**Each excerpt below is color-coded for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

**Voting and Elections**

**When people think of elections, they usually focus on who might win and the policies that the winner is likely to enact. But equally important in a democracy is how the loser reacts if he or she does not accept the vote, then portions of a country can become ungovernable. Democracies survive only if losers accept the results. In order to accept defeat, citizens need hope. Hope – the belief that every election will not be the last – is the glue that binds citizens to the democratic process. As the United States barrels toward another contentious election, the specter of violence looms. *(Barbara F. Walter, in The New Yorker, as it appears in The Week magazine, September 6/September 13, 2024)***

**Susan B. Anthony was fined $100 for voting in the 1872 election. She never paid the fine. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. *(Oscar Ameringer, labor organizer)***

**In Australia, people who don’t vote are fined. In America, people can go to jail for skipping jury duty, but there’s no penalty for not voting. *(Joe Nocera, columnist, in The New York Times)***

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**Our only two elective federal officials not chosen by direct ballot of the people are the president and vice-president. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Nearly 6 million paper ballots cast by Florida voters in the disputed 2000 presidential election are still preserved in a climate-controlled room in Tallahassee, at the cost of $43,000 a year. *(Palm Beach, Florida, Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 19, 2010)***

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**They called me mad, and I called them mad, and damn them, they outvoted me. *(Nathaniel Lee, playwright)***

**Good week for: Parting shots, after a Virginia woman’s obituary listed the upcoming presidential election as her cause of death. “Faced with the prospect of voting for either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton,” The Richmond Times-Dispatch obit began, “Mary Anne Noland chose instead to pass into the eternal love of God.” *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2016)***

**If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal. *(Emma Goldman)***

**Once, in India, a group of 100,000 Hindus voted to become Christian. But there were 37 denominations at work in their area, so they gave up their plan through inability to agree on which denomination to be identified with. *(Christian Advocate)***

**Grover Cleveland got more popular votes in the 1888 presidential election, which he lost, than he got in the 1884 presidential election, which he won. *(Uncle John's Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 120)***

**Good week for: Confidence, after former President Donald Trump, who lost to Joe Bidin 2020, assured supporters in New Hampshire that his margin of victory in 2024 will be so huge that they needn’t vote. “Don’t worry about voting,” Trump said. “We got plenty of votes.” *(The Week magazine, November 3, 2023)***

**At least 14 states have introduced various proposals this year to restore voting rights to convicted felons, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. More than 4.6 million Americans are currently unable to vote because of felony convictions. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 17, 2023)***

**Voters in 93 percent of the 376 counties with the highest per capita number of coronavirus cases overwhelmingly went for Trump. Most of the counties were rural -- in Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 20, 2020)***

**If voting could really change things, Congress would make it illegal. *(The American Legion magazine)***

[**The**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/) **Democratic Party has won the popular vote in seven of the past eight presidential elections. Two of the past four presidents have taken office despite losing the popular vote. Senators representing a majority of Americans are often unable to pass bills, partly because of the increasing use of the filibuster. Even the House, intended as the branch of the government that most reflects the popular will, does not always do so, because of the way districts are drawn. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2022)***

**In midterms this fall, 60 percent of American voters will have an election denier on their ballot running for House, Senate, or a statewide office such as governor or secretary of state. A survey of all 540 Republican candidates for major office found 199 who fully denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election, 118 of whom areall but guaranteed to win. Only 74 percent fully accepted the vote results; many others refused to say. *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 23, 2022)***

**Donald Trump twice donated money to Kamala Harris when she was running for California attorney general. He gave her $5,000 in September 2011 and $1,000 in 2013; his daughter Ivanka donated $2,000 in 2014. The donations came at a time when Trump was facing two lawsuits in California alleging fraud by Trump University, his real estate training program. *(The Dispatch, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 9, 2024)***

