

## It's Not All About the Presidency

It's All Hillary and Donald, All the Time these days. But when American voters enter the voting booth on November 8, they will be faced with more decisions than the Clinton-Trump one. They will choose their representatives to Congress; some will choose their state's governor and state legislators; and in many states, they will vote on several ballot measures. Here is some background:

In the US Congress, Senators' terms last six years, but the election schedule is staggered — about one-third of them run every two years. Members of the US House of Representatives' terms last two years which end in even-numbered years. So, this November, there will be elections for all 435 seats in the House and 34 of the 100 Senate seats. (24 of which are currently held by Republicans)

**Senate.** Of the current 100 Senators, 54 are Republican; if Democrats win at least five seats away from Republicans, they will have a majority. As I write in late October, nine races are considered tight. Of these, eight (North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Missouri, Indiana, Florida, Illinois and Wisconsin) have a Republican *incumbent* (person who has the job now) and one (Nevada) has a Democrat incumbent who is retiring.

**House.** In the House of Representatives, the Republicans currently have a majority (248 of the 435 seats). Needing 218 seats for a majority, Democrats would have to win 31 seats that are currently held by Republicans to gain control of the House. Observers see tight races in at least 10 districts (of which New Jersey, two in Florida, Virginia, Nevada, New York, Colorado,

Iowa and Minnesota are currently held by a Republican).

If both the House and Senate have a majority of the same Party as the President, there will be "one-party control" of the government. It may surprise you to learn that this has not been that common in the US — since 1980 we have had one-party control in only six years. Laws, of course, are easier to pass in a one-party government. Still, traditionally, some historians have said that the need for compromise and appeal to the center that occurs in a divided government has been healthy for the country. In recent years, however, we have seen little compromise and not much pull to the center. Control of the Senate and House will be very important outcomes of this election.

**Ballot Measures.** Voters may also be asked to vote on a *ballot measure* (also known as *initiative* or *proposition*) or a *referendum*. (If the question has first been considered by the state legislature and then taken to the people, it is called a *referendum*; otherwise, if it goes directly to the people for a vote, it is called a *ballot measure, initiative* or *proposition*.) For example, 10 states will vote on the use and regulation of marijuana, four states will vote on issues related to gun ownership, and 10 states will vote on some aspect of crime prevention or punishment. To see what ballot measures your neighbors will be voting on, go to: [votesmart.org/elections/ballot-measures](http://votesmart.org/elections/ballot-measures). Or to watch the Senate and House races, go to [www.270towin.com/2016-senate-election/](http://www.270towin.com/2016-senate-election/) or [www.270towin.com/2016-house-election/](http://www.270towin.com/2016-house-election/).

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## Cranberry Memories

My mother brought the cranberry sauce to Thanksgiving dinner at Great Aunt Alice's house every year. It was gelled — dark red, thick, shiny — in a wonderful round mold of swirling peaks like a circle of mountains that shimmered and shook. We'd put it into the trunk of the car, still in the mold, where it would stay cold for the hour's drive east from our suburb to her small town in Western Pennsylvania. Many years, it would be snowing lightly. After dinner we would go to cut down our Christmas tree. The snow silently smoothed the transition from one holiday to the next, and the whole day made me happy.

Aunt Alice's house was warm from the gathering family and the smells of turkey and stuffing and pumpkin pies she had made that morning. We'd pile our coats on the white spread of the guest bed, in the room whose walls were covered with our photographs. All of us cousins would sit in the living room — hands in laps, hair combed, dressed in our Sunday clothes on a Thursday, two or three crammed onto the couch beside a comfortable parent, the boys poking each other on the floor till they were told to shush. The adults chatted softly with each other, looking for and finding things they could agree about.

Only after dinner would we be allowed into heaven, Aunt Alice's basement where she

[continued on page 3 sidebar](#)

## Thanksgiving

In 1620, 102 people from England sailed to North America on a boat called the Mayflower. The boat landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. We call this group the Pilgrims (a pilgrim is someone who travels to visit a holy place, or for religious reasons). About half of these 102 were members of a religious group that had separated from the Church of England. They thought that the Protestant Reformation (and the Church of England, in particular) had not gone far enough in breaking from the Roman Catholic Church. They were looking for a land where they could establish their own, new religion. The US has since been the home of many people fleeing persecution for their ideas, but the Pilgrims were the first.

In the pictures you see today, Pilgrims are usually dressed in black and white, to show their serious religious beliefs, with hats like the one on this page. In fact, they only wore these clothes on Sundays. Other days they wore the brown and green work clothes they had worn in England. Though religious, they were not afraid of fun — beer and liquor were part of their daily diet.

The other half of the Mayflower group came to the New World for economic reasons. They were paid by investors at home to send back beaver furs, cod, and other products. The two halves worked and lived well together, and shared the job of governing the town.

The Pilgrims shared many difficult times. Of the 102 who left from England, 47 died by the end of the first year, mostly from illness that came from being tired, hungry, and overworked. Of the 18 wives who left England on the Mayflower, 13 had died by the end of the year (though only 3 of the 20 children had

died). We know very little about the emotions and thoughts of these women, and can only imagine their fear and sadness.

