

**Civics for Adults Update, January 2, 2021**  
**Happy New Year!!**

**Next workshop – Jan 13. 6-7:30. – *Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Finance!* [More info below]**

Donna was interviewed on **OPB's Think Out Loud** in October! <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/30/civics-educator-aims-to-enhance-knowledge-and-engagement-in-political-process/>

**Flyer** describing all workshops: [https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal\\_5fe8c854352d5.pdf](https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf)

### **More Upcoming Workshops**

\*Need to check a registration link? See [www.civickinker.info/schedule](http://www.civickinker.info/schedule)

#### **Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing**

**Election 2020**, Voting as Constitutional right(?), Election Security, Voter Suppression, Alternative Voting Systems, Redistricting, Electoral College, Campaign Financing, Tracking Campaign \$. *"I consider myself a well-informed citizen but I learned a great deal of new information"*

**Thursday Jan 13, 6:00-7:30** Register: 541-347-3221 or [bandonlibrary2018@gmail.com](mailto:bandonlibrary2018@gmail.com)

**Tuesday January 19, 6:00-7:30** Register anytime if you live in Mult/Wash/Clackamas Cnty; two weeks in advance if you don't: [Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing | Multnomah County Library \(multcolib.org\)](#)

#### **Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda**

Are you overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news sources and other media? Distinguish truth from fiction using real-world examples. Become your own "factchecker"! Also, how to find accurate information.

*"Loved it...well-rounded, wide array of examples!"*

**Thursday January 28, 12-1:30** Register: TBA\*

#### **The Constitution: Fulfilling Democracy's Promise?**

We'll look at the Constitution's creation, trace major changes to its interpretation, and examine some structural limitations. We'll puncture some myths and develop a perspective that helps evaluate its meaning more thoughtfully in light of contemporary concerns. *"Good level of history and contemporary political ideas"*

**Thursday Feb 4. 6-7:30.** Register anytime for League of Women Voters – Umpqua Valley people. For non-LWVUV folks, TBA.\*

#### **Citizen Activism 101 — Making Change Happen**

Learn about types of advocacy and strategies for change. Brief historical perspective; Examples of successful advocacy—local-national; Choosing your battles; Who makes the rules? Getting heard; tools for change;

"Tracking" state and federal legislation. *"Excellent. Thanks!"*

**Wednesday March 3.** Registration TBA.

*Want to see more? Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.*

#### **Sampling of Facebook posts**

The City of Portland recently formed a Charter Review Commission to come up with **recommendations for changing the structure of Portland's city government**. Here are two recent reports from nonprofit citizens' organizations analyzing Portland's government and making recommendations for change:

**New Government for Today's Portland: Rethinking 100 Years of the Commission System.** City Club of Portland. Feb, 2019. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y74WRaWJA3j2QEYqsAOtZwcLOvT97VcZ/view>

**The City That Works: Preparing Portland for the Future.** League of Women Voters-PDX. Sept, 2019. <https://lwvpdx.org/.../10/City-Gov-MASTER-REPORT-FINAL.pdf>

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I like to see comparisons of the U.S. and other countries around benefits/supports for folks that have been hard hit economically - pre- or because of COVID. For example, this chart is focused on unemployment benefits. What you see is that most other countries have far more generous unemployment benefits than the U.S., and