**First woman: "Now that the election's over, maybe the politicians can get back to work," Second woman: "You bet. It must be about time to start raising money for the next campaign." *(Jan Eliot, in Stone Soup comic strip)***

**An election is coming, Universal peace is declared, and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry. *(George Eliot)***

**Every vote means something. This was really the case in 1864. Lincoln was in deep political trouble. The war was dragging into its third unpopular year. In the North, it was becoming “Mr. Lincoln’s War,” and that opened the door to real doubt as to his reelection. For the weary people in the North, a new president was the easy way to get out of an endless conflict. To the people in the South, the only chance for a negotiated peace seemed to be a new occupant in the White House. But battlefield successes intervened and insured the President’s reelection. Nevertheless, while he won a strong victory, it was not overwhelming. Lincoln’s only known landslide victory was far from Washington, D.C. No one ever officially announced the total results of the voting even though every ballot was carefully marked, collected, and counted. The final outcome of this one landslide was interesting – even stunning. In it Lincoln received 7,000 votes out of a total of 7,350. That’s more than 95 percent – unheard of in popular voting! The reason for this immense personal popularity? A hometown section in Illinois or a block of elderly people told how to vote? No! The polling place was a “Prisoner of War” Camp at Andersonville, Georgia. And the voters were the captive Union soldiers who believed in their man! (Derric Johnson, in The Wonder of America, p. 212)**

**Joe Biden became the first presidential candidate in history to top 80 million votes this week, as the counting of remaining ballots in several states continued. Biden amassed 6.2 million more votes than Donald Trump, with 51.1 percent of the total to Trump's 47.1 percent. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 11, 2020)***

**On February 11, 1812, Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry manipulated the boundaries of voting districts to gain an advantage for his party. Thus began the practice of gerrymandering. (*The Daily Chronicle)***

**Do you ever get the feeling that the only reason we have elections is to find out if the polls were right? *(Robert Orben, humorist)***

**The GOP's campaign to restrict voting: After a record turnout in the 2020 election, Republican-controlled states "are taking their voter-suppression efforts to new extremes," said Ari Berman. Georgia, which gave Joe Biden a narrow victory and elected two Democratic senators, "is ground zero" for new voting restrictions. The state legislature is promoting bills to end no-excuse absentee balloting, limiting such ballots to people over 65 and requiring voters to get the signature of a witness and attach a copy of a photo ID. Another bill would ct back on Sunday voting, in an obvious attempt to limit black turnout through the "Souls to the Polls" voting drives held by black churches. Until this year, Georgia Republicans supported and expanded mail-in balloting, because it helped older and rural voters. But during the pandemic, many Democrats used mail-in ballots, leading to Donald Trump's Big Lie about widespread fraud. (Every ballot in Georgia was recounted by hand.) At latest count, Republicans have introduced 253 bills to restrict voting access in 43 states, justifying these anti-democratic restrictions by saying their supporters don't "trust" elections. If Democrats do not enact a proposed federal voting-rights bill to safeguard access to the ballot, "the consequences of democracy" will be dire. *(The Week magazine, March 12, 2021)***

**Take it from me – elections matter. *(Al Gore)***

**A new American Psychological Association survey finds that 52 percent of Americans say they're suffering from high stress levels because of the presidential election. *(Yahoo.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 28, 2016)***

**But there’s one what-if Americans aren’t paying enough attention to: What if they tie? It sounds outlandish. It was literally a plot point in HBO’s political satire, Veep. It hasn’t happened for 200 years, not since the House clawed the presidency from Andrew Jackson, who won the popular vote but didn’t manage to win over the Electoral College, and elected his opponent, John Quincy Adams – prompting a massive populist backlash that remade American politics. In the case of a tie, the House decides the election, per the 12th Amendment, with each state delegation allotted one vote. On February 9, 1825, members of the House of Representatives met in an extraordinary session to elect the sixth president of the United States. By the terms of the 12th Amendment, since no presidential contender had attained a majority of the Electoral College in the prior year’s election, the choice would fall to the House. Republicans currently control 26 house delegations. Democrats control 22, and two others are tied. We could be on the road to an unthinkable scenario: Democrats win the popular vote for the presidency and the House, but return Donald Trump to the White House through the 12th Amendment mechanism. *(Politico, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 7, 2024)***

