

5 pieces worth reading

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Kansas voters resoundingly protect access to abortion

Kansas voters overwhelmingly voted against a ballot measure to end abortion rights in their state during the state's primary election last Tuesday. In the first test of voter sentiment since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the ballot measure to end the right to abortion in the state failed by approximately 20 percentage points. Many analysts are now speculating the issue will play a very high-profile role in the nation's upcoming mid-term election in November.

Hanna, J. (2022, August 3). "Kansas voters resoundingly protect their access to abortion." *Associated Press*. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/article/2022-primary-elections-kansas-abortion-b6d62a852c2ce4617f2c03589fbb523e>

Growing disconnects between citizens and legislators endanger US democracy

Joseph Chamie argues that the differences in perspective between the American people and their legislators are too often stark, as polls consistently show that the majority of Americans support reforms to address climate change, voting rights, immigration, gun control, abortion rights, and more, despite pushback and stalled progress from many lawmakers. Unless addressed, Chamie suggests that these disconnects foreshadow serious challenges for the long-term health of U.S. democracy.

Chamie, J. (2022, August 2). "Growing disconnects between citizens and legislators endanger US democracy." *The Hill*. Retrieved from <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3584422-growing-disconnects-between-citizens-and-legislators-endanger-us-democracy/>

Opinion: Biden is on the verge of a huge political victory

CNN political analyst J. Zelizer argues that the Inflation Reduction Act agreed upon by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) to combat climate change, health care, and taxes, and the passage of the CHIPS Act to increase production of semiconductors will boost President Biden's political standing. If the latter bill is able to pass, Biden will be able to show he has helped stabilize Washington and show governing can still be effective following Former President Trump's chaotic term.

Zelizer, J. (2022, July 29). "Opinion: Biden is on the verge of a huge political victory." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/29/opinions/manchin-schumer-biden-breakthrough-zelizer>

American democracy is not the beacon it once was for Africa's elite

Farah Stockman profiles how Kenyans currently view U.S. democracy. She points to eroding confidence in America following the January 6, 2021 Capitol insurrection and China's growing influence in financing infrastructure in Africa as reasons for a new wave of skeptical sentiment among some African leaders and especially Kenyan citizens.

Stockman, F. (2022, August 3). *American democracy is not the beacon it once was for Africa's elite*. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/03/opinion/kenya-presidential-elections.html>

Bill Russell, who transformed pro basketball, dies at 88

Richard Goldstein profiles the remarkable life and career of Bill Russell on and off the court. In addition to being a hall of fame player for the Boston Celtics, Russell was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement and fought for equality and dignity for all throughout his career.

Goldstein, R. (2022, July 31). "Bill Russell, who transformed pro basketball, dies at 88." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/31/sports/basketball/bill-russell-dead.html>