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In this set of news stories, learn who's in the ballot for president this fall, dive deeper into the campaign promises of Trump and Harris and read the answers to the questions you asked us about Project 2025.

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Is America ready for a female president? How do NSU students feel about the upcoming election.

Trump and Harris on key issues, campaign promises

BY NINA OVALLE

DONALD TRUMP

KAMALA HARRIS



Illustrations by Stephani Bradley

Within the hands of U.S. citizens is the power of a choice which will determine the fate of the country for the next four years: the 2024 presidential election.

The election has come down to two primary candidates following the announcement of Joe Biden, 46th president of the U.S., exiting the race four months before the election. American voters will now choose between Democratic party candidate Kamala Harris, vice president

of the U.S., and Republican party candidate Donald Trump, 45th president of the U.S.

With forefront issues affecting the lives of American citizens, the candidates have shared their stance on issues like taxes, housing, education, foreign policies, immigration and climate change. Each candidate stands on the opposite side of the spectrum on how these issues should be addressed, leaving voters to decide which administration will be better for them.

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Who's who in the 2024 presidential election?

BY DAKOTA THOMAS

As the 2024 election approaches, some students at Northwestern State University of Louisiana are preparing for their first time voting in a presidential election.

Polling for the election will take place Nov. 5, 2024. There, voters will choose between candidates from the Republican party, Democratic party and third parties.

The Republican presidential primary has been narrowed to a single candidate following the votes of Super Tuesday. During this day, several states hold primary elections, according to Britannica.com. Donald Trump, 45th president of the U.S., became the apparent nominee after Nikki Haley, former United Nations ambassador, exited the race. Trump then secured the delegates needed and officially became the Republican Party nominee for the 2024 presidential election, according to an article by NBC News.

According to an article by CBS news, Trump's campaign includes the plans of extending tax cuts enacted in 2017, a large domestic deportation operation, adding a tariff to all non-domestic goods sold in the U.S. government and insurance companies covering the costs of in vitro fertilization treatments.

On the Democratic side, President Joe Biden dropped out of the race in July 2024 after his performance during the first presidential debate with Trump raised concerns of his ability to seek reelection, an article by the Associated Press reported.

Biden then endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the next Democratic nominee. During the Democratic National Convention in August, Harris officially accepted the nomination to be the Democratic party's candidate.

Building off the Biden administration's platform, Harris focuses on economic justice, healthcare and worker protections, according to an article by CBS News. Her campaign includes the topics of economic relief, tax deductions, environment policies and foreign policies.

Trump and Harris debated one another for the first time on Tuesday, Sept. 10 in Philadelphia. During the 90-minute debate, hosted by ABC News, Trump and Harris discussed abortion, immigration, the economy, foreign policy and other issues meaningful to voters.

David Muir, one of the ABC News anchors who co-hosted the debate, asked

the first question of the debate directly to Harris.

"Vice President Harris - you and President Trump were elected four years ago, and your opponent on the stage here tonight often asks his supporters, 'are you better off than you were four years ago? When it comes to the economy, do you believe Americans are better off than they were four years ago'" Muir said.

This question led Harris to lean into her plan for an opportunity economy. She explained her stance on economic issues in the U.S.

"I was raised as a middle-class kid, and I am actually the only person on this stage who has a plan that is about lifting

up the middle class and working people of America," Harris said.

Harris referenced families with young parents struggling to raise children in the current housing shortage the U.S. is experiencing.

"I intend on extending a tax cut for those families of \$6,000, which is the largest child tax credit that we have given in a long time, so that those young families can afford to buy a crib, buy a car seat, buy clothes for their children," Harris said.

Beyond her plans for tax deductions to young families, Harris explained other aspects of her tax deductions plans.