**The world's most populous democracy, India, has 900 million eligible voters. The country can't handle all of them voting at once, so they will cast ballots in seven phases spread over five weeks. More than 1 million polling places will be set up (the U.S., by contrast, has about 117,000), partly because of India's vast size, and partly because of a law that says that no citizen should have to travel more than 1.25 miles to vote. (*The Week magazine, April 19, 2019)***

**In elections, issues are more important than problems. Candidates should be most interested in those concerns that can be expressed in ways that show the public they have differing views, including views about social issues such as crime, welfare, educational discipline and race and gender preference. That offers the public a choice. Get elected by dividing. Govern by unifying. *(Ben J. Wattenberg, in Values Matter Most)***

**Seventy-three parties were on the ballot for an election in Italy in 1968. One was Friends of the Moon, which sported exactly one candidate. (*Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 337)***

**The only problem with free elections is that you never know who’s going to win them. *(Nikita Khrushchev)***

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**If God wanted us to vote, He would have given us candidates. *(Jay Leno)***

**Some Iraqi politicians are telling voters if they don’t vote for them, they’ll go to hell. Imagine trying to use your religion to get votes. Thank God politicians in this country don’t try that type of thing. *(Jay Leno)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The ballot is stronger than the bullet. *(The Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, p. 190)***

**How many presidential candidates lost the popular vote but obtained the highest office in the U.S.? Five: John Quincy Adams, Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, George W. Bush, and Donald J. Trump. Five candidates won the popular vote but lost the presidency: Andrew Jackson to Adams (1824), Samuel Tilden to Hayes (1876), Grover Cleveland to Harrison (1888), Al Gore to Bush (2000), and Hillary Clinton to Trump (2016). *(Amy Pastan, in The Smithsonian Book of Presidential Trivia, p. 61)***

**You know it's an election year when Congressmen start writing to you, instead of the other way around. *(Don Maclean, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Ford County, Kansas, officials have moved the only poling place in Dodge City beyond city limits for the midterm elections. Dodge City, which is 60 percent Hispanic, has been long criticized for having only one polling place for 13,000 voters. This year, citing road construction, Republican officials have moved the polling place out of town, more than a mile from any bus stop. *(The Week magazine, November 2, 2018)***

**The effort to oust California Gov. Gavin Newsom ended in resounding failure this week, after the Democrat prevailed in a landslide. As The Week went to press, with some 70 percent of ballots counted, an insurmountable 64 percent of voters had said “no” to removing the governor from office. The $276 million recall vote was ordered after only 4 percent of the state’s population signed a petition. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**Finishing second in the Olympics gets you silver. Finishing second in politics gets you oblivion. *(Richard Nixon)***

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**Officials in Georgia’s Cobb County are equipping election workers with panic buttons that will let them alert authorities in an emergency. The credit card-size devices will be given to 200 election workers, in anticipation of possible disruptions in the swing state. Nearly 40 percent of local election officials nationwide say they have experienced threats, harassment, or abuse. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 30, 2024)***

**Fifty-six percent of divorced men plan to vote for Donald Trump in November, according to the Survey Center on American Life, compared with 50 percent of married men and 38 percent of single men. Among divorced women, 42 percent intend to vote for Trump. *(The Bulwark, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 26, 2024)***

