



CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THE NEWS

The *Controversial Issues in the News* library highlights policy issues recently featured in the news. Issues are framed by a central question, historical context, an overview of both sides of the issue, and discussion questions.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration: How should the government reform its immigration system?

Birthright Citizenship: Should U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants receive birthright citizenship?

Summer Round-Up 2018: Why are families being separated at the U.S. border?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Should Congress pass a law to protect Dreamers from deportation?

Sanctuary Cities: Should governments penalize sanctuary cities?

Syrian Refugees: Should the United States halt its acceptance of Syrian refugees until the screening process is strengthened?

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Death Penalty: Should states abolish the death penalty?

Sentencing and Prison Reform: Should Congress pass the FIRST STEP Act?

The Right to Protest: Should state governments place additional restrictions on protests?

Title IX and Transgender Students: Should the federal government use Title IX to mandate that schools make accommodations for transgender students?

Racial Profiling and Criminal Justice: Should Congress pass legislation to end the use of racial profiling in law enforcement, except in matters pertaining to national security?

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Keystone XL Pipeline: Should the government allow construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline?

Climate Change: How, if at all, should the United States work to combat climate change?

Methane Emissions: Should the Trump administration repeal rules that restrict methane emissions by oil and natural gas companies?

The Dakota Access Pipeline: Should the Trump administration approve the route of the Dakota Access Pipeline?

FOREIGN POLICY

The Hong Kong Protests: Should the United States impose sanctions on human rights violators in Hong Kong?

Tariffs Against China: Should the United States impose retaliatory tariffs against China?

The Role of the United States in the World: Should the United States seek to maintain its role as the lone global superpower?

The Cuba Trade Embargo: Should Congress lift the Cuba trade embargo?

The Iran Nuclear Deal: Should Congress reject the Iran nuclear deal?

CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Voting By Mail: Should all states conduct elections entirely by mail?

Voter ID Laws: Should Americans be required to present a photo ID when voting?

Primaries and Caucuses 2020: Should Iowa and New Hampshire maintain their first-in-the-nation voting status?

Impeachment Primer: What is impeachment, and how does it work?

The Electoral College: Should states join the National Popular Vote pact?

2018 Midterm Elections Preview: What is at stake in the midterm elections?

Voter ID Laws: Should Americans be required to present a photo ID when voting?

The Voting Rights Act: Should Congress amend the Voting Rights Act to require states to receive federal permission to change their voting laws?

Campaign Finance Reform: Should the federal government reform its campaign finance laws?

HEALTH, WELFARE, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Stay-at-Home Orders: Are stay-at-home orders a valid use of government power?

The COVID-19 Pandemic: How should the government respond to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Homelessness Crisis: How should governments work to address the homelessness crisis?

E-Cigarette Bans: Should governments ban the sale of e-cigarettes?

School Vaccination Requirements: Should states allow non-medical exemptions from required school vaccinations?

Medicare for All: Should the United States pursue a “Medicare for All” health care system?

Medicaid Work Requirements: Should the government establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries?

Net Neutrality: Should the government enforce net neutrality rules for internet service providers?

The Opioid Crisis: How should the government combat the opioid crisis?

Human Cloning: Should the federal government ban human cloning?

The Funding of Planned Parenthood: Should Congress strip Planned Parenthood of its federal funding?

PUBLIC SAFETY

Red Flag Gun Laws: Should governments enact “red flag” gun laws?

The National School Walkout: Do students have the right to protest at school?

The Parkland School Shooting: Which policy options should lawmakers consider to try and prevent school shootings in the future?

Apple and the FBI: Should Apple be forced to unlock an iPhone that may contain material with national security implications?

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Abortion and the Supreme Court: Should the Supreme Court uphold a Louisiana law that requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital?

Student Aid and Religious Schools: Can a state forbid students in religious schools from being eligible for a general student aid program?

The Right to Transport a Handgun: Can a city ban a gun owner from transporting a licensed, locked, and unloaded handgun in their car?

Transgender Employment Discrimination: Does the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaw employment discrimination based on a person’s transgender status?

A Cross on Public Property: Does the display and maintenance of a cross-shaped war memorial on public property violate the First Amendment?

Summer Round-Up 2018: What key decisions did the Supreme Court issue at the end of the 2017-2018 term?

A Bakery, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Supreme Court: Does the First Amendment allow a business to deny services to people on the basis of religious beliefs?

Confederate Flag License Plates and the Supreme Court: Did the Supreme Court make the right decision in Walker v. Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc.?

Drug Sniffing Dogs and the Supreme Court: Is waiting for a K-9 unit after a traffic stop has ended, and without reasonable suspicion, an unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment?

THE ECONOMY

Guaranteed Minimum Income: Should the government provide a guaranteed minimum income to Americans in times of economic crisis?

Wealth Tax: Should the United States implement a wealth tax?

EDUCATION

College Affordability & Student Debt: How, if at all, should the federal government work to make college more affordable and ease student loan debt?

Affirmative Action in College Admissions: Should universities continue to use affirmative action to enroll more minority students?