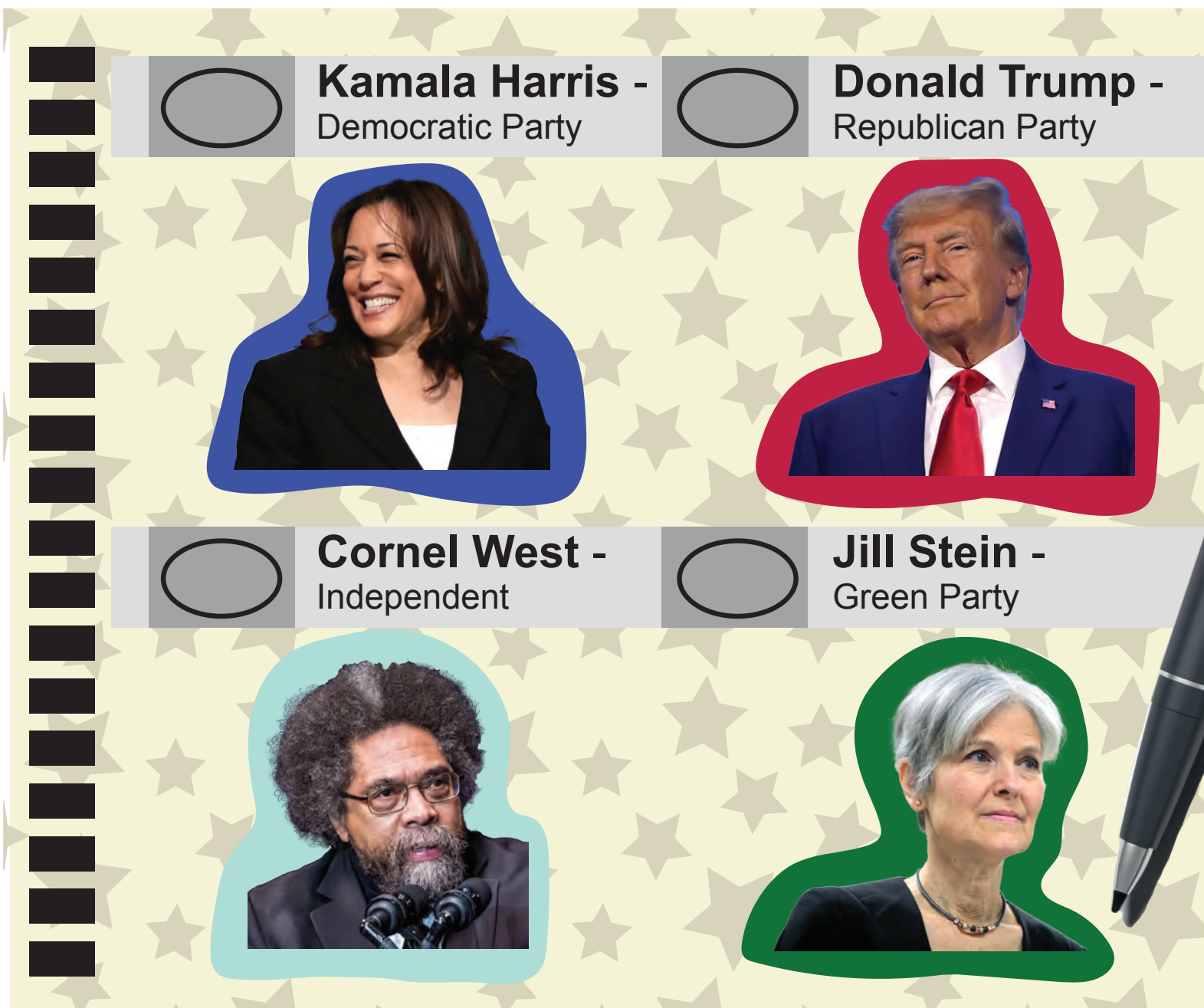
"My passion, one of them, is small businesses. My plan is to give a \$50,000 tax deduction to start-up small businesses, knowing they are the backbone of America's economy," Harris said.

After she reviewed her plans for economic relief, Harris disagreed with Trump about his plans on tax deductions.