**Polarizing people is a good way to win an election, and also good way to wreck a country. *(Molly Ivins, columnist)***

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**An Early Fall: A new poll showed that if the presidential election were held today, most people would be confused because it's usually held in November. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**Trump’s primary numbers suggest polling may be skewed, said Peter Spiegel in the Financial Times. He has consistently performed below pollsters’ expectations – and in some cases, the differential is “eye-popping.” In Virginia, Trump polled 60 points ahead of Haley; he finished only 28 points ahead. In Vermont, a major poll showed Trump leading 61-31 – and then he lost. The misfires suggest a growing number of “secret non-Trump voters” among Republicans, and they seem to be clustered in the suburban areas where “the 2024 election will be won or lost.” *(The Week magazine, March 15, 2024)***

**Then-President Barack Obama had similar polls a year before the 2012 election, before steamrolling Mitt Romney by nearly 5 million votes. The Times poll shows why many swing-state voters could come home to Biden: They trust him more on crucial social issues, like abortion and democracy, and 6 percent would switch their support to Biden if Trump is convicted and sentenced in any of his cases. *(The Week magazine, November 17, 2023)***

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**At what age did Prince Charles first get to vote? Trick query. As a member of the House of Lords, he is not permitted to vote. Likewise, his mother, the queen, and his father, Prince Philip. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Republican presidential candidates have lost seven of the last eight popular votes. *(The Week magazine, February 24, 2023)***

**You say presidential election procedures should be changed? So say the many. And they’ve said it since 1789. More than 10,000 amendments have been proposed to fix the process. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Vote for the man who promises least; he’ll be the least disappointing. *(Bernard Baruch, businessman)***

**Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed victory this week in a predetermined election that will grant the country’s longest standing leader since Stalin another six years in power. The election board said he took 87 percent of the vote. Outside observers, though, estimated that millions of votes may have been faked, and Moscow-based election monitor Golos recorded more than 1,400 instances of ballot stuffing and other violations. Putin’s name appeared on the ballot alongside three others, all relative unknowns handpicked by the Kremlin. The few true opposition candidates were barred from running, and Alexei Navalny, Putin’s most powerfoe foe, died in a Siberian prison last month. Still, thousands of people went to the polls to vote against Putin in a noontime flash protest. In power either as a prime minister or president since 1999, Putin changed the constitution so he can run again after his new term expires in 2030. *(The Week magazine, March 29, 2024)***

**A recount is when the chairman can't believe his ayes. *(Orben's Comedy Fillers)***

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**The Republican party has lost the popular vote in seven of the past eight presidential elections. *(Politico, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 7, 2024)***

**Republicans won a majority in the House in November thanks to a total of fewer than 7,000 votes over five districts, according to Jacob Rubashkin of the nonpartisan firm Inside Elections. If Democrats had gained 1 percent more votes in those five districts, they’d have kept control of the House. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 30, 2022 / January 6, 2023)***

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**Politicians do not have an easy life. Somebody is always interrupting it with an election. *(Will Rogers)***

**It takes a great country to stand a thing like an election hitting it every four years. *(Will Rogers)***

**We always want the best man to win an election. Unfortunately, he never runs. *(Will Rogers)***

**I guess truth can hurt you worse in an election than about anything that can happen to you. *(Will Rogers)***

**The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected. *(Will Rogers)***

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**A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends on the character of the user. (*Teddy Roosevelt*)**

**Bad week for: Voter choice, with news that Democratic Rep. Raul Ruiz of California will be challenged in the next election by Republican Raul Ruiz. “I’ll say this,” said the Republican Ruiz, who at 57 is 10 years his opponent’s senior. “I had the name first.” *(The Week magazine, September 20, 2019)***

**A notice in the Adams County, Wisconsin, Times and Friendship Reporter reads: “I want to thank all you good people who took the time to vote for me on the school board. My wife was pleased with the outcome and wants to thank all of you who didn't vote for me." (Helen Walslager, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Bad week for: Self-effacement, after a city council candidate in Rainier, Washington, who decided not to cast a ballot in the election lost to his opponent by a single vote, 247-246. “I didn’t feel comfortable (voting for myself), said Damion Green. “I thought it was kind of narcissistic, so I didn’t.” (The Week magazine, December 15, 2023)**

