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Good morning. Welcome to NonPolar's fifth newsletter edition! This week, we will be covering the movement of unions around the country to fight for their workers' rights, how to have a productive political conversation, the most relevant trends in news and social media, and the recent #BeagleGate controversy. Let's get to it!

Tips and Tricks

In a 2016 article published in [TED](#), Celeste Headlee provided some great points to keep in mind when entering a discussion about politics. Here are her four things to keep in mind:

1. **Don't try to educate anyone.** Don't start a conversation intending to prove someone is wrong or to change their mind. Neurological research shows that it's really hard to change our own minds, let alone someone else's. If that's your goal, you will be disappointed and you'll also annoy the person you're speaking to.
2. **Don't pre-judge.** Listen to people with an open mind. If someone likes a candidate you hate, it doesn't mean you should discount everything they say or that you won't find common ground. The purpose of listening is not to endorse, but to understand.
3. **Show respect.** While it sounds simple, respect is the most important aspect of a productive conversation. Refrain from calling the other person names, discounting their ideas or using frequent interruptions to talk over them or perplex them. It also means taking turns, so that you allow them to respond to your questions and share an equal time to express their point of view. The vast majority of people you know believe they are doing the best they can — they truly believe their candidate or their policies will make the world a better place. Practice seeing people with whom you disagree as people who are trying to achieve a positive result.
4. **Stick it out.** When a conversation becomes awkward or difficult, work through it. Don't crack a joke or change the subject; just work through the awkwardness. But the most important conversations are those that people are the most passionate about, those that people are the most emotional about. They are messy and frustrating and even uncomfortable, but they're also often worth it. And they are necessary if we are to find common ground and begin to solve some of the serious problems facing our global society.

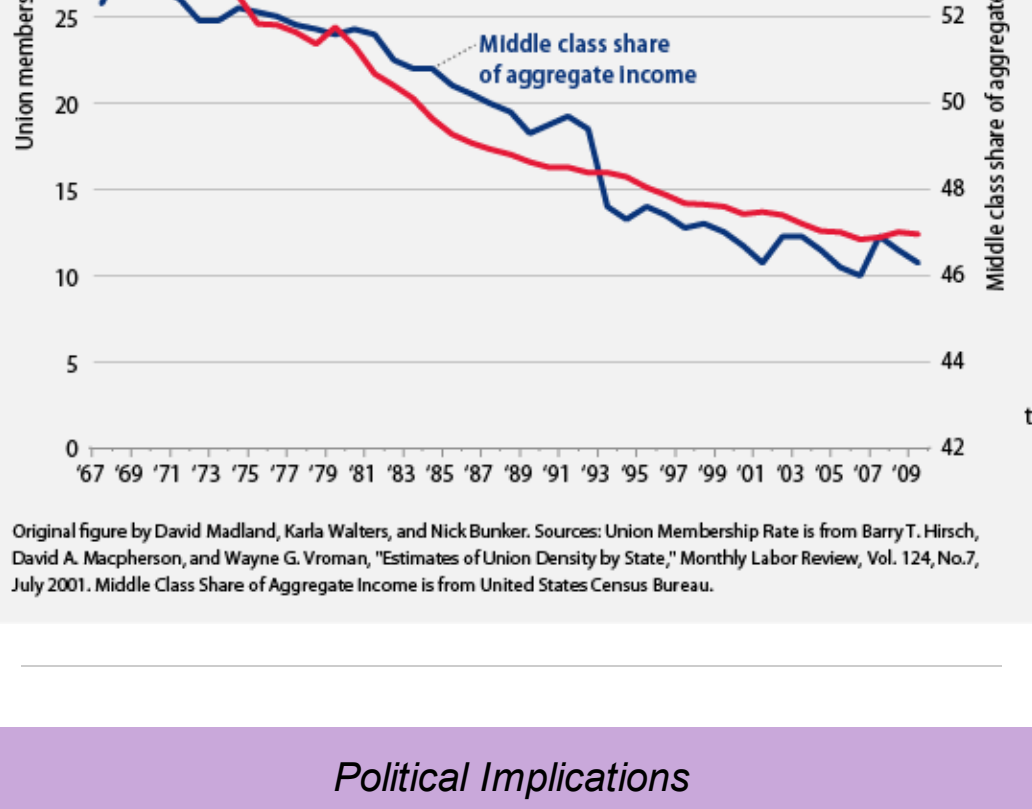
The Return of Unions: Re-Industrializing Middle America