Some Native Americans were very helpful to the Pilgrims. They taught them to plant corn and barley, to eat oysters, to catch fish with nets, and to hunt wild turkey.

By the end of the first year, the Pilgrims were feeling very grateful. They had grown 20 acres of corn, had started a beaver fur trade, and had built 11 buildings. Fewer people were ill. So they decided to have a three-day harvest feast — the first Thanksgiving celebration.

They invited Massasoit, the Native American chief in this area. He arrived with 90 men (who came with 5 deer to add to the food). The foods we have today at Thanksgiving are foods that the Pilgrims might have had that first year — turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin. (In fact, though, the Pilgrims' journals that describe this feast include lists of many kinds of meat but not one ever mentions a turkey!)

Thanksgiving is always the fourth Thursday of November (this year, November 22). The main event of the holiday is the family dinner — try cooking one yourself (see page 3). Americans focus on their love for each other, and gratitude for their freedom and liberty. Cards and gifts are not traditionally given. Many people travel miles to be with their families — airports and highways are traditionally crowded on Wednesday and Sunday.

Thanksgiving is the only holiday in the year that is uniquely US American and is neither political nor religious. Celebrate it as if it were your own!



# A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving is the only day of the year when almost all Americans eat basically the same thing: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie. Many families add their own favorites; I know a family that adds lasagne and another that adds Chinese dumplings. This holiday is for all religions and all political groups, for newcomers and long-time Americans — everyone who feels thankful for something. Here is how to make a traditional dinner:

## How much turkey should I buy?

A guideline is: one pound per person. So for 10 people, buy a 10-pound turkey. On the other hand, it's good the next day, so buy a big one! In general, younger birds are more tender. A fryer-roaster is (was!) 4 months old, a young hen (female) or tom (male) is 5-7 months old, and a yearling is 12 months old. If you buy a frozen turkey, allow it to thaw in the refrigerator (3-7 days) or in cold water (5-15 hours), never at room temperature (bacteria might grow).

## How do I stuff a turkey?

There are many variations in recipes, each one a favorite to someone. To be honest, I think packaged stuffing is pretty good, and is very easy. But if you're making a Thanksgiving dinner for the "authentic experience," then try making it yourself. Here is how my Great Aunt Alice always made it. I say it's the best! There are four basic kinds of things in stuffing:

*The Bread* — White or whole wheat bread, as much like homemade bread as possible. Slice it, and keep it on the counter for a while, covered with a towel, to make it a bit dry. Then tear it by hand into small cubes.

*The Herbs and Spices* — Salt and black pepper. Sage is traditional, but Aunt Alice didn't like sage.

*The Other Stuff* — Sautéed onions and celery (cooked briefly in butter) are traditional. Then

be creative with a few of these: boiled chestnuts, oysters, sausage, walnuts, pecans, apples, or dried fruit like apricots.

*Something to Make It Moist* — Butter is traditional. Or try olive oil, cream, broth, wine, or apple juice.

After you have washed the turkey and removed the little bag of parts from the inside, put some stuffing into the bird. Do this right before you put it in the oven, or bacteria will grow. Do not put too much stuffing into the bird, because it expands while cooking (use about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup for each pound of turkey). If you have extra, bake it in a dish. When the turkey is done, mix the inside and outside stuffing together.

## How do I cook a turkey?

Here are the guidelines for a stuffed turkey, from the National Turkey Federation. Bake at 325°:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 8-12 pounds  | 3-3½ hours  |
| 12-14 pounds | 3½-4 hours  |
| 14-18 pounds | 4-4¼ hours  |
| 18-20 pounds | 4¼-4¾ hours |
| 20-24 pounds | 4¾-5¼ hours |

Unstuffed turkeys take 15-30 minutes less. A meat thermometer placed in the thigh should reach 180°. I have had good luck with turkeys that come with a "pop-up" thermometer in them. When the turkey is done, a little plastic piece pops up!

## Need help?

Call the Butterball Turkey TalkLine (1-800-288-8372) for information (in English or Spanish) on thawing, stuffing, testing for doneness, and more. Or try [www.butterball.com](http://www.butterball.com) for useful videos, recipes, and tips (in English or Spanish). There are several helpful conversion charts there: [www.butterball.com/calculators-and-conversions](http://www.butterball.com/calculators-and-conversions), helpful for using an American recipe.

*continued from page 2 sidebar*

taught nursery school and where we could have our fill of easel paper, riding toys, dress-up clothes, and puzzles. But now, we waited...quietly.

Two or three of the aunts might join Aunt Alice in the kitchen but she didn't need much help. At least, that is what we accepted as true. Aunt Alice was the Expert Cook in our family. When she said the turkey was done, it was done. The amount of salt she added to the gravy was, by definition, the correct amount. She was the unquestioned chief of her kitchen. And so the kitchen was a calm, quiet place — well controlled and timed just right.