**Any politician who starts shouting election-year demagoguery about the rich and the poor should be asked, “What about the other 90 percent of the people?” *(Thomas Sowell, Creators Syndicate)***

**From 1960 to 1990, roughly half of the 100 sitting senators represented states that voted for the other party for president. Today, there are only six such senators. *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 8, 2021)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The total amount of money spent on the 2012 elections, from the bottom to the top of the ballot, was a record $7.3 billion, the Federal Election Commission said this week. Candidates spent $3.2 billion, parties $2 billion, and outside political committees $2.1 billion. *(Politico.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 15, 2013)***

**Nearly $3.6 billion has been spent on political and issue ads so far this year, putting the 2022 elections on pace to obliterate 2018’s record as the largest midterm election year by ad advertising. *(Axios, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 12, 2022)***

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**Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything. *(Joseph Stalin)***

**Scores of state and local election officials say they’ve been targeted with stalking and death threats in response to President Trump’s false accusations of fraud in the 2020 elections. Many are considering quitting. “It certainly changed the way I look at this job,” said Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt, a Republican who left his home after repeated threats that named his children and included photos of his house. *(Vice.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 5, 2021)***

There are worse things than losing an election. The worst thing is to lose one's convictions and not tell the people the truth. *(Adlai Stevenson)*

**Almost everybody votes in Australia, where it’s illegal not to vote. But half a dozen European nations get out 80 percent of the vote, even though voting isn’t mandatory. How do they do it? Their election days are on Sundays. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Since the Supreme Court ruled parts of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional in 2013, jurisdictions with a history of systemic racism, whose elections used to be subject to federal supervision, have shut down almost 20 percent more polling stations per capita on average than the rest of the country. *(Vice.com as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 2, 2018)***

**At the Thanksgiving dinner, one says to the other: “And let us give thanks that the election is over and hope that politics goes back to just being a nuisance.” (Wiley, in Non Sequitur comic strip)**

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**The boy says at supper to his Mom and Dad: “This year I'm thankful that I'm still too young to vote.” (Ed Stein, in Denver Square comic strip)**

**The main trouble with holding elections is that you don’t know in advance how they’re going to turn out. *(Lord MacLehose, former Hong Kong governor)***

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**In 2016, Donald Trump got just 46.1 percent of the national vote -- less than Al Gore, John Kerry, and Mitt Romney got in defeat. *(The Week magazine, February 26, 2021)***

**As final ballots were counted, Trump’s popular-vote margin dropped to 1.6 percent, “one of the smallest margins since the 19th century.” He even fell short of a majority, with 49.86 percent of the vote, while Kamala Harris’ 48.26 percent surpasses Trump’s share in 2016 and 2020. Trump and his allies are trying to make him “seem more popular than he is,” to justify his extreme Cabinet picks and second-term plans. *(The Week magazine, December 6, 2024)***

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**Voter suppression can backfire: Republican officials occasionally suffer "an outbreak of alarming honesty" about why they want to make it harder to vote, said Paul Waldman. Arizona state Rep. John Kavanagh last week defended restrictive voting laws by saying, "We don't mind putting security measures in that won't let everybody vote -- but everybody shouldn't be voting." Kavanagh explained that "the quality of votes" matters, and it's no loss if "uninformed" people don't cast ballots. How do you measure "the quality" of votes? If President Biden won your state in 2020, "you clearly have a quality control problem." That's why Arizona and Georgia "are leading the way on new voter-suppression measures." Democrats are panicking, but they "have a powerful weapon in their arsenal: backlash." When Republicans overly tried to discourage people of color from getting to the polls last year, those voters turned out in record numbers. Current Republican efforts to curtail mail-in voting, remove ballot drop boxes, and restrict early voting are "so blatantly partisan and so indefensible" that they may backfire. When you threaten people's right to vote, you make it more precious -- and motivate them to exercise it. *(The Week magazine, March 26, 2021)***