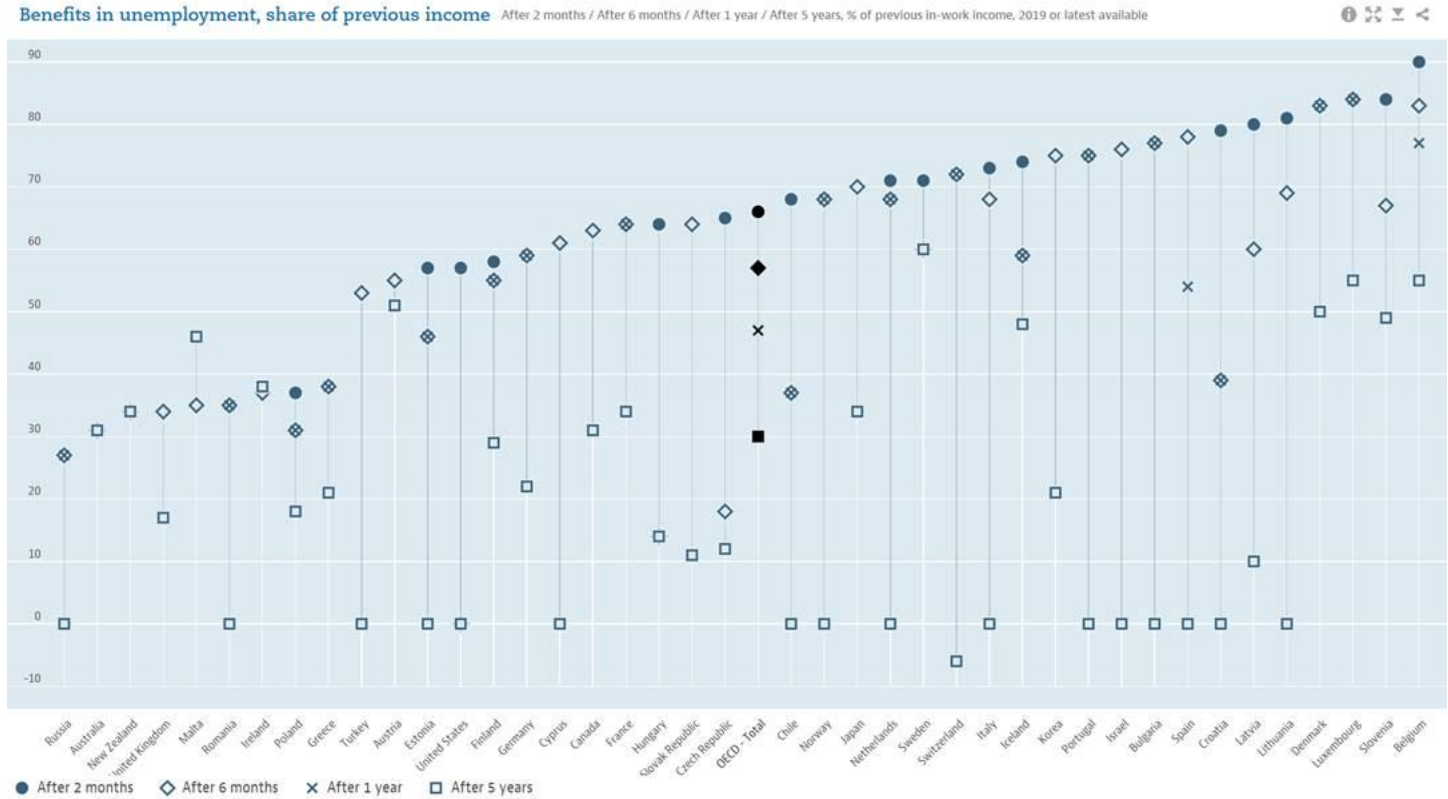
lasting much - in some cases much, much - longer. You can see why in the U.S. federal COVID relief packages are so important!

In Germany, after a year you will still be getting 59% of your prior salary.

In Denmark, after a year you would get 83% of your prior salary; after 5 years, 50%.

[If you go to the page link for the chart in the post below, you can use your cursor to hover over the data and boxes will open up to tell you exactly the value is of any particular data piece.]

<https://data.oecd.org/benwage/benefits-in-unemployment-share-of-previous-income.htm?fbclid=IwAR0gWPexH2Alf9OVpJB9PtBKh0XKcS66a62OW42ptwG4jyQfoD7WVaFf0Tk>



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New York has signed **Automatic Voter Registration** into law, the 19th state to do so. We know that AVR increases voter registration rates. Oregon was first to enact it!

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-new-york-automatic-voter-registration-act-2020-law?fbclid=IwAR1mBbjiP4UKOvsCKVnTcS\\_RLcD0yJM0L0rj--OqKhWwvtsGrdRH4PEncGM](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-new-york-automatic-voter-registration-act-2020-law?fbclid=IwAR1mBbjiP4UKOvsCKVnTcS_RLcD0yJM0L0rj--OqKhWwvtsGrdRH4PEncGM)