Background

In the mid-20th century, the American economy was marked by the power and prominence of organized labor, with over 28% belonging to a union in 1967. In contrast, the current percentage of unionized workers exists at a near all-time low of 12.1% (Semuels, 2021). The change in union membership is largely attributed to an increased ability for companies to offshore labor to cheaper markets, decreased regulation, and the passage of laws, primarily backed by Republicans, that target unions. A growing trend of public support for unions, even among Republicans, combined with increased income inequality and uncertainty within the labor market due to the pandemic, have led to a number of labor strikes across the country in a wide variety of industries. These strikes present the question of whether they indicate a movement back to an economy driven by organized labor, or whether they only represent an irregularity during a time of economic precarity.

The Current Discussion

In 2021, there have been 178 labor strikes, and many wages have seen an uptick as employers have been more desperate to find workers. The government began tracking strikes of over 1,000 workers in the 80's; of those 178, there were only [11 labor strikes](#) in 2021. These strikes have come after millions of workers have quit their jobs, now being called the "Great Resignation". Both of these factors have challenged the current relationship Americans have with work. When the status quo was challenged through COVID, it changed the expectations of workers, as we see now. Hopefully with these strikes, we will begin to see employers improve jobs, as we did in the strikes after World War 1. We have already seen some results, with workers at Nabisco and Frito-lay securing higher raises and [new vacation allowances](#). However, Nabisco still won the ability to pay weekend workers less than they do [currently](#). Biden ran on being Pro-union and improving the economic mobility of the social class, however, we will see if his actions can garner enough support from the country to maintain Democratic control going into midterm elections.



Political Implications

Joe Biden ran on supporting unions, however the government has not done much to do so. In fact, the most recent election was a very strong indicator of the lack of support behind the Biden movement. Deeply reliable blue states such as New Jersey went right down to the wire with the Democratic candidate, Phil Murphy, winning by a narrow margin. In Virginia's gubernatorial election, a state that President Biden carried by a pretty convincing margin, swung heavily red in the gubernatorial election as many displeased with the current state of American politics chose to support Glenn Youngkin, a republican candidate who ran on an education-based platform. With unions, the latest update is that they are asking for "more vaccine protections in the [president's] vaccine mandate". However, the multitude of promises that the president made to working class Americans have not been fulfilled, and many in America are starting to get antsy for change.

Trending in News and Social Media

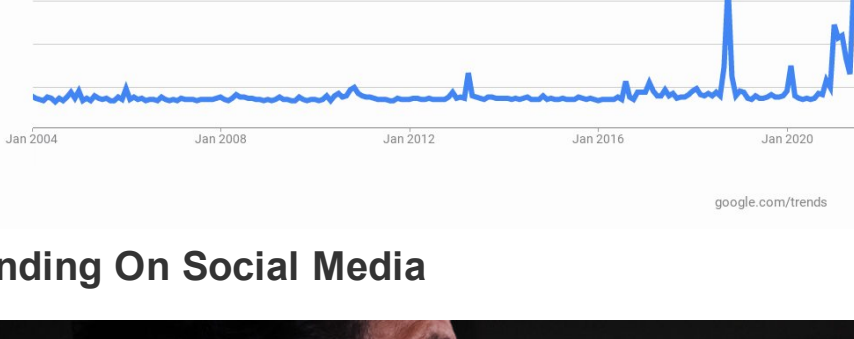
Search Trends

Joe Manchin:

- With sustained and increasing pressure from within the Democratic party to compromise on Joe Biden's Build Back Better agenda, Manchin has been thrust into the national spotlight. The Senator from West Virginia has pushed back on the budget and/or implementation of progressive programs that would assist prescription drug prices, climate change, and paid leave for working families. Click the links below to learn more about the current situation:
 - From the right: [Fox News](#), [What happens if the House votes on the social spending bill this week without Manchin's blessing](#)
 - From the left: [NYT](#), [Democrats lobby Manchin as they race to seal a deal on their domestic agenda](#)

JOE MANCHIN IS BEING SEARCHED NOW MORE THAN EVER, US

Joe Manchin

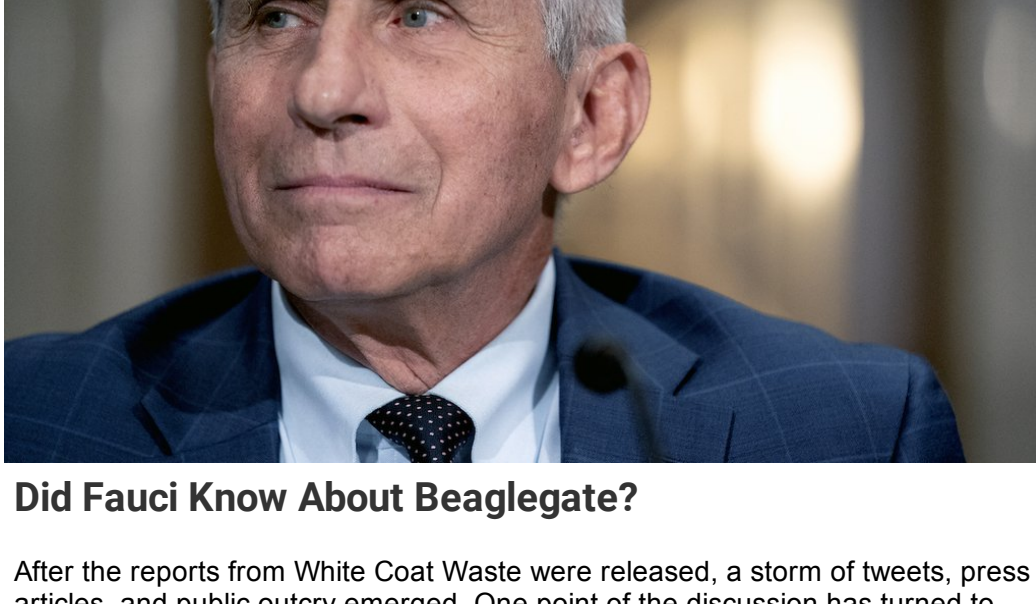


Trending On Social Media



- **#AndrewCuomo:** Following his resignation, an aide of the former NY governor filed a criminal charge for forcible touching. This comes after a number of reports of sexual misconduct emerged from Cuomo staffers during his time in office. See more [here](#).
- **#BidensAgendaWorksForUS:** As negotiation continue to pass both the infrastructure and reconciliation bills from Biden's agenda, many feel that the bill has been stripped of many important features. Others feel that the packages need to be passed soon to have any hope of helping Americans. See how your fellow citizens feel: [#BidensAgendaWorksForUS](#)
- **#BeagleGate:** A series of reports from White Coat Waste Project, a government watchdog group against animal testing, claim that \$5.6 million taxpayer dollars, under direction by Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the NIAID, was spent forcing Beagle puppies to endure bites from hundreds of ticks at once. This has sparked intense outcry online- let's take a deeper dive into what people have been saying

Headline Trends: #BeagleGate



Did Fauci Know About BeagleGate?

After the reports from White Coat Waste were released, a storm of tweets, press articles, and public outcry emerged. One point of the discussion has turned to ask if Fauci willingly funded this research as director of the NIAID. With a public figure as polarizing to the US as Dr. Fauci, headlines can make it difficult to decipher what is actually happening. Here are a few different perspectives:

- **[The Dogington Post](#): #BeagleGate: Fauci Led NIAID Spent \$5.6 Million Taxpayer Dollars Forcing Beagle Puppies to Endure Bites from 250 Ticks**
 - This article summarizes the findings of the report, and very unfavorably discuss Dr. Fauci's role in funding the study.
- **[FactCheck.org](#): Answering Questions about BeagleGate**
 - Follow the link above for a detailed walkthrough of the research White Coat Waste has revealed, previous NIAID research, and what Fauci has stated to the public.
- **[Glenn Greenwald](#), [Substack](#): To Protect Fauci, The Washington Post is Preparing a Hit Piece on the Group Denouncing Guesome Dog Experimentations.**
 - Investigative journalist Glenn Greenwald shared in his independent newsletter a body of research that he claims shows the Washington Post's bias against covering the story in order to protect Dr. Fauci. These claims affirm the feelings of many Americans who feel news media and public health have misled the public over many issues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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