

The Constitution



Understanding American Politics



Meet the Candidates for 2020



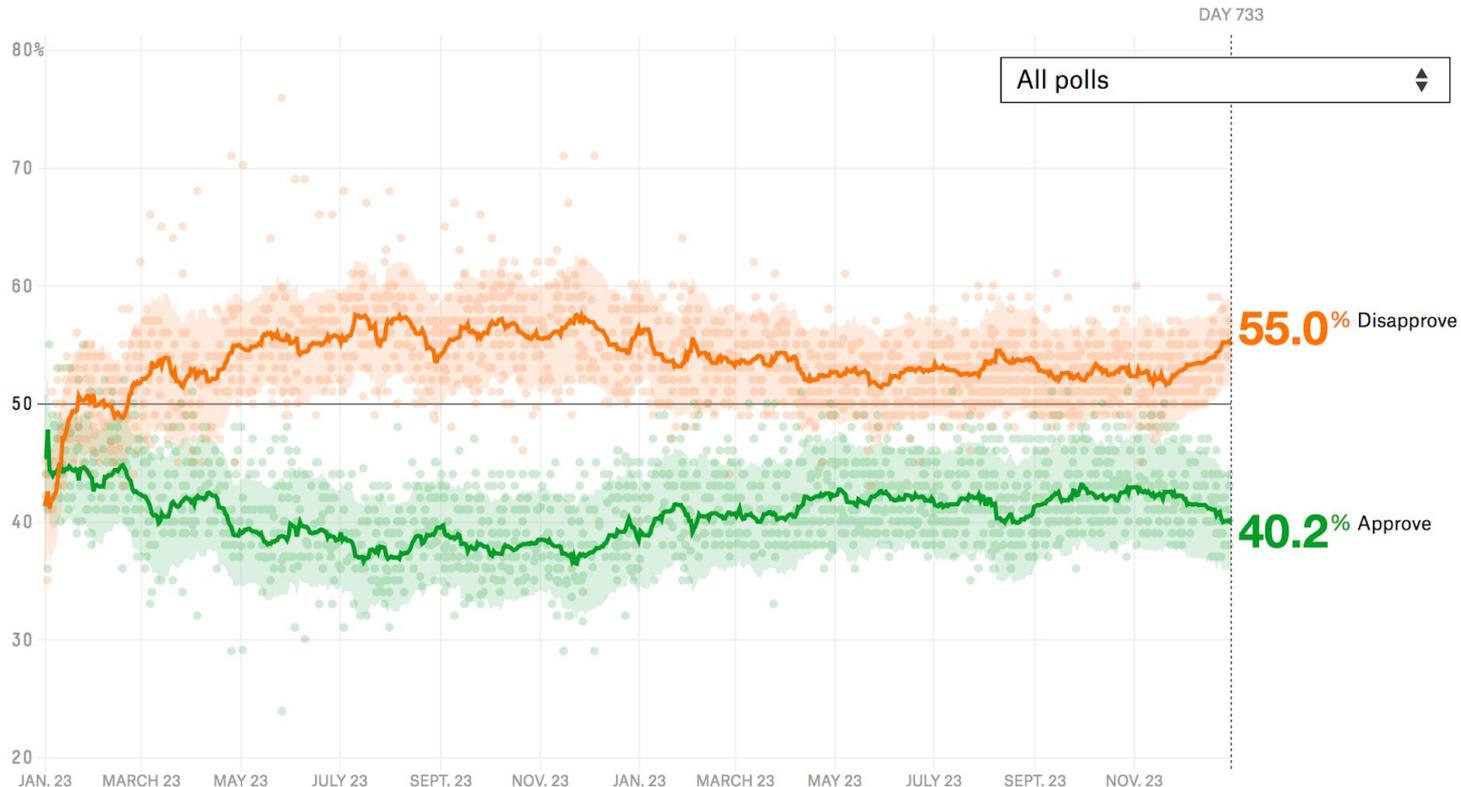
Meet the Candidates for 2020

Day 32

The Government Shutdown

How **unpopular** is Donald Trump?

An updating calculation of the president's approval rating, accounting for each poll's quality, recency, sample size and partisan lean. [How this works »](#)



