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## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **Why do people who don't like politics hold the fate of the country in their hands?**

Lee Drutman and Charlotte Hill discuss the influence of “swing voters” (voters who switch between Democrats and Republicans) in America’s polarized political system, and how today, that group is typically comprised either of people who are not engaged in politics or whose deeply held political beliefs have made them ambivalent about the two major parties. As advocates for a proportional representation system, these authors argue that this small unrepresentative group of Americans will play an outsized role in deciding who has control of the next Congress, a fact that does not align with a true democracy in which the majority of voters who do care about politics are heard and heeded.

Drutman, L., & Hill, C. (2022, November 1). “Why do people who don't like politics hold the fate of the country in their hands?” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/01/opinion/swing-voters-midterms.html>

### **Opinion: Obama just gave Democrats their perfect closing message**

Dean Obeidallah discusses Barack Obama’s efforts on behalf of Democratic Party candidates during the final run-up to the midterm election and contends that the former president’s arguments suggesting that Democrats will protect reproductive freedoms and same-sex marriage are both appropriate and powerful. Obeidallah suggests that although the economy and inflation are important issues, potentially losing freedoms to an ascendant Republican majority could inflict permanent harm on the broader polity.

Obeidallah, D. (2022, October 31). “Opinion: Obama just gave Democrats their perfect closing message.” *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/30/opinions/obama-closing-message-midterms-obeidallah>

### **Opinion: Election deniers aren't the only threats to democracy**

University of Kentucky Professor Joshua Douglas discusses the fact that not only are many GOP candidates who deny that the 2020 election was free and fair on the ballot this year, but many states, including Arizona and Nebraska, are also proposing strict photo identification laws that

*Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)*

could disenfranchise many voters in those states. Should they pass, such initiatives could have a significant impact on the 2024 election by de facto denying many Americans the franchise.

Douglas, J. (2022, November 1). "Opinion: Election deniers aren't the only threats to democracy this year." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/01/opinions/democracy-ballot-measures-midterm-elections-douglas>

### **What Elon Musk's *Twitter* acquisition means for the midterm elections**

Max Zahn discusses Elon Musk's acquisition of *Twitter*, and how his purchase of the social media giant may allow the spread of harmful speech in the final days before the midterm elections. Musk's absolutist free speech policies and potential reinstatement of former President Donald Trump to the platform could lead to disinformation and election integrity questioning during a time of already high polarization and in a campaign in which many GOP election deniers are already running for office in various states.

Zahn, M. (2022, November 1). "What Elon Musk's Twitter acquisition means for the midterm elections." *ABC News*. Retrieved from <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/elon-musks-twitter-acquisition-means-midterm-elections/story?id=92436831>

### **The 3 possible outcomes of the midterms in Congress, explained**

Rachel Cohen, Dylan Scott, and Li Zhou discuss the possible outcomes of the midterm election, and how each could affect President Biden's legislative agenda in the final two years of his first term.

Cohen, R. M., Scott, D., & Zhou, L. (2022, November 2). "The 3 possible outcomes of the midterms in Congress, explained." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/23435135/2022-midterms-congress-republican-democrat>