"My opponent's plan is to do what he has done before, which is to provide a tax cut for billionaires and big corporations, which will result in \$5 trillion to America's deficit. My opponent has a plan that I call the Trump sales tax which would be a 20% tax on everyday goods that you rely on to get through the month," Harris said.



Voting allows citizens to elect representatives that will represent and uphold the values they wish for in the country. Illustration by Stephani Bradley.



These four candidates are some of the names you'll find in your ballot Nov. 5.

Trump, Harris and Stein. Gage Skidmore - Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA 2.0)

West. Darrell Nance. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

Trump replied to Harris' statement about his plans to add taxes which contribute to big corporations.

"First of all, I have no sales tax. That's an incorrect statement. She knows that. We're doing tariffs on other countries. Other countries are going to, finally, after 75 years, pay us back for all that we've done for the world. And the tariff will be substantial in some cases," Trump said.

Trump views the increase of inflation over the years as a direct consequence of the Biden administration's economic policies, particularly large-scale government spending. He has emphasized the need for supply-side policies like deregulation and lower taxes to combat inflation.

"We have inflation like very few people have ever seen before. Probably the worst in our nation's history. We were at 21%, but that's being generous because many things are 50%, 60%, 70% and 80% higher than they were just a few years ago. This has been a disaster for people, for the middle class, but for every class," Trump said.

As the debate went on, the candidates went further into their plans for abortion rights. Both Trump and Harris have highlighted the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade in June 2022.

"I absolutely support reinstating the protections of Roe v. Wade. And as you rightly mentioned, nowhere in America is a woman carrying a pregnancy to term and asking for an abortion," Harris said. During the debate, Trump declined

twice to say whether he would veto a federal abortion ban if Congress passed one.

"Well, I won't have to," Trump replied.

Trump said that there is no reason to sign such a ban; he argued that everybody is happy with the termination of Roe v. Wade. Trump added that the states should determine the decisions of reproductive rights.

Aside from the primary party candidates, the third party has two leading candidates for the 2024 presidential election.

Cornel West, progressive activist and author, is running as an independent. He initially announced his candidacy in June 2023 as a member of the People's Party but decided to run for the Green Party nomination nine days later.

West's campaign focuses on health care, housing, quality education and peace for all. According to their website, the People's Party's plans include creating a true democracy, revitalizing our economy, Medicare for all, ending the wars, expanding civil liberties and protecting the environment.

Jill Stein, physician and environmental activist, is running as a candidate for the Green party. Stein was the Green party nominee back in 2012 and 2016, and, before launching her own campaign in the 2024 presidential election, she worked as a transition coordinator on West's campaign. She departed when West decided to run as an independent

and announced her own candidacy.

Stein launched her campaign with a video where she criticized both the Republican and Democratic party and added that the two-party political system is broken.

"The political system is broken. Over 60% of us now say the two-party establishment has failed us and we need a party that serves the people," Stein said. "I'm running for president to offer a better choice for the people."

Stein's campaign focuses on a Green New Deal platform, prioritizing the environment and social justice. Her campaign is also built on the topic of people's economy, housing, labor, healthcare for all and other issues.

For NSU students, the election is a time to educate themselves and do their own research on the candidates.

Abbygail Casnave, sophomore social work and music business major, shared how educated she feels about the election.

"I'm not really into politics, but I feel like students should do their research before they decide who they want to vote for," Casnave said.

Casnave watched the presidential debate and has followed recent information regarding the candidates. She said many important details about a candidate's plan can hide among the chaos of an election.

"If you do your research, you're going to find all the stuff people don't talk about but need to know," Casnave said.

Sanethia Starks, senior hospitality management and tourism major, agreed with Casnave that it is important for people to do their research, especially for first-time voters.

"I feel like students should know about the candidates because for me this is the first year that I can legally vote, and this is an important time to get all the information I can so I can see who I'm voting for," Starks said.

Starks acknowledged that her vote has an impact.

"My vote does matter," Starks said. "It does change everything and I feel like more people should be more educated on it so they can be more entitled to vote."