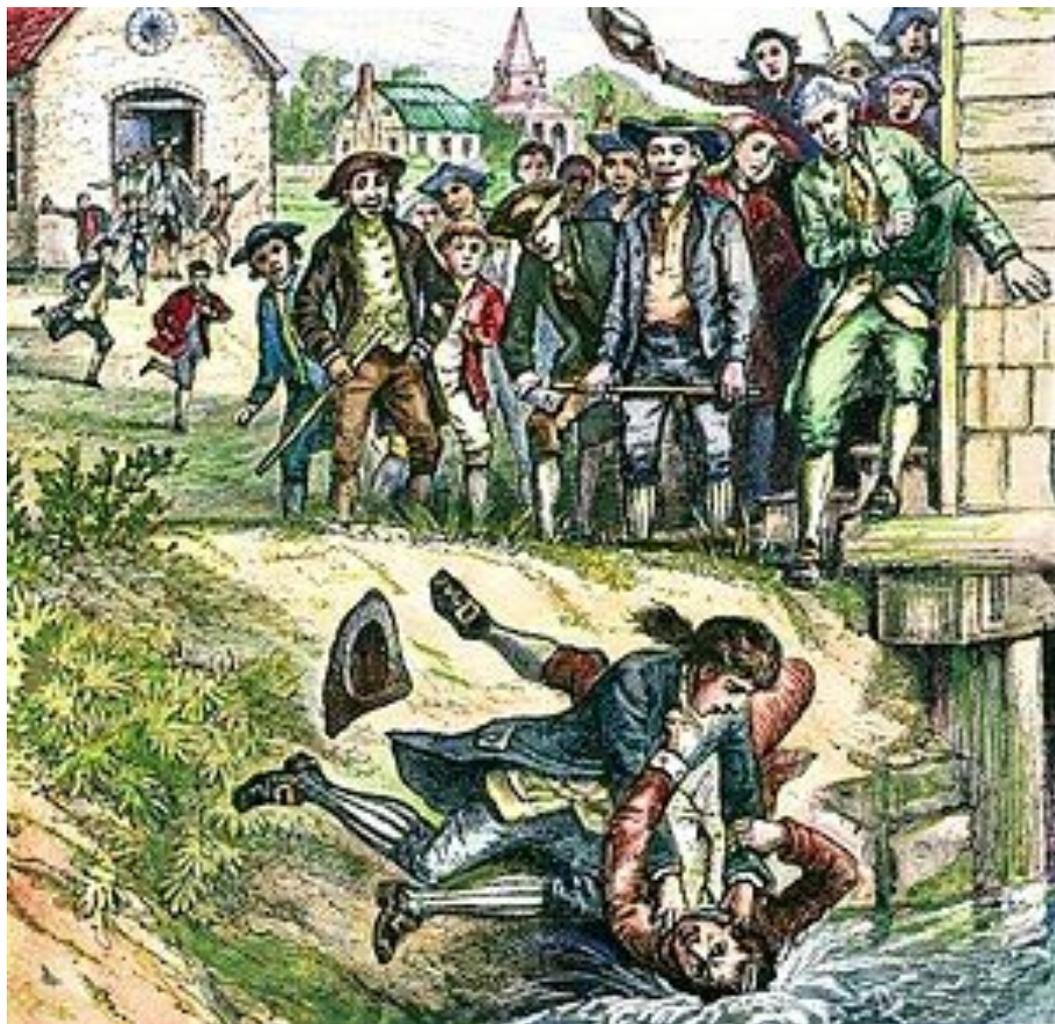
**Why do we need the
Constitution?**

What does the Constitution accomplish?

- Rule of Law
- Collective dilemmas
- Principal-Agent problems
- Basis for policy-making
- Establish foundational institutions
- Who can serve in government positions

The Prequel: Articles of Confederation

- Ratified in 1781 --- cooperative framework among sovereign states
- National-level actions: foreign policy, undertaking military operations
- Respect for state prerogatives: returning fugitives, honoring contracts (no national control for interstate commerce), no national taxes
- Equal treatment: state delegations ranged in size but each state had 1 vote
- Fear of tyranny: no executive powers
- A unified front: All 13 states needed to sign off on amendments; “important” bills required 9/13 delegates to vote in favor in order to pass



The Connecticut Compromise

- Major cleavages at the Constitutional Convention
 - 1. Representation in the Legislature
 - 2. Strength of the national government
 - 3. Slavery
- Resolution in the Connecticut Compromise
 - 1. Two houses (one apportioned by population, the other equal representation)
 - 2. Electoral College, Checks and Balance, Separation of Powers
 - 3. Three-Fifths Compromise

Political Science in Action

Votes on Assumption and Residence, First Congress: Comparing Continental and Federal Voting Rules

State	A1 4/12	A2 7/24	A3 7/26	S1 6/11	S2 7/9
Conn.	5-0	0-5	5-0	0-5	0-5
Delaware	1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0
Georgia	0-3	3-0	0-3	2-1	3-0
Maryland	0-6	4-2	2-4	6-0	4-2
Mass.	8-0	0-8	8-0	0-8	0-8
N. Hamp.	2-0	2-1	1-2	1-2	0-3
N. Jersey	2-2	0-4	4-0	2-2	2-2
N. York	3-3	3-3	3-3	0-6	0-6
N. Car.	0-3	5-0	0-5	3-1	5-0
Penna.	3-4	4-3	3-4	7-0	7-0
S. Car.	4-1	1-4	5-0	1-4	1-3
Virginia	1-9	7-2	2-7	9-0	9-0
Total Vote	29-31	29-32	34-28	32-29	32-29

Roll Call	Vote				Simple Majority Win	State Unit Rule Win
	Yes	No	Divided	(Del.)		
A1	5	5	2	(yes)	No	No
A2	6	5	1	(no)	No	No
A3	5	6	1	(yes)	Yes	No
S1	6	5	1	(yes)	Yes	No
S2	5	5	1	(yes)	Yes	No

Institutional Features of the Constitution

Hittin' the Highlights

- The President as the Executive
- Bicameral Legislature
 - Enumerated Powers
 - Elastic (Necessary and Proper) Clause
- Independent Judiciary
- Separation of Powers
- Checks and Balances
- National Authority vs. State Powers
- Amending

Find evidence for the following...

1. The Supreme Court can overturn HR 451
2. President Roosevelt can add three justices to the Supreme Court
3. There should be separation of Church and State
4. The passage of the Infant Crib Safety Act (Introduced in the Senate)
 - a. Makes it unlawful "to manufacture, sell, or contract" to sell, resell, lease, sublet, or otherwise place in the stream of commerce any full-size crib or nonfull-size crib that is unsafe for any infant using it.
5. The President can unilaterally invade Iraq
6. Slavery is expressly permitted

**Is our Constitution
broken?**