Before too long, the call to the three girl cousins would come. Our job was to carry the things that could not spill on the white linen table. The freshly-polished serving spoons were first — we found them lined up on the counter, covered with a spotless white towel to protect them from some imagined dust. Then the bowl of Aunt Ellen's rolls wrapped in a cloth napkin, the five sets of tiny salt and pepper shakers and, when we were older, the ice water.

At the last minute, my mother would do her magic on the cranberry sauce, somehow getting it out of the metal mold, peaks intact, onto the pretty platter. She carried it, as a crown, to the table. Thanksgiving had begun.

## Mailing Packages

Mail slows down in this season because so many people send Christmas cards and packages to their friends and families. If you are shipping packages for December, try to mail them in November.

Go to [ircalc.usps.gov](http://ircalc.usps.gov) to calculate postage for international letters and packages sent through the US Postal Service; prices may be cheaper if you buy the postage on line rather than in the Post Office:

*Priority Mail International* (Delivers in 6-10 business days. Use their free flat-rate boxes or envelopes and pay one price up to a maximum weight (\$31.95 for their flat-rate envelope, up to 4 pounds; \$68.95 for their Medium box or \$89.95 for their Large box, up to 20 pounds). Get boxes and envelopes at any post office.)

*Priority Mail Express International* (3-5 business days, to 200+ countries; flat-rate envelopes \$60.50 for up to four pounds.

Here are some private express services:

UPS: [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com)

DHL: [www.dhl.com](http://www.dhl.com)

FedEx: [www.fedex.com](http://www.fedex.com)

Most sites are in English or the local language. You can order a pick-up from your home on their website or by telephone, and track the package until it is delivered.

Both the USPS and the private companies will give you nice, sturdy boxes for free.

# The Rules of American Football

Americans play football in elementary school, high school, college, and professionally. The rules at these levels differ slightly. They also change frequently, to keep the game safe, fair, and exciting to the crowds. For example, professional rules are changed from time to time to keep the [popular, important, and ... expensive] players safe. Here are the current professional rules.

## Basic Facts

- A football is a pointed-oval shaped ball, about 11 inches long and 7 inches wide. It weighs 14-15 ounces.
- Playing time is 60 minutes (four 15-minute quarters). But the clock stops often, for various reasons (for example, after every scored point, and in case of penalties, injuries, and incomplete passes). There is a break after two quarters that may include entertainment and marching bands. Including the half-time break, a typical professional game takes 2.5 to 3 hours.
- A football field is 100 yards long, marked on both ends by a *goal line*. Then there is a 10-yard *end zone*, marked on both ends by an *end line*. There is a *goal post* on each end line. The goal post is really two upright (vertical) poles, connected by another horizontal pole (called the *crossbar*). The field is 53 1/3 yards wide.

- Each team defends one goal. The object of the game is to score points by getting the ball across the other team's goal line. Players can advance the ball by *passing* (throwing) or carrying it.

- Each team has 11 players. When a team has control of the ball and is advancing toward the other team's goal line, they are playing *offense*. The other team, at that moment, is playing *defense*. Usually, players specialize in playing offense or defense, and in one of several positions such as *quarterback*, *halfback*, *fullback*, *center*, *guard*, and *end*.

- Teams score points in 4 ways:

*touchdown* (6 points): a player carries the ball over the other team's goal line, or a player catches the ball while he is in the other team's end zone

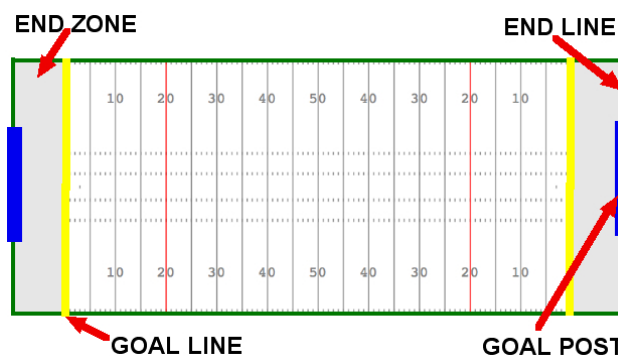
*field goal* (3 points): a player kicks the ball over the crossbar of the other team's goal post

*safety* (2 points): when a player with the ball is stopped in his own end zone, the other team gets the points and becomes the offensive team

*conversion*: after a team scores a touchdown, they can try a conversion play — they either kick the ball through the goal post uprights (for 1 point) or they pass or carry the ball across the goal line again, from the 2-yard line (for 2 points)

## The Game

Each half of the game starts with a *kickoff*. Near the center of the field, a player from Team B kicks the ball off the ground toward Team A's goal line. Team A tries to catch the ball and run toward Team B's goal line. Team B runs toward the ball, trying to stop Team A from *advancing* (going forward). (At this moment, Team A is playing offense, Team B defense.) That play ends when any one of these happens:



[continued on page 5](#)

# Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day, first celebrated in the US in 1919 as Armistice Day, one year after the signing of the treaty that ended World War I. The original focus was on honoring the soldiers who fought and died during World War I. Some people observe a moment of silence at 11:00am on that day (the 11th day of the 11th month), to remember the end of World War I.