**Who was the only president to have been elected by unanimous electoral votes? George Washington. No one can top Washington’s record. In his first election, he got all sixty-nine electoral votes from the ten states that cast them. Then the Father of Our Country, who still enjoyed preeminent status as a hero of the Revolutionary War, did it again in 1792, winning all 132 electoral votes and all fifteen states. Washington had an advantage over his successors in that there was not yet a two-party system in America, so he faced little opposition. *(Amy Pastan, in The Smithsonian Book of Presidential Trivia, p. 69)***

**When all defeats are fraudulent: Republicans now believe there are two possible outcomes in any election, said Dana Milbank. “A. The Republican wins. B. The Democrat stole the election.” Consider what happened in last week’s Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races. In New Jersey, Democrat Phil Murphy defeated Republican Jack Ciattarelli by a margin of 50.8 percent to 48.5 percent – nearly the same margin that Republican Glenn Youngkin defeated Democrat Terry McAuliffe in Virginia. McAuliffe “conceded defeat the morning after the election” and wished Youngkin well. Ciattarelli, meanwhile, refused to concede, urged “people to come forward with allegations of fraud,” and said the election wasn’t over “until every legal vote is counted” – implying there were many illegal votes. After Donald Trump’s “Big Lie” that he won the 2020 election, it has become GOP orthodoxy that any election not won by Republicans must have been stolen by the Democrats. The Republican National Committee has deployed an “election integrity team” of 20 lawyers to New Jersey to hunt for fraud, and Republicans were “planning to do the same in Virginia if Youngkin lost.” These “reckless, irresponsible GOP leaders” are no longer just campaigning against Democrats. They’re “campaigning against democracy.” *(The Week magazine, November 19, 2021)***

**Why We Vote on Tuesdays: One issue the Founding Fathers did not resolve at the 1787 Constitutional Convention was the timing of federal elections. For decades, states set their own voting days, meaning elections were held at different times all over the country. In 1845, Congress decided to straighten things out. But which day to choose? Monday was out, since people would have to travel to the polls in their buggies on Sunday, which wouldn’t sit well with churchgoers. Wednesday wouldn’t work either, since midweek usually meant market day for farmers – and most citizens at the time were farmers. Thursday didn’t fit the bill because, again, buggy traveling would cut into market day. And why not Friday? It isn’t totally clear, but it would seem that since the very early days of our country, Americans didn’t want to deal with anything too serious right before the weekend. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**I know nothing grander, better exercise, better digestion, more positive proof of the past, the triumphant result of faith in human kind, than a well-contested American national election. *(Walt Whitman, American poet)***

**On February 15, 1921, six months after the ratification of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote, a statue commemorating suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton was unveiled in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. The very next day the statue was moved to the Capitol Crypt, which amounted to an underground broom closet. Not until May 14, 1997, was the statue finally put back on display in the Rotunda, memorializing women's fight for equal rights and honoring the sculptor, Adelaide Johnson. (*The Daily Chronicles)***

**Largely lost amid the "general astonishment" over Donald Trump's election victory is one rather pertinent fact, said Andrew Trees in USA Today -- the president-elect won fewer votes than his opponent. While Trump secured the all-important 270 Electoral College votes, he currently trails Hillary Clinton by more than 1 million votes overall, or 0.8 percent -- and with millions of ballots still to be counted on the deep blue West Coast, that gap is expected to widen to about 2 million votes. In 2000, Al Gore got only 560,000 more votes than George W. Bush. "For the second time in 16 years, and the fourth time in U.S. history," our system has "foiled the popular will." *(The Week magazine, November 25, 2016)***

**In response to a question, 12 Republican candidates for governor and the Senate either would not commit to accepting the election results in November or declined to provide an answer. All of the Democrats said they would accept the results. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2022)***

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