+ point in 2016

- A week ago Democrats had a 9 percentage point lead in ballots cast. Now it is 4 percentage points.

North Carolina - Trump won by more than 3+ points in '16

- Democrats had a 12-point advantage over Republican ballots cast last week. Now it's 8 points.

Iowa - Trump won by 9+ points in '16

- Democrats have a 17-point lead over Republicans in pre-election vote, but that lead has narrowed by four points this week. Democrats also held a lead in pre-election vote in 2016.

Nevada - Clinton won by 2-points in '16

- Last week, Democrats led Republicans by 12 points. Now, the 42% of ballots cast by Democrats is now only seven points higher than Republicans' 35%.

Key thing to remember: Republicans have indicated they are more likely to vote on Election Day, so there's an asterisk for this data. We don't know what will happen next week.

Amy Coney Barrett Sworn In as Supreme Court Justice, Cementing Conservative Majority

Senate Republicans confirmed Barrett, 52 to 48, delivering President Trump a victory days before the election. Both presidential candidates campaigned in Pennsylvania, where Joe Biden said he would expand his electoral map and Mr. Trump mocked Kamala Harris.

22

The Senate confirms Barrett on a nearly party-line vote, delivering a win to Trump that tips the Supreme Court to the right.

A divided Senate voted Monday night to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, capping a lightning-fast Senate approval that handed President Trump a victory only days before the election and promised to tip the court to the right for years to come. She was sworn in almost immediately after at a ceremony at the White House.

Inside a Capitol mostly emptied by the resurgent coronavirus pandemic and an election looming in just eight days, Republicans overcame unanimous opposition by Democrats to make Judge Barrett the 115th justice of the Supreme Court and the fifth woman ever to sit on its bench. In a 52-to-48 vote, all but one Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, who herself is battling for re-election, supported Judge Barrett, a 48-year-old appeals court judge and protégée of former Justice Antonin Scalia.

It was the first time in 151 years that a justice was confirmed without a single vote from the minority party, a sign of how bitter Washington's decades-old war over judicial nominations has become. The vote concluded a brazen drive by Republicans, who moved with remarkable speed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg six weeks before the election. They shredded their own past pronouncements and bypassed rules in the process, even as they stared down the potential loss of the White House and the Senate.

Democrats called it a hypocritical power grab by Republicans, who they said should have waited for voters to have their say on Election Day — the stance Republicans had taken four years ago when they declined even to hold hearings for one of former President Barack Obama's nominees to the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland.

Democrats warned of a disastrous precedent that would draw retaliation if they win power, and in a last-ditch act of protest they unsuccessfully tried to force the Senate to adjourn.

Republicans said it was their right as the majority party to press ahead, and exulted in their victory.

With Justice Barrett's elevation in place of Justice Ginsburg, a liberal icon, the court is expected to tilt decisively to the right. It is gaining a conservative who could sway cases in every area of American life, including abortion rights, gay rights, business regulation and the environment.

Wasting no time, Mr. Trump hosted an unusual nighttime swearing-in ceremony for Judge Barrett on the White House lawn, a bookend to the event only a month ago when he announced her nomination at a crowded and largely maskless gathering that later turned out to be a coronavirus super-spreader event.

In front of a crowd that included more than a dozen of the Republican senators who had voted for her confirmation, Justice Clarence Thomas administered the oath to Justice Barrett, who chose him for the occasion.

Her impact could be felt right away. There are major election disputes awaiting immediate action by the Supreme Court from the battleground states of North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Both concern the date by which absentee ballots may be accepted.

Justice Barrett will quickly confront a docket studded with major cases on Mr. Trump's programs and policies, not to mention a potential challenge to the election results that the president had cited as a reason he needed a full complement of justices before Nov. 3. Coming up quickly are challenges related to the Affordable Care Act, signature Trump administration immigration plans, the rights of same-sex couples and the census. The court is also slated to act soon on a last-ditch attempt from Mr. Trump's personal lawyers to block the release of his financial records to a grand jury in Manhattan.

The Supreme Court refused to extend Wisconsin's deadline for mailed ballots, a victory for Republicans.

The Supreme Court refused on Monday to revive a trial court ruling that would have extended Wisconsin's deadline for receiving absentee ballots to six days after the election. The 5-to-3 decision demonstrated a stark divide among the justices, and was considered a victory for

Republicans in a crucial swing state, which polls have shown Mr. Trump trailing in after winning it by about 23,000 votes in 2016.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin immediately announced an effort to alert voters that absentee ballots have to be received by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. "We're dialing up a huge voter education campaign," Ben Wikler, the state party chairman, said on Twitter. The U.S. Postal Service has recommended that voters mail their ballots by Oct. 27 to ensure that they are counted.

As is typical, the court's brief, unsigned order gave no reasons for its decision. But several justices filed concurring and dissenting opinions that spanned 35 pages and revealed a stark divide in their understanding of the role of the courts in protecting the right to vote during a pandemic.

The ruling was also the latest in a flurry of election-year decisions by the court that have mostly upheld voting restrictions, and the Trump campaign and its Republican allies are seeking similar restrictions on ballot deadlines in other states. Cases from North Carolina and Pennsylvania are pending before the court, the latter a second attempt after a 4-to-4 deadlock last week. Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was confirmed to the Supreme Court on Monday night, could cast the decisive vote in that case.

In Monday's opinions, divisions over voting rights that had been hinted at in some of the previous rulings came more clearly into the open.

In one concurring opinion, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, joined by Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, wrote that federal trial judges should not alter state voting rules when an election is looming. "Elections must end sometime, a single deadline supplies clear notice, and requiring ballots be in by Election Day puts all voters on the same footing," Justice Gorsuch wrote.

"No one doubts that conducting a national election amid a pandemic poses serious challenges," he wrote. "But none of that means individual judges may improvise with their own election rules in place of those the people's representatives have adopted."

Two same-sex couples in military marry in first for Taiwan

Two lesbian couples tied the knot in a mass wedding held by Taiwan's military on Friday in a historic celebration with their peers. Taiwan is the only place in Asia to have legalized same-sex marriage, with more than 4,000 such couples marrying since the legislation passed in May 2019. The mass wedding with 188 couples was the first time same-sex couples have been wed and celebrated at a military ceremony.

Both couples viewed their ceremonies with a sense of responsibility towards representing the LGBT community.

"We are hoping that more LGBT people in the military can bravely stand up, because our military is very open-minded. In matters of love, everyone will be treated equally," said Chen Ying-hsuan, 27, an army lieutenant who married Li Li-chen, 26.

Chen wore a rainbow wristband and said she has always been open about her sexual orientation while serving.

The ceremony at an army base in the northern city of Taoyuan was brief. The couples took part in a parade and then exchanged rings in front of an audience of family members and their senior officers.

Yumi Meng, 37, and her wife, army Maj. Wang Yi, 36, wiped back tears as they exchanged rings. Meng wore sneakers under her wedding dress, while Wang wore her officer's uniform. They each carried a pride flag throughout the ceremony.

Meng's parents had not come to the celebration, but in support both of Wang's parents as well as her teacher came out to support the couple.

"I really feel that this is a huge breakthrough for the military because before gay people really had to go through a lot," said Amy Chao, mother to Wang. "Perhaps for heterosexual couples, it's just a paper, but it's very important for gay couples, if you're sick or have to have a major surgery, if you don't have this, then you are nothing, you can't make a decision."

23

23

The announcement is especially significant to the city's African-American citizens, who have borne the brunt of these arrests. In 2010 and 2011, African Americans made up only 6 percent of San Francisco's population but accounted for around 50 percent of all marijuana-related arrests. A criminal conviction can bar someone from obtaining employment or housing and void certain professional licenses.

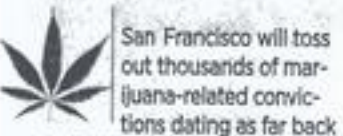
"This...underscores the true promise of Proposition 64—providing new hope and opportunities to Californians, primarily people of color, whose lives were long ago derailed by a costly, broken and racially discriminatory system of marijuana criminalization," said Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. —Safiya Charles



10

PROPOSITION 64

"New Hope" in San Fran



San Francisco will toss out thousands of marijuana-related convictions dating as far back as 1975. With recreational pot legal in California as of January 1, District Attorney George Gascón said the city was once again "taking the lead" to undo the damage of a failed War on Drugs and the federal government's "backwards" marijuana policy.

Prosecutors say they will dismiss and seal 3,038 misdemeanor convictions as well as consider downgrading 4,490 felony convictions to misdemeanor crimes, with no action necessary from those convicted.

While Proposition 64 legalized recreational cannabis use in the state and allowed those convicted of pot-related crimes to appeal for dismissal, the process itself can take months and often requires the petitioner to hire a lawyer—a barrier to those who can't afford the costs.

COMIX NATION

JEN SORENSEN

Trump is... Forever?

PRESIDENTS COME AND GO, BUT THEY PICK JUDGES FOR LIFETIME APPOINTMENTS — AND TRUMP IS PICKING THEM IN HIS IMAGE.

2009-2017: REPUBLICANS BLOCK OBAMA FROM APPOINTING FEDERAL JUDGES



THEY ALSO REFUSE TO VOTE ON HIS SUPREME COURT NOMINEE.



2017: AN ULTRA-RIGHT EXTREMIST GETS THE STOLEN SUPREME COURT SEAT



R'S QUICKLY START FILLING OVER 100 OPENINGS ON THE FEDERAL BENCH



UNDER DISCUSSION: ADDING MORE SEATS TO STACK THE COURTS EVEN FURTHER



AND IF ANOTHER SUPREME COURT SEAT OPENS UP:



EVENTUALLY, POLITICAL TIDES TURN ...

BUT HE'S STILL EVERYWHERE!



SORENSEN



24

The announcement is especially significant to the city's African-American citizens, who have borne the brunt of these arrests. In 2010 and 2011, African Americans made up only 6 percent of San Francisco's population but accounted for around 50 percent of all marijuana-related arrests. A criminal conviction can bar someone from obtaining employment or housing and void certain professional licenses.

"This...underscores the true promise of Proposition 64—providing new hope and opportunities to Californians, primarily people of color, whose lives were long ago derailed by a costly, broken and racially discriminatory system of marijuana criminalization," said Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. —Safiya Charles



10

PROPOSITION 64

"New Hope" in San Fran



San Francisco will toss out thousands of marijuana-related convictions dating as far back

as 1975. With recreational pot legal in California as of January 1, District Attorney George Gascón said the city was once again "taking the lead" to undo the damage of a failed War on Drugs and the federal government's "backwards" marijuana policy.

Prosecutors say they will dismiss and seal 3,038 misdemeanor convictions as well as consider downgrading 4,490 felony convictions to misdemeanor crimes, with no action necessary from those convicted.

While Proposition 64 legalized recreational cannabis use in the state and allowed those convicted of pot-related crimes to appeal for dismissal, the process itself can take months and often requires the petitioner to hire a lawyer—a barrier to those who can't afford the costs.

COMIX NATION

JEN SORENSEN

Trump is... Forever?

PRESIDENTS COME AND GO, BUT THEY PICK JUDGES FOR LIFETIME APPOINTMENTS—AND TRUMP IS PICKING THEM IN HIS IMAGE.

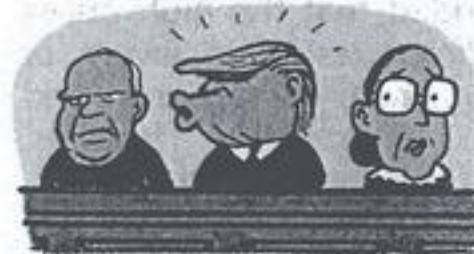
2009-2017: REPUBLICANS BLOCK OBAMA FROM APPOINTING FEDERAL JUDGES



THEY ALSO REFUSE TO VOTE ON HIS SUPREME COURT NOMINEE.



2017: AN ULTRA-RIGHT EXTREMIST GETS THE STOLEN SUPREME COURT SEAT



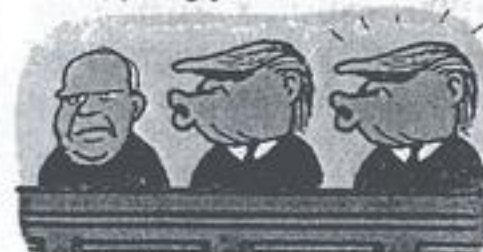
R'S QUICKLY START FILLING OVER 100 OPENINGS ON THE FEDERAL BENCH



UNDER DISCUSSION: ADDING MORE SEATS TO STACK THE COURTS EVEN FURTHER



AND IF ANOTHER SUPREME COURT SEAT OPENS UP:

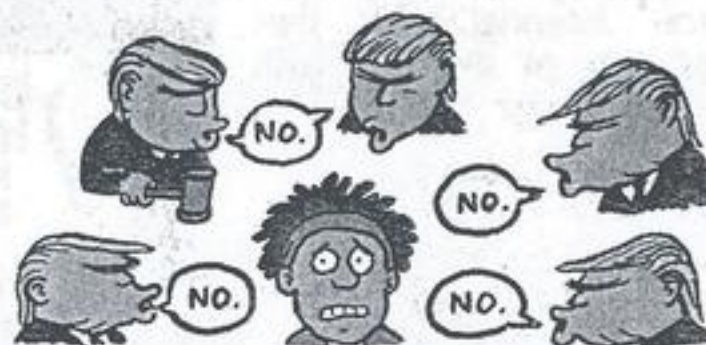


EVENTUALLY, POLITICAL TIDES TURN...



SORENSEN

BUT HE'S STILL EVERYWHERE!



© 2017 Jen Sorensen www.jensorensen.com Twitter: @JenSorensen

24