Now the focus is broader: to honor those who fought in any American war. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. (The word *veteran* means someone who is very experienced. You can be a veteran teacher, or a veteran singer. But the word also specifically means a person who has been in the armed services.) You may see people wearing red poppies (flowers) in their buttonholes on Veterans Day — a token of thanks for their

donations to the Disabled American Veterans group. Poppies grew in Belgium where many World War I soldiers were buried.

You can join in the spirit of Veterans Day by honoring all those who have fought for peace. If your country has been in a war with the US, this would be a good time to discuss it. Even though history is complex and difficult, begin to discuss the moral issues involved, and what we can do to prevent war in the future. You will have plenty to talk about...

## Day Light Savings Time

Day Light Savings Time will end on the first Sunday of November (November 6, 2016). Put your clocks back one hour. It will start again on the second Sunday of March (March 12, 2017) everywhere in the US except Hawaii and most of Arizona.

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*The Rules of American Football*

- Team B *tackles* the Team A player who has the ball (pushes him to the ground, or until his knee touches the ground),
- the Team A player who has the ball runs *out of bounds* (off the field), or
- Team A catches the ball in the end zone and touches his knee to the ground.

Team A forms a *huddle* (circle) and decides on the next play. The two teams line up on the *line of scrimmage* (the place on the field where the play ended). Team A is still playing offense. This time, instead of a kickoff, the center from Team A *hikes* the ball to the quarterback (throws or hands it to him, backward under his legs).

Team A gets four *downs* (turns) to advance the ball 10 yards. Every time it succeeds, it gets four more downs to advance 10 more yards. If it fails, Team B becomes offense. Sometimes, if a team realizes it is unlikely to advance the 10 yards (and will soon be playing defense), it will punt (kick) the ball as far as possible. Then, the other team has further to go when it starts to play offense. If a Team A member passes the ball to a teammate, a player from Team B may *intercept* the pass (catch it himself). Team B immediately becomes the offensive team, and tries to advance to Team A's goal.

If a player breaks a rule, his team gets a *penalty*. A penalty may mean that the ball is put further back on the field, away from the goal, before the game continues. Or the team may *lose a down* — if they had been taking their second chance at advancing 10 yards, with the penalty it would be considered their third down. The team with more points at the end of the 4th quarter wins. If the two teams are *tied* (have the same score), they play one more 15-minute quarter. If the score is still tied, the game ends anyway, with a tied score.

## Birthday Biography: Joseph McCarthy

Joseph McCarthy was born on November 14, 1908, in Wisconsin. He was elected as a Republican to the US Senate in 1946.

In February 1950, at a time of the Cold War with the Soviet Union and very strong anticommunist feelings in the US, Joe McCarthy publicly claimed that 205 communists were working in the US government, sending information to the Soviet Union. He never presented any evidence and a formal investigation concluded that he was wrong. But he crusaded against them and many in the government became afraid to criticize McCarthy, for fear that they would be accused by him too. In the post-war 1950s, in the US, to be accused of being a communist was to have your career destroyed. Under McCarthy's leadership, the House Un-American Activities Committee targeted artists, intellectuals, journalists, and members of the Hollywood movie industry. Those accused were often "blacklisted" and were not able to work further in their field.

This period of reckless accusations continued until 1954. The public watched McCarthy's unfair questions and lack of evidence with dismay (on their newly invented TVs). The Senate censured (officially criticized) him in December 1954 and the McCarthy era was over. Today the term McCarthyism refers to accusing someone unfairly and without evidence, and being relentless in punishing him or her. Americans who understand history are watchful about its return.

## A Thanksgiving Vegetable Children Like!

Here's a sure way to get your children to eat butternut squash. I don't think the Pilgrims had canned evaporated milk, but the squash might have been at their table. Its orange color looks great with the peas and cranberry sauce.

- ♦ 3 small or 1 large butternut squash (buy it already peeled and cubed, if you can)
- ♦ 8 ounces canned evaporated milk (in the supermarket near flour, sugar, and spices)
- ♦ 3 eggs
- ♦ 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ♦ ½ cup sugar

1) Turn oven to Bake and set the temperature to 350°.

2) If the squash is not already peeled, remove the outer skin with a vegetable peeler. Cut each squash in half. Throw away the seeds and stringy stuff in the middle. Cut the squash into 1-inch slices. Boil the slices in water till they are very soft (about 20 minutes).

3) Put the squash, milk, eggs, vanilla, and sugar into an electric blender or food processor. Blend until completely smooth. Pour the mixture into an ungreased casserole (glass pan that can go in the oven).

4) Put the casserole into the hot oven and bake for about one hour. The squash should be set (a soft solid, not liquid).

Makes enough for 6-8 people.

6

## Vocabulary for Watching the Election

**precinct:** Each city or town in the US is divided into a number of voting districts called precincts (pronounced "PREE-sinkt").

**polling places and polls:** Do not be confused by the two meanings of the word *poll*. It can mean a place where people physically go to vote or a research survey about people's opinions. Each precinct has one polling place, usually in some public place like a school or community center that is set up for voting on election day. As for the other kind of poll (research survey of attitudes and likely voting patterns, go to [www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latest\\_polls/](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latest_polls/) for a summary of many major polls' results).

