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5 pieces worth reading

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As the suburbs go, so goes America

New York Times columnist Thomas Edsall describes the increasing trend of Black Americans moving to the suburbs in this commentary. He argues that the suburbs will likely be characterized by racial politics for the foreseeable future as a consequence of this shift. Edsall demonstrates that President Biden won the 2020 election in part due to support from minority voters from the suburbs. He concludes that while this migration trend may favor Democrats, no one seems able today to predict the mood of the electorate in 2024.

Edsall, T. (2023, June 7). "As the suburbs go, so goes America." *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/07/opinion/suburbs-politics-integration.html>

It's great to have a president who knows when to shut up

Matthew Yglesias argues in this *New York Times* piece that President Joe Biden's strategy of negotiating behind the scenes should be commended, as, for example, it allowed him to obtain a debt ceiling agreement with Republicans that did not substantially sacrifice his legislative priorities. Yglesias contends that Biden's penchant for quiet conversations in private with lawmakers has contributed significantly to several key bipartisan achievements during this administration.

Yglesias, M. (2023, June 7). "It's great to have a president who knows when to shut up." *The*

New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/07/opinion/joe-biden-presidency.html>

Mike Pence is a man without a constituency

In this *Vox* story Li Zhou discusses Mike Pence's announcement that he will seek the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. Zhou argues that the former vice president has no natural constituency in today's Republican party. In addition, and relatedly, Pence is no longer in good standing with Donald Trump, a fact that will also likely cost him dearly among that share of the GOP faithful who continue strongly to support the former chief executive. The key to his possibility for success in Zhou's view, will lie in his ability to navigate a paradox; distancing himself from Trump personally, while nonetheless arguing that he played a central role in

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

crafting the Trump administration policies, which remain popular with the Republican Party base.

Zhou, L. (2023, June 1). "Mike Pence is a man without a constituency." *Vox*.

<https://www.vox.com/politics/2023/6/1/23745598/mike-pence-2024-election-republican-primary-candidacy-trump>

Why Chris Christie has a plausible path to 2024 victory

This *CNN* opinion piece, by David Mark, discusses former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's entry into the 2024 Republican presidential nomination contest and contends that he could be a dangerous candidate, as he has nothing to lose. Christie's willingness publicly to attack former President Trump makes him the most distinctive non-Trump candidate in the field. Mark contends that the success or failure of Christie's candidacy will rest on whether his aggressive personality and particular style of bipartisanship can win over voters in the primaries.

Mark, D. (2023, June 6). "Why Chris Christie has a plausible path to 2024 victory." *CNN*.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/06/opinions/2024-election-republican-christie-gop-lane-mark/index.html>

How a fringe legal theory became a threat to democracy

Andrew Marantz examines independent-state-legislature theory (I.S.L.T) in this *New Yorker* story and argues that a Supreme Court ruling that state legislatures can run federal elections however they choose in a pending case concerning gerrymandered congressional maps in North Carolina could serve as vindication for the interpretation. Marantz's essay sketches the evolution of this view, which has emerged as a key element of Republican Party ideology.

Marantz, A. (2023, June 5). "How a fringe legal theory became a threat to democracy." *The New Yorker*.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/06/12/how-a-fringe-legal-theory-became-a-threat-to-democracy>