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## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **Kevin McCarthy can't give Republican rebels what they really want**

This column from *The New York Times* analyzes the reasons that Republicans are more dissatisfied with their congressional leaders than Democrats, as evidenced by the low approval ratings of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell among that party's supporters. Peter Beinart contends that many Republicans fear the shifting social and demographic changes in America that are eroding the status of white Christian men, leading to disillusion among those voters because their congressional leaders cannot change that fact and will not be able to do so.

Beinart, P. (2023, January 11). "Kevin McCarthy can't give Republican rebels what they really want." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/11/opinion/republicans-kevin-mccarthy-house.html>

### **Opinion: A 6-year-old shoots his teacher. Now what?**

CNN's Jill Filipovic argues in this commentary that America's gun culture and lax gun laws have led the country to some very dark places. She contends this has become especially clear in the wake of an incident at Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, Virginia that saw a 6-year-old boy shoot his teacher. Filipovic suggests that the sheer ubiquity of weapons has created conditions that too often lead to deadly violence that then is simply accepted as a reasonable social "cost."

Filipovic, J. (2023, January 10). "Opinion: A 6-year-old shoots his teacher. Now what?" *CNN*.

Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/10/opinions/6-year-old-virginia-shooter-teacher-guns-parents-filipovic>

### **Ron DeSantis could decide Republicans' foreign policy**

This article by *New York Times* reporter Bonnie Kristian analyzes the role Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, widely considered a 2024 Republican presidential nominee frontrunner, could play in shaping that party's foreign policy moving forward. His stance on Russia and Iran as existential threats to the United States, and noticeable silence concerning the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

*Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)*

are different from those taken by former President Donald Trump, who is still the leading candidate for the party's nomination.

Kristian, B. (2023, January 9). "Ron DeSantis could decide Republicans' foreign policy." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/09/opinion/ron-desantis-president-ukraine-china-iran.html>

### **Biden now has his own classified documents problem. Here's how it compares to Trump's**

This article, by *Vox* reporter Andrew Prokop discusses the 10 classified documents from President Biden's time as vice president found in his Penn Biden Center office, and how this case differs from the FBI raid of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago home to reclaim a much larger cache of classified documents in the face of Trump's refusal to acknowledge and provide those records. Prokop argues that although the two cases are different in every material way, GOP critics of the Trump raid are sure to criticize Attorney General Merrick Garland's handling of this new situation.

Prokop, A. (2023, January 10). "Biden now has his own classified documents problem. Here's how it compares to Trump's." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2023/1/10/23548189/biden-classified-documents-trump-mar-a-lago>

### **Opinion: Trump's immigration policy was a fiasco. Why hasn't Biden fixed it yet?**

Alice Driver argues in this *CNN* piece that although former President Trump ushered in an era of notably cruel immigration policies and politics, including the family separation policy, President Biden has not addressed that reality, and has actually imposed stricter immigration measures on nationals from certain countries who hope to enter the United States. She asserts that comprehensive immigration policies need to recognize the humanity of migrants coming to the border to escape the hardships they have faced.

Driver, A. (2023, January 9). "Opinion: Trump's immigration policy was a fiasco. Why hasn't Biden fixed it yet?" *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/09/opinions/biden-immigration-policy-driver>