**voter registration:** States differ in how and when voters can register, but they all require voters to do so once, by showing some form of identification, proof that they live in the state and precinct, and proof that they are American citizens. Once registered, voters can vote year after year without re-registering.

**red and blue states:** On Election Night, TV stations will begin to predict who will win in each state, sometimes on the basis of a small proportion of counted votes. They will display a US map with states whose majority voted for Donald Trump shown in red and states whose majority voted for Hillary Clinton in blue. Virtually every on-line electoral map uses this color system as well. Therefore, people have started to refer to "red states" as those that tend to vote for the Republican Presidential candidate, and "blue states" as those that tend to vote for the Democrat.

**call the election:** To *call an election* means to predict who will win based on a sample of counted votes. TV networks will be calling the election for Clinton or Trump some time after the polls in each state close; to do so earlier might influence voter turnout (the number of people who vote).

**electoral college:** Each state has a number of *electoral votes* equal to the number of Representatives (states with more people have more) and Senators (every state has two) - a total of 538 in the US. For example, Montana has 3 electoral votes and California has 55. In all states except Maine and Nebraska, whichever candidate wins a majority of votes in the state wins *all* of that state's electoral votes. (In Maine and Nebraska, some electoral votes are awarded based on a majority in each Congressional district.)

**popular vote:** *Popular* means well-liked by a lot of people, but at election time it has a second meaning - a count of voters' votes, as opposed to the *electoral vote* (as described above). It is possible for a candidate to win the popular vote (more citizens vote for him or her) but lose the electoral vote and therefore lose the election. This happened in 2000, when Al Gore, after a complicated and lengthy vote-counting period, was found to have won 500,000 more popular votes but only 261 electoral votes, and George W. Bush (with 271 electoral votes) became President.

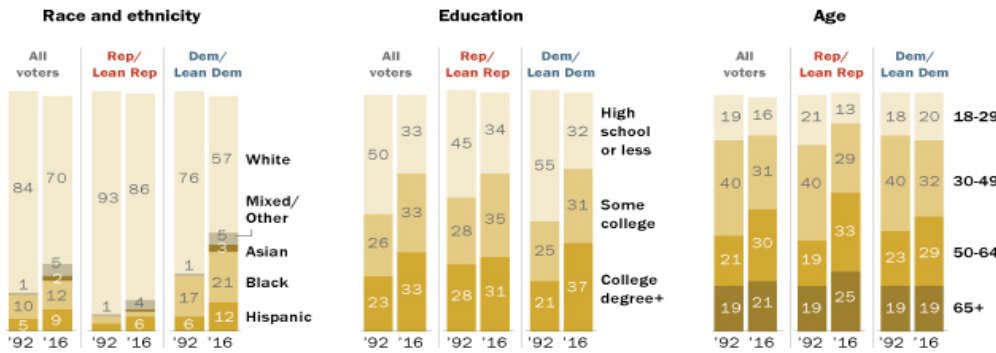
**electoral college tie:** While it has rarely happened in US history, it is possible for the two candidates to get an equal number - 269 - of electoral votes, resulting in a tie. In that case, the current House of Representatives chooses the President and the current Senate picks the Vice President. Both the House and Senate currently have a Republican majority, but with mixed support for Trump. That would be a spectacle. It does not seem too likely this year, but this has been an unpredictable race so far, so...

# The American Voter

The Pew Research Center recently interviewed over 8000 Americans about their political views. 44% said they were Republican or Republican-leaning Independents, 48% said they were Democrats or Democratic-leaning Independents, and 8% said they were Independents with no leaning one way or the other. These are exactly the same numbers as four years ago. As the chart below shows, however, the demographics of the Parties have changed significantly since 1992. Democrats are less likely to be white and more likely to be better-educated and younger than Republicans.

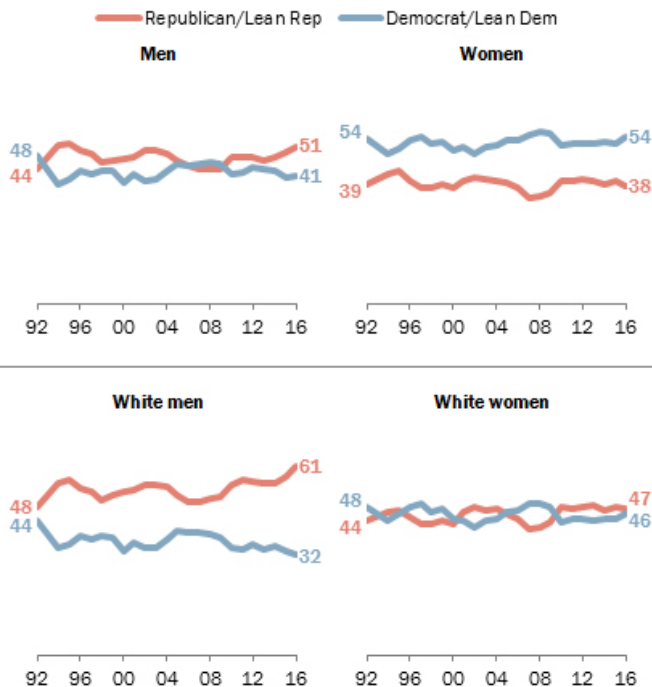
## Changing demographic profiles of Republican and Democratic voters

% of registered voters who are ...