Francis Cielakta, a junior nursing major, also stressed the importance of individual research.

"I feel like I know the two main parties but you have to actually dive into it and do your own research instead of just going off what the press says because there is a lot of misinformation out there," Cielakta said.

With less than a month left until Election Day, NSU students urge others to stay informed and educated as they cast their vote.

Project 2025: What The Current Sauce can tell you

BY KALLIE BOURGEOIS



The Heritage Foundation created Project 2025's policies.

<https://nara.getarchive.net/media/assignment-59-cf-ds-32356-06-secretary-condoleezza-rice-visiting-the-heritage-d5d048>

On The Current Sauce's Instagram story, followers were asked to submit their questions regarding Project 2025; here is all the information found.

What is Project 2025?

The 2025 Presidential Transition Project, popularly known as Project 2025, is a plan founded by The Heritage Foundation which is an organization that formulates and promotes public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values and a strong national defense, according to the Project 2025 organizational website. The Advisory Board consists of over 100 conservative organizations that have come together to form this project.

The goal of the movement addresses and reforms the "failings" of big government and an undemocratic administrative state, according to the website. Project 2025's Mandate for Leadership is a book which is the product of more than 400 scholars and policy experts from across the conservative movement and around the country.

Who supports Project 2025?

According to AP News, former President Donald Trump has distanced himself from Project 2025, while Vice President Kamala Harris has been warning voters against the proposal.

In a Facebook post on July 5, Trump wrote, "I know nothing about Project 2025. I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them."

In the debate against Harris on Tuesday, Sept. 10, Trump claimed once again that he has nothing to do with the conservative agenda. "I haven't read it," he said. "I don't want to read it, purposely. I'm not going to read it."

There is controversy behind the former president claiming this because many of his former high-ranking officials, who were once in his administration, are involved in Project 2025, according to an article by AP News. This raised suspicion due to the similarities of Trump's policies he has planned if he takes office and the policies recommended by Mandate for Leadership, but the project explained that it is ultimately up to the winner of the 2024 election to determine which policies are implemented.

According to an AP News video, Harris and her supporters have spoken up multiple times regarding the proposed policies of Project 2025. In Houston on July 25, Harris spoke to the American Federation of Teachers regarding the banning of books.

"Project 2025 is a plan to return America to a dark past. Donald Trump and his

extreme allies want to take our nation back to failed, trickle-down economic policies, back to union busting, back to tax breaks for billionaires," Harris stated in the video by AP News. "Just think about it, we want to ban assault weapons and they want to ban books."

Should I be worried?

The answer to this is up to individual interpretation. However, here is some reporting that addresses common worries voters have raised.

According to an article by AP News, "If former President Donald Trump wins a second term in November, Russell Vought, his former White House budget chief, may get the opportunity to go on the offensive; he is expected to be appointed to a high-ranking post in a second Trump administration."

The Heritage Foundation run by many of Trump's former officials is essentially waiting for the former president to make his return so their new policies could be considered, according to another article written by AP News.

"With a nearly 1000-page 'Project 2025' handbook and an 'army' of Americans, the idea is to have the civic infrastructure in place on Day One to commandeer, reshape and do away with what Republicans deride as the "deep state" bureaucracy, in part by firing as many as 50,000 federal workers," the article explained.

Will I (a gay) still be able to openly love my partner and get married to him?

Under the Department of Health and Human Services section by Roger Severino in the Mandate for Leadership book, it addresses the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

On Page 450 under Goal #1: Protecting Life, Conscience, and Bodily Integrity, it states, "Families comprised of a married mother, father, and their children are the foundation of a well-ordered nation and healthy society. Unfortunately, family policies and programs under President Biden's HHS are fraught with agenda items focusing on 'LGBTQ+ equity,' subsidizing single-motherhood, disincentivizing work, and penalizing marriage. These policies should be repealed and replaced by policies that support the formation of stable, married, nuclear families."

In the Mandate for Leadership book under the Family Agenda, it also reaffirms how the nation has to have "more traditional family values."

