

5 pieces worth reading

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What the Respect for Marriage Act means for LGBTQ, interracial families

This *Washington Post* story profiles 13 married couples whose marriages are now protected under the recently passed Respect for Marriage Act. The new law, which assures federal protection of same-sex and interracial marriage, was passed partially in response to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's comments at the time the Court overturned the *Roe Vs. Wade* decision earlier this year, that interracial and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) marriage rights should be reexamined. The new statute requires that couples be considered married in any state if their marriage is valid in the state in which it was performed.

Venkataramanan, M., Foster-Frau, S., Mara, M., Kiger, R., Nagaoka, R., Chery, S., & O'Hare, C. (2022, December 14). "What the Respect for Marriage Act means for LGBTQ, interracial families." *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/12/13/respect-marriage-act-lgbtq-families/>

Sandy Hook parents push for changes in the decade since the school shooting

Will Simon published this article on the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newton, Connecticut that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six adults, concerning how memories of the children murdered have lived on in their parents' advocacy for safer communities since. The Sandy Hook Promise organization has emerged as an enduring and vital force for changes in laws governing gun purchase and safety.

Simon, W. (2022, December 14). "Sandy Hook parents push for changes in the decade since the school shooting." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/14/us/sandy-hook-10-year-anniversary/index.html>

Kyrsten Sinema brings bad tidings for Democrats in 2024

Samara Klar's story in *The New York Times* discusses Senator Kyrsten Sinema's (AZ) decision to switch her party affiliation from Democratic to Independent, and its implications for her potential reelection campaign in 2024. Should she choose to stand for re-election, she could split the vote in a three-way race, allowing Republicans to regain the seat.

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

Klar, S. (2022, December 14). "Kyrsten Sinema brings bad tidings for Democrats in 2024." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/14/opinion/kyrsten-sinema-arizona.html>

The threat to democracy is still in Congress

David Graham argues in this story in *The Atlantic* that the defeat of prominent election deniers in many races across the country in last month's midterm elections should not be a cause for complacency, as almost all the 147 Republicans who voted to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election are still in office. Those individuals will enjoy an enlarged role in Congress as their Party assumes control of the House of Representatives next month.

Graham, D. (2022, December 13). "The threat to democracy is still in Congress." *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/12/threat-democracy-still-congress/672447/>

There's a reason there aren't enough teachers in America. Many reasons, actually

Thomas Edsall discusses the causes for the decline of the number of teachers in America, including insufficiently competitive salaries, a general decline in literacy and widespread demoralization arising from the culture war that has plagued education at all levels in many states, including, perhaps most prominently, Florida. Edsall contends that policy reforms must address these problems to improve the overall quality of the nation's education system and attract more talented individuals to the teaching profession.

Edsall, T. (2022, December 14). "There's a reason there aren't enough teachers in America. Many reasons, actually." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/14/opinion/teacher-shortage-education.html>