## Growing gender gap among white voters, as more white men align with the Republican Party

% of registered voters who identify as ...



Men are more likely to be Republican than Democrat, by 51% to 41% - and even moreso if they are white (61% to 32%).

In contrast women are more likely to be Democrats, 54% to 38%, although white women are about equally likely to be either Party.

## Battleground States to Watch

Because of how the Electoral College works (see page 6), there is no technical reason for presidential candidates to spend time and money trying to win by a lot in any state (although the "optics" of winning big can be powerful). Winning, even if by just a tiny bit, in many states, especially in those states with a lot of electoral votes, is much more important.

The following states have been considered *swing* or *battleground states*; that is, it is hard to predict how the voters there will vote:

- Florida (29 electoral votes)
- Pennsylvania (20)
- Ohio (18)
- Michigan (16)
- North Carolina (15)
- Virginia (13)
- Wisconsin (10)
- Colorado (9)
- Iowa (6)
- Nevada (6)
- New Hampshire (4)

These are, therefore, the states to watch on Election Night because different combinations of wins in these states could lead to success for either Clinton or Trump.

Notice that this list of states overlaps with the list of states with tight Senate races (see page 1). That's another reason candidates are campaigning hard there - to win for themselves and for Congressional seats as well.

A lot of art, and some science.

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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## That Crazy English: Football Idioms

American English takes many idioms from football:

It's easy to be a *Monday morning quarterback* but it isn't fair. (*It's easy to say what we should have done now that we know the future, but it isn't fair.*) (Football games often occur on weekends. On Mondays, the team gathers to analyze how they played.)

This is your chance to *take the ball and run*. (*This is your chance to do something important and get public recognition for it.*) (In football, it is very dramatic when a player runs down the field with the ball, toward the end zone.)

They are bringing out *the second string* now. (*They are bringing out people who are second-best in skill.*) (The best 11 players on a football team are called the first string. Those who replace them during play are called the second string.)

I guess I'll have to *watch from the sidelines* for a while. (*I guess I will have to watch rather than actually do the work for a while.*) (Those who watch a football game from the side, rather than play in it are said to be on the sidelines.)

Let's just *run out the clock*. (*Let's do nothing except wait — we will be successful if we risk nothing because we are ahead right now.*) (A team who is winning near the end of a game may stop trying to get more points and just keep the ball away from the other team, until the game is over.)



## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read *Thanksgiving* on page 2. Circle the letter of the best word(s) to complete each sentence:

1. A pilgrim is someone \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. from England.
  - b. who travels for religious reasons.
  - c. who dresses in black and white.
2. The Pilgrims who came to this country in 1620 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. all wanted to separate from the Church of England.
  - b. believed it was wrong to drink alcohol.
  - c. faced much illness and death.
3. The Pilgrims sent \_\_\_\_\_ back to England.
  - a. fish and animal furs
  - b. people who disobeyed the rules
  - c. money
4. The Native Americans in Massachusetts in 1620 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. taught the Pilgrims how to catch and grow food in North America.
  - b. ignored the Pilgrims, hoping they would not stay.
  - c. were ignored by the Pilgrims.
5. We know from the Pilgrims' journals that the first Thanksgiving dinner \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. included turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin.
  - b. included deer meat.
  - c. was held in secret so the Native Americans would not try to join them.
6. Today, on Thanksgiving Day, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. family members give each other many gifts to show their love.
  - b. it is traditional to wear black and white clothes.
  - c. families focus on the freedoms they have.

## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1. Read [A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner](#) on page 3 and [A Thanksgiving Vegetable Your Children Will Like](#) on page 6. Write a recipe for a traditional food from your country. Pretend an American will be making the food. Be sure to explain anything an American would not understand — where to buy the foods, what kind of tool to use, etc.

2. Read [That Crazy English](#) on page 8. Write a list of idioms in your home language that come from sports or games. Use each one in a sentence. Explain what they mean.

3. Read [The Rules of American Football](#) on pages 4-5. Write the rules of a game from your country, for someone who has never played it. Keep it simple!

4. Read [Cranberry Memories](#) on pages 2 and 3. Write about some food you once had, in a way that tells about you and your family or life at that time. Send it to [newcomer@interchangeinstitute.org](mailto:newcomer@interchangeinstitute.org) if you like!

5. Read about the elections on pages [1](#), [6](#) and [7](#). Write a list of the politicians you have voted for in your life. Did they win?

## VOCABULARY

Read [A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner](#) on page 3. Pick the correct meaning of each word, as it is used in the context of this article. The numbers in parentheses tell which paragraph the word is in.