"The Secretary's anti discrimination policy statements should never conflate sex with gender identity or sexual orientation," it states on page 489. "Rather, the Secretary should proudly state that men and women are biological realities that are crucial to the advancement of life sciences and medical care and that

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married men and women are the ideal, natural family structure because all children have a right to be raised by the men and women who conceived them.”

While it is still unclear, policies regarding LGBTQIA+ individuals will be repealed and replaced to form what Project 2025 labels as more traditional family values in our nation and a healthier society that should consist of a “mother, father, and their children.”

How will Project 2025 impact the healthcare system for the LGBTQIA+ community?

The Department of Education section in the Mandate for Leadership book written by Lindsey M. Burke addresses the future of the healthcare system for the LGBTQIA+ community, primarily addressing gender nonconforming individuals.

“Facilitating social gender transition without parental consent increases the likelihood that children will seek hormone treatments, such as puberty blockers, which are experimental medical interventions,” states on page 333 regarding the future for the gender transitioning of children. “Research has not demonstrated positive effects and long term outcomes of these treatments, and the unintended side effects are still not fully understood.”

According to an article written by McAndrews Law Office, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics in schools that receive federal funding. Page 343 of the book also addressed the Biden Administration’s proposed Title IX.

“For example, under the Biden Administration’s proposed Title IX regulations, schools could be required to assist a child with a social or medical gender transition without parental consent or to withhold information from parents about a child’s social transition (e.g., changing their names or pronouns),” the book states.



Former president Donald Trump claims multiple times that he has nothing to do with Project 2025.
Gage Skidmore - Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Under the Department of Health and Human Services section, Mandate for Leadership book addresses funding for cross-sex transitioning.

“Withdraw Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program guidance allowing funds to pay for cross-sex transition support,” states page 485. “HRSA should withdraw all guidance encouraging Ryan White service providers to provide controversial “gender transition” procedures or “gender-affirming care,” which cause irreversible physical and mental harm to those who receive them.”

Page 462 of the Mandate for Leadership book, addresses the elimination of Woke Policies created by the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The book called out the NIH for focusing on issues of gender identity – referred to in the text as junk gender science. “Instead, it should fund studies into the short-term and long-term negative effects of cross-sex interventions, including ‘affirmation,’ puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries, and the likelihood of desistance if young people are given counseling that does not include medical or social interventions,” the book states.

Project 2025 will impact the healthcare of the LGBTQIA+ community by eliminating access to procedures and medications for gender-nonconforming individuals, requiring parental consent and



Project 2025 is a proposed movement that plans to reform government policies.
Illustration by DonkeyHotey from EgorovaSvetlana / Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 4.0 DEED), Joseph Reed / Wikimedia (PD), and Gage Skidmore / Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 2.0 DEED)



Submitted by LYRF.
Photo of the Greater Baton Rouge Young Republicans Event at Uncle Earl's in Baton Rouge.

Young partisan organizations in Louisiana guide the new generation of leaders

BY MADELYN MURPHY

Right now, young voters across the nation are preparing for the upcoming election.

Both the Young Democrats of Louisiana (YDL) and the Louisiana Young Republican Federation (LYRF) are dedicated to bringing young voters together and training them to become leaders.

The YDL is an organization which advocates for progressive issues and trains the upcoming generation of leaders, serving ages 14-40. They are the largest partisan, youth-led political organization in Louisiana, said Jaylon "Jay" Braxton, director of communications for YDL.

"Our mission is to garner voter engagement across the state, empower voters to be informed and educated on the candidates that best align with our progressive values, and elect those progressive leaders up and down the ballot to ensure a better tomorrow for our communities," Braxton explained.

Some of Braxton's responsibilities include leading the organization's communication strategies and managing YDL's social media team.

"In this role, I ensure that the voice of the Young Democrats is consistent, impactful and resonates with our mission to inspire and mobilize young Democratic leaders," Braxton said. "I collaborate with our leadership to promote events, campaigns and voter engagement efforