

# Pope

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Pope Benedict's resignation and specified date, in contrast with a pope's death and funeral arrangements, have led many to ask whether the papal election will be moved up rather than waiting the traditional 15 to 20 days to start the process, Ciernick said.

In addition, modern communication has instantly informed the world of Pope Benedict's resignation, and modern travel will make it easier for members of the College of Cardinals — who will select the next pope — to arrive at the Vatican.

"The question is: Do we need to wait the required 15 days, or we can move it up?" Ciernick said.

Ciernick explained the College of Cardinals' role as a consistory for advising the pope and as a conclave for electing the pontiff. The college is limited to 120 members, but the voting is limited to those under age 80 at the time of the pope's death or resignation.

"In this case, 117 cardinals will be eligible," she said, although questions arise whether Pope Benedict will appoint three more cardinals before the conclave.

Currently, 67 cardinals have been appointed by Pope Benedict, Ciernick said.

"The pope cannot elect the next one, or advise on who he wants," she said. "But (the current pope) can appoint cardinals,

which will influence the next selection."

The departure of the pope brings with it the sealing of the papal apartment to prevent looting or the pulling of papers by unauthorized persons, Ciernick said. In addition, the pope's seal on his ring is broken and destroyed, as it was used to seal his documents.

Ciernick outlined the cardinals' arrival at the Vatican and the procedure that follows.

The cardinals have powers during the papal vacancy, she said. "They take care of business which must be handled immediately. But they cannot appoint a bishop — that's put on hold (for the next pope)," she said.

The cardinals also deal with certain offices during the papal vacancy, along with attending Masses, reflecting about meditations concerning issues facing the church, and reading any messages left by the pope for the cardinals.

During the entire process, the cardinals stay in assigned rooms at a hotel constructed for this purpose and for others attending the Vatican on business.

Inside the Sistine Chapel, the cardinals pray and vote. During meals and other times, the cardinals talk with each other about the candidates and process.

Church law allows for the admission of cardinals who arrive after the process starts, or who become ill and seek to return, as long as the new pope hasn't been elected.

The cardinals enter a gentleman's agreement not to speak with the media or otherwise divulge details of the process to the outside world, Ciernick said.

In a sense, the cardinals become sequestered, which has become increasingly difficult in a high-tech world, she said.

"The floor (in the Sistine Chapel) was raised two feet for jamming efforts," she said. "There are no computers or cell phones allowed (in the voting), and they 'sweep' the Sistine Chapel for 'bugs.'"

The protections are taken because so many outside parties worldwide want to learn what takes place within the conclave or how the election process is going, Ciernick said.

The procedure includes a Mass for electing the pope, calling upon the Holy Spirit to keep from electing someone who would destroy the church, and touching the Gospel.

Ciernick outlined the voting process, which generally holds a secret ballot on the first day. If a new pope is not elected, two secret votes are held in the morning and two secret votes in the afternoon on successive days.

The process continues, with a process for collecting, reading, counting and announcing each round of votes, she said.

Should a pope not be elected after three days of balloting, the cardinals then pause for a day of prayer and reflection before resuming the process.

Initially, the process requires a two-thirds majority for electing a new pontiff, Ciernick said. However, the cardinals can decide on later ballots to settle for a simple majority. The cardinals can also decide whether to consider all candidates or change to balloting for only the top two candidates, she said.

If a pope isn't elected after a round of voting, the ballots are burned so that black smoke emerges from the chimney. If a pope is elected, white smoke is sent out to signal the new pontiff.

To eliminate any confusion about whether a pope has been chosen, recent elections have added chemical to the straw when burning ballots so the smoke is clearly dark, Ciernick said.

Any Catholic layman — or non-clergy — can be elected pope but would need to be ordained a bishop before accepting the papacy, she said.

Once a pope is elected, he is asked whether he accepts the office and what name he takes. He chooses a white cassock to wear in his new role.

"(The new pope) is then announced from the balcony, and he gives his blessing to the city and the world," she said.

The new pope is inaugurated into office, a change from the past when the ceremony was considered a coronation, Ciernick said.

The one remaining question would be the title, or role, of Benedict once he leaves the papacy, she said.

"Would he be a pope emeritus, or go back to being a cardinal?" she said. "My guess is 'cardinal,' but I could be wrong."

A Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI will be held Sunday and broadcast on the EWTN network, she said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

# Wal-Mart Outlook Gives Glimpse Of Economy

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZO AND CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — As the fortunes of many Americans go, so goes Wal-Mart, so goes the economy.

Even as the world's largest retailer reported an 8.6 percent rise in fourth quarter profit during the busy holiday shopping season, it offered a weaker forecast for the coming months. The problem? The poor and middle-class Americans Wal-Mart caters to — and who are big drivers of spending in the U.S. — are struggling with rising gas prices, delayed income tax refunds and higher payroll taxes.

Melanie M. Burkhardt, a mother of two teenagers who shops at Wal-Mart, is one of those people. Burkhardt, a Waycross, Ga., resident, said she's been hit with a double whammy: the payroll tax hike, which has cut her household monthly income by \$260, and higher gas prices.

"We had to do a flip on our budget," said Burkhardt, a legal assistant who plans to cut back on her trips to Wal-Mart. "This is money we used for things like going to a movie or shopping at Olive Garden. Not anymore."

It's widely known that Americans in the lower income brackets continue to struggle even as higher earners benefit from improved housing and stock markets, but Wal-Mart's results signal

that matters may be getting worse for them. Wal-Mart is the latest in a string of big-name companies from Burger King to Zale to say that Americans are being squeezed by new challenges. But since Wal-Mart accounts for nearly 10 percent of nonautomotive retail spending in the U.S., it is a bellwether for the economy.

"Wal-Mart moms are the barometer of the U.S. household," said Brian Sozzi, chief equities analyst at NBG Productions who follows Wal-Mart. "Right now, they're afraid of higher taxes and inflation."

Indeed, while wealthier households have seen their stock portfolios grow, poor and middle-class Americans have struggled to regain their financial footing since the recession ended more than 3 1/2 years ago.

Stocks have roughly doubled since June 2009. Dividends and capital gains from stocks, which disproportionately benefit higher-income Americans, are taxed at lower rates compared with ordinary income.

At the same time, while incomes for most Americans have failed to keep pace with inflation since the recession, that's been particularly true for middle and lower-income people.

Median household income, adjusted for inflation, fell 1.5 percent to \$50,054 in 2011 compared with 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, according to the Census Bureau.



## Congratulations on a Great Season Yankton Miracle Hockey Teams!



### Yankton Miracle Squirt

Front: Jacob Larson & Chris Sternhagen; Sitting: Steven Dempsey, Karlie Freng, Eli Kapla, Leo Hastreiter, Justin Christensen, Thomas Wiener, Tanner

Sedlacek, Glenn Andersen, Zach Roessler, Christian Budig, Chloe Perakslis & Brody Burgeson; Standing: Dillon Ahrens, Christian Curran, Elijah Berry, Ryan Eichacker, Jon Wenisch, Gaige Koster, Keith Schenkel, Katelyn Lyman, Cody Larson, Austin Wagner, Calvin Dather, Paige List & Adrienne Weidenbach; Back Row Coaches: Tom Curran, Brian Wenisch, Chad Kapla, Darrell Schenkel, Mike Burgeson & Doug Budig



### Yankton Miracle Bantam A

Kneeling: Hunter Cameron; Sitting: Austin Barger, Travis Munyer, Cody Perakslis, Oliver Kotalik, Nathan

Eichacker, Lucas Gaukel, Drew Wenande, Nathan Nelson & Jackson Somsen; Standing: Cody List, Bryce Jensen, Zane Weidenbach, Coach Chris Fitch, Coach Brad Wenande, Coach Ryan Mueller, Colby Benson, Tate O'Hara & Kade Larson



### Yankton Bucks & Miracle Boys JV

Kneeling: Cristian Slate & Tyler Wenande; Sitting: Steven Tacke, Jacob Doyle, Charlie Stephenson,

Jacob Hubbs, Tyler Stoll, Tyler Johnson, Logan VanWinkle, Adam Spencer, Patrick Weinandt & Landon Withrow; Standing: Coach Devin Anderson, Coach Mike Stoll, Brady Taggart, Ethan Klimisch, Jameson Mitchell, Mitch Vavra, Tim Cross, Logan Megard, Coach Josh Engquist & Coach Chad Kapla.



### Yankton Miracle Girls JV

Baylee Prather, Renee Cross, Anna Lyman, Olivia Larson, Madeline Logue, Erica Westerman, Lesley

Stone, Helena Pokorny, Elizabeth Rueppel, McKenna VanWinkle, Isabelle Plath, Kylie Coulson, Katelyn Stewart, Hannah Johnson & Sam Straatmeyer. Not Pictured: Coaches Michael Freeman & Josh Klonoski



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