- |              |     |                         |                       |
|--------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. guideline | (2) | a. mark made with a pen | b. general rule       |
| 2. authentic | (3) | a. genuine, traditional | b. difficult          |
| 3. counter   | (4) | a. work table           | b. measurement device |
| 4. moist     | (7) | a. stuck together       | b. wet                |
| 5. expands   | (8) | a. gains flavor         | b. gets bigger        |
| 6. stuffed   | (9) | a. filled tight         | b. covered with       |

## THE ORDER OF EVENTS

Read [Veterans Day](#) on page 5. Put these sentences in the right order:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Americans celebrated Armistice Day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Americans give money to the Disabled Veterans group as a way of marking this holiday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. The name of the US holiday changed to Veterans Day to honor all those who fought in any war.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. World War I ended.

## IDIOMS

Read [That Crazy English](#) on page 8. Re-write each sentence using a football idiom:

1. She has a cold so she will not be able to sing with us; she'll come and listen.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We are ahead now. Let's wait and not do anything risky.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Looking back, we all know what we should have done differently.

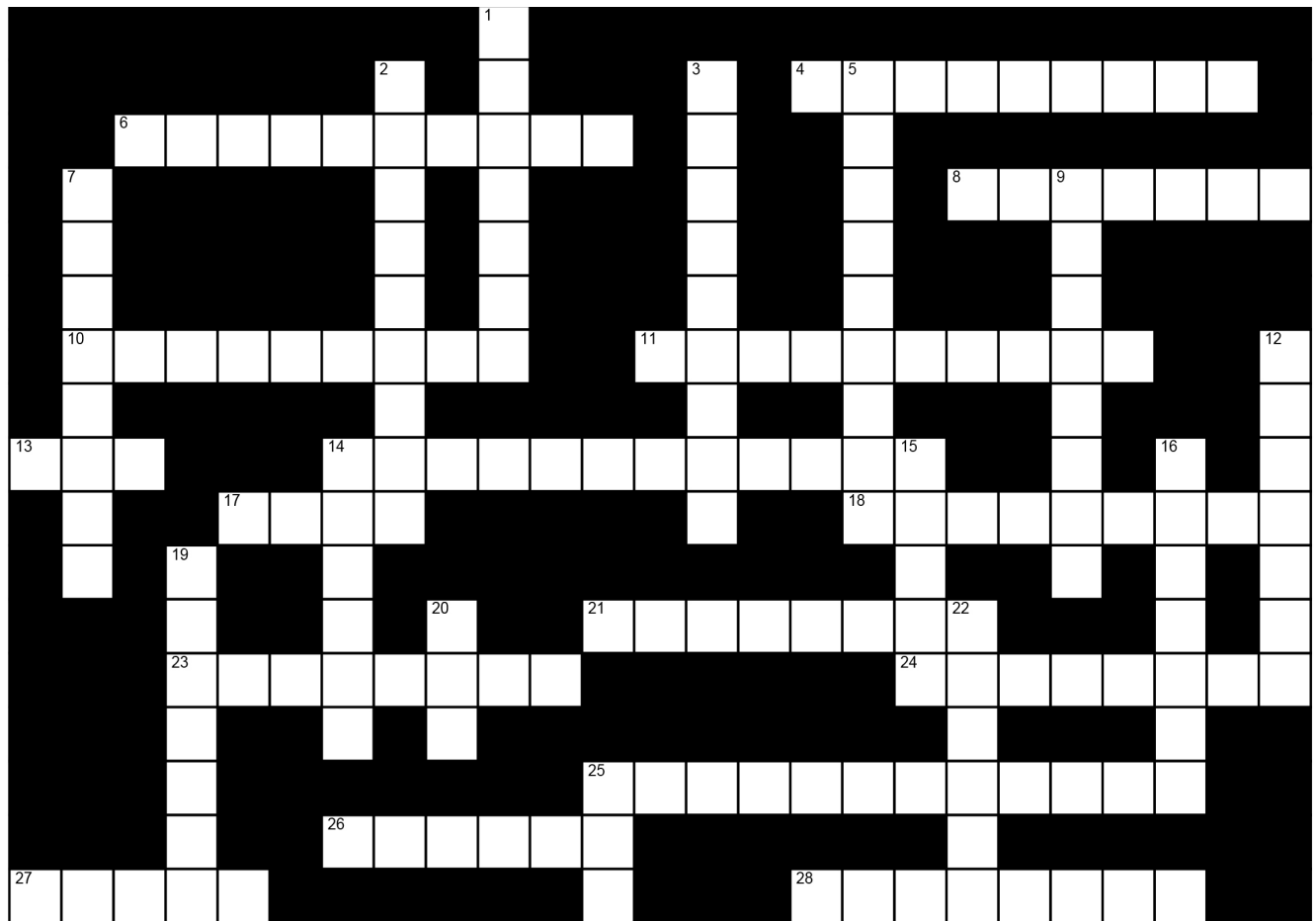
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Now is the time to do your work and get the credit for it.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The play was put on by actors who were not the best.

\_\_\_\_\_



### Across

4. watch from the \_\_\_\_, not be at the center of action
6. The House of Representatives currently has a \_\_\_\_ majority.
8. the traditional Thanksgiving dessert, \_\_\_\_ pie
10. About half of those on the Mayflower came seeking \_\_\_\_ freedom.
11. American men are more likely to be in the \_\_\_\_ political party.
13. On Election Night, TV news shows will display a map with states shown in \_\_\_\_ if a majority has voted for Donald Trump.
14. A \_\_\_\_ state is one where the outcome is unclear.
17. In football, players try to get the ball over the \_\_\_\_ line.
18. A \_\_\_\_ in football earns six points.
21. \_\_\_\_ Day is a holiday to honor those who fought in a war.
23. \_\_\_\_ Mail International takes 6-10 business days to deliver a package to another country.
24. Traditional turkey \_\_\_\_ is made of bread, herbs and butter.
25. a holiday on the fourth Thursday of November
26. \_\_\_\_ Americans were very helpful to the first settlers on American land.
27. One-\_\_\_\_ Senators run for election every two years.
28. The immigrants who landed on American land in 1620 were known as the \_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. A football player \_\_\_\_ another player, or knocks him down.
2. The US presidential election is settled in the \_\_\_\_ college.
3. Red \_\_\_\_ sauce is traditional at Thanksgiving dinner.
5. politician who currently has the job
7. A football game is split into four \_\_\_\_.
9. Joseph \_\_\_\_ was concerned about communists in America.
12. Monday \_\_\_\_ quarterback, a look back at what might have been
14. Voters decide \_\_\_\_ measures directly.
15. Football players get four \_\_\_\_ to advance the ball 10 yards.
16. a \_\_\_\_ place, where you vote
19. The \_\_\_\_ vote means the number of actual votes.
20. US Senators' terms last \_\_\_\_ years.
22. second \_\_\_\_, not the top players
25. For 10 people, buy a \_\_\_\_-pound turkey.

## OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read [The Rules of American Football](#) on page 4. Watch part (or all) of an American football game. You may see a high school game in your town. Or see one on TV. Watch for an example of: the line of scrimmage, a huddle, a tackle, a touchdown, a field goal and a down.
2. Read [Thanksgiving](#) on page 2. Find pictures of a Pilgrim and a turkey as you walk through your day. Are the Pilgrims wearing their Sunday clothes or their week-day clothes?

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read [Mailing Packages](#) on page 4. Say you have a 4-pound package to ship to your home country. Using the web sites listed, find out the fastest way to send it and the least expensive way to get it there within two weeks.

2. Read [A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner](#) on page

3. At [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAe7-GpV98E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAe7-GpV98E), learn how to carve a turkey.

3. Read [It's Not All About the Presidency](#) on page 1, Go to [votesmart.org/elections/ballot-measures](http://votesmart.org/elections/ballot-measures) and search for the measures voters in your state will be deciding on November 8.

4. Read [Battleground States to Watch](#) on page 7. On Election Night (November 8), or after, go to [www.politico.com](http://www.politico.com) to watch the results come in.

## WITH A FRIEND

1. Read [The Rules of American Football](#) on pages 4 and 5. With a partner, take turns being a Football Expert and a Football Newcomer. As Expert, explain the following to the Newcomer:

- ♦ "Some of the rules of this game on TV seem different from what I watched last year at the high school. Could that be true?"
- ♦ "If a football game has four 15-minute periods, why do the games take so much longer than one hour?"
- ♦ "How does a team get points in this game?"
- ♦ "When and how does one team become the offense team?"
- ♦ "What are the players doing when they all stand in a little circle during the game?"

2. Read all the articles on the November elections on pages 1, 6 and 7. Describe to a partner or friend how new leaders in your home country are chosen.

- ♦ If people vote, do they vote directly for the leader, or do they vote for representatives who, in turn, chose the leader?
- ♦ Do you ever vote directly on social issues (as in a referendum)?
- ♦ Have there been any recent election problems?
- ♦ Do people generally pay a lot of attention to news about the elections?
- ♦ Are there demographic differences (religion, race, age, education, income) in whom people tend to vote for?

3. Read about [Thanksgiving](#) and [Cranberry Memories](#) on page 2 and 3. Describe to a friend or partner a holiday in your home country that involves a meal.

- ♦ What food do you eat? Is there a historic or symbolic reason for eating that food? Who prepares it?
- ♦ Who usually comes to the meal?
- ♦ Are there special rituals you do at the holiday?
- ♦ Are your memories of this holiday positive? Why or why not?

3. Read [That Crazy English: Football Idioms](#) on page 8. With a friend or partner, plan a celebration dinner for your school; every time you each speak, use one of the idioms in the article, even though you are not talking about football.



## ANSWER CORNER

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

1b 2c 3a 4a 5b 6c

### IDIOMS

- 1 She has a cold... she'll watch from the side lines.
- 2 We are ahead...Let's run out the clock.
- 3 Don't play Monday morning quarterback...
- 4 Now is the time to run with the ball.
5. The play was put on by second string actors.

### VOCABULARY

1b 2a 3a 4b 5b 6a

### THE ORDER OF EVENTS

a2 b4 c3 d1



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