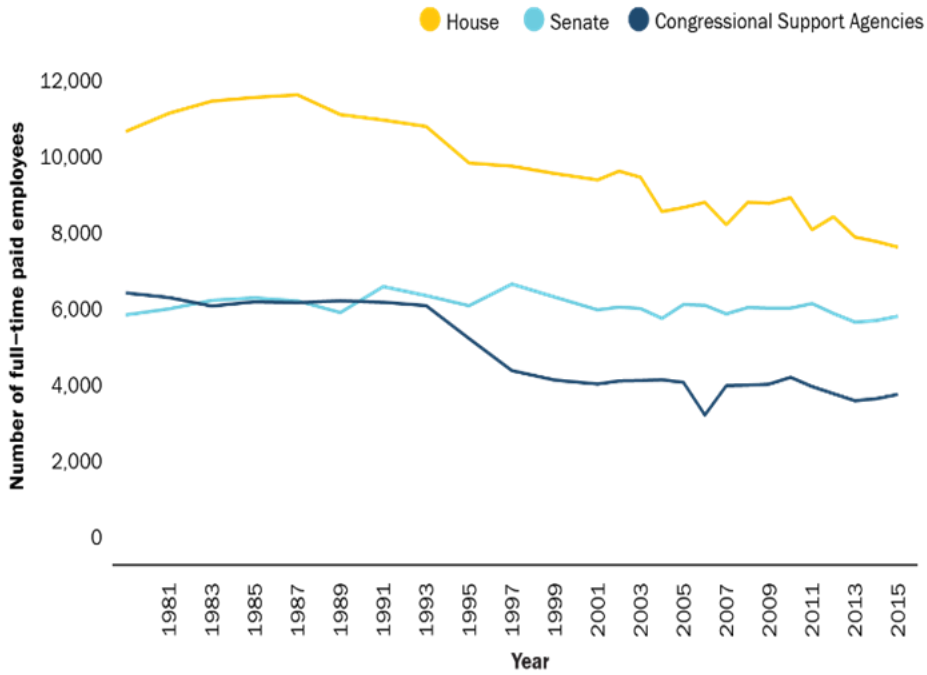
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### Report from the bipartisan select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

There is a strong correlation between an increase in lobbyists in DC and decrease in Congressional staff to do research for elected officials. Are lobbyists / special interests filling the information space?

[https://modernizecongress.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ModernizationCommittee\\_10152020r1Compressed%20\(newest%20gpo%20report\).pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Chkh6HzbINK4MvW8alqi4Npq3letwJa5adwmS0wbVz-afzcMKDVC7aTY](https://modernizecongress.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ModernizationCommittee_10152020r1Compressed%20(newest%20gpo%20report).pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Chkh6HzbINK4MvW8alqi4Npq3letwJa5adwmS0wbVz-afzcMKDVC7aTY)

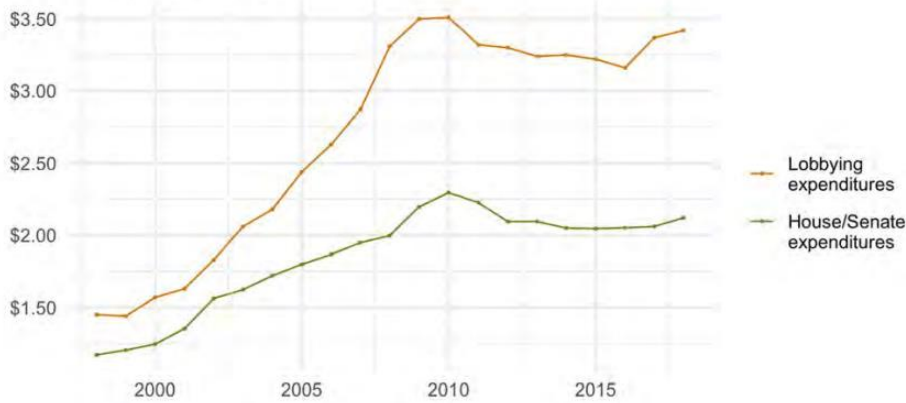
### Number of congressional staff on the decline



Source: The Brookings Institution. 2019. Vital Statistics on Congress [Table 5-1].



### Spending on lobbying vs House/Senate in billions (nominal)



Source: CRS reports / Opensecrets.org

Source: The APSA Select Committee Final Report

Member experience echoes this reality. In testimony to the Committee on March 12, 2019, Rep. Bill Pascrell (NJ-9) remarked:

*“Our tiny staffs are overwhelmed by the army of corporate lobbyists, roaming our halls and a world growing more socially, economically, and technologically complex at a stunning rate.”*

**Rep. Bill Pascrell, March 12, 2019**

<https://www.brookings.edu/multi-chapter-report/vital-statistics-on-congress/>

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**It's Official: The Election Was Secure.** Brennan Center. Dec. 11, 2020.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/its-official-election-was-secure?fbclid=IwAR2JuAgXCXQehmWcnOWNW5oipol9tSckgkFC-wEKdFF63YuZye1IdyJkf4>

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Report on: **Electoral Integrity in the 2020 U.S. Elections.** Norris. Harvard U. Dec. 2020.

