

## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **These are desperately uncivil times. We are disgracing America**

In the wake of another tragic mass shooting that killed 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Dr. Roxanne Gay contends that the United States has become ungovernable, not because of political differences within its citizenry or a lack of civility among its population, but because the national government is unwilling to protect and care for its citizens, especially its women, racial minorities, and children. Gay suggests that it is important that this fact be understood clearly by all citizens and that elected leaders be prevented from evading it.

Gay, R. (2022, May 25). "These are desperately uncivil times. We are disgracing America." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/opinion/roxanne-gay-uvalde-school-shooting.html>

### **These gun reforms could save 15,000 lives. We can achieve them.**

Nicholas Kristof highlights a sort of compassion fatigue in mourning gun violence with many political leaders offering thoughts and prayers, which, however welcome and necessary, do nothing to change extant conditions. He calls in addition for specific changes in law, include raising the minimum age to buy firearms, universal background checks prior to purchase of any weapon, and the imposition of uniform safe storage requirements. He contends that while these steps alone will not solve our nation's death by firearms problem, we must take them to begin a process of change that offers some prospect of doing so.

Kristof, N. (2022, May 25). "These gun reforms could save 15,000 lives. We can achieve them." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/opinion/texas-shooting-gun-control.html>

### **America's elected officials don't have an answer for gun violence**

Eric Lutz argues that our political leaders' inability to do anything to curb gun violence speaks to the brokenness of the American political system, which rarely seems to offer solutions to the country's challenges anymore. That deadlock has resulted, in Lutz's view, from the bad-faith of Republicans and the delusions of Democrats. He contends that it is difficult to see how anything

will change given the current partisan composition of the Senate and the refusal by enough members of that body to prevent any change in its filibuster requirements.

Lutz, E. (2022, May 25). "America's elected officials don't have an answer for gun violence." *Vanity Fair*. Retrieved from <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/05/americas-elected-officials-dont-have-an-answer-for-gun-violence>

### **Opinion: Perdue's loss is good for democracy. Kemp's win is not.**

President Obama's ethics office chief Norman Eisen, and former federal prosecutor Dennis Aftergut argue in this article that incumbent Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's win over former Senator David Perdue, despite former President Trump's endorsement of the latter, should not be celebrated as a win for democracy. Although Georgia's Republicans rejected a candidate who had publicly stated he would not have certified Joe Biden's Georgia victory in the 2020 election, it occurred alongside Herschel Walker's selection as the GOP nominee for the Senate, who has not acknowledged President Biden's victory. Kemp also signed Senate Bill 202 into law in Georgia, which suppresses Black votes by capping the number of drop boxes and eliminating the mobile voting trucks that Fulton County (the state's most populous jurisdiction) employed in the last election.

Eisen, N., & Aftergut, D. (2022, May 26). "Opinion: Perdue's loss is good for democracy; Kemp's win is not." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/26/opinions/georgia-primary-kemp-perdue-trump-democracy-eisen-aftergut/index.html>

### **America's redistricting process is breaking democracy**

Sue Halpern argues in this essay that although partisan gerrymandering has long been a part of American politics, it became a national Republican strategy after the 2008 election in which Democrats won control of White House and both houses of Congress. Halpern contends that redistricting has resulted in a Congress whose membership is out of step with majority public opinion on such issues as gun control and immigration reform. That difficulty has only been compounded in her view by the seating of three ideologically-minded Supreme Court justices nominated by a president not elected by a majority of the nation's citizenry.

Halpern, S. (2022, May 25). "America's redistricting process is breaking democracy." *The New Yorker*. Retrieved from <https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-political-scene/americas-redistricting-process-is-breaking-democracy>