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/7hhxoltyq4nmdd1/PEI-US-2020%20Report.pdf?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR1pFwBaEUFnT\\_zw0s2LubKEE0YwixJzwSACeLoCrso\\_pDqoCTeG-vOG0NI](https://www.dropbox.com/s/7hhxoltyq4nmdd1/PEI-US-2020%20Report.pdf?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR1pFwBaEUFnT_zw0s2LubKEE0YwixJzwSACeLoCrso_pDqoCTeG-vOG0NI)

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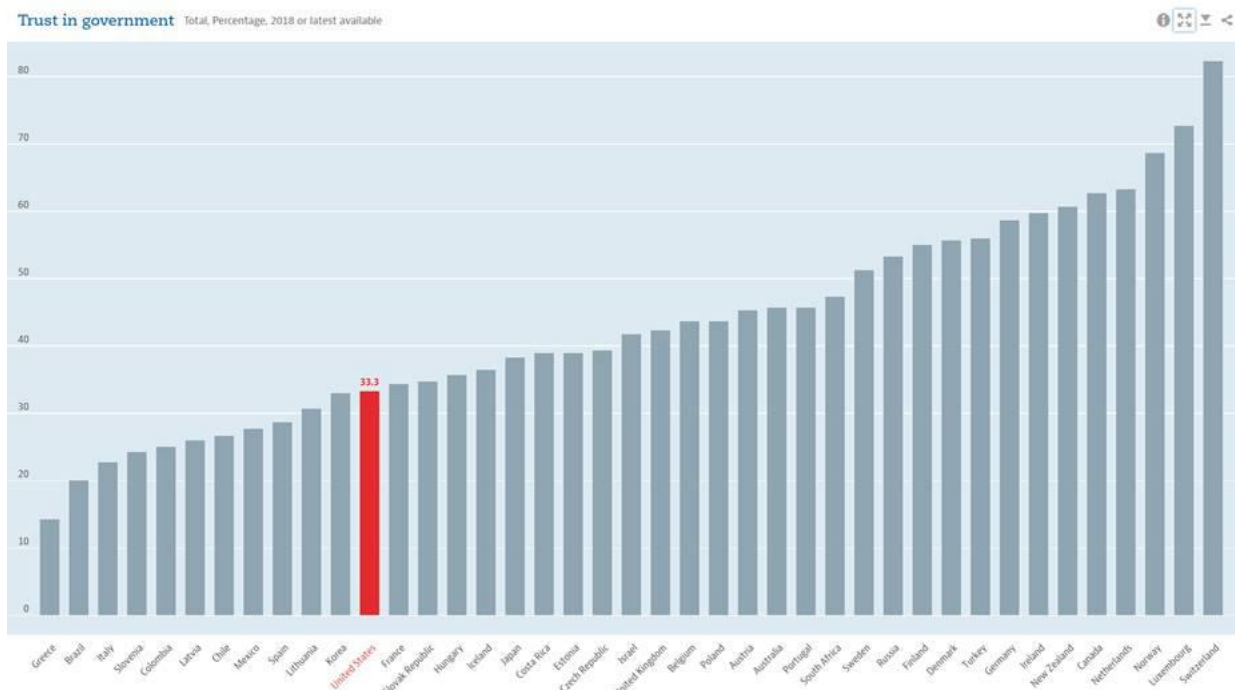
**Official repository of Electoral Vote counts.** National Archives.

[https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/2020?fbclid=IwAR1K-NuA5O9NChgZL7yiLBfWIAP5n5JIN7WFLyvElk4IfYY\\_Zjo46bu4xL8](https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/2020?fbclid=IwAR1K-NuA5O9NChgZL7yiLBfWIAP5n5JIN7WFLyvElk4IfYY_Zjo46bu4xL8)

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**Trust in their government among OECD [industrialized] countries.** Red is United States.

Source: <https://data.oecd.org/chart/6d71>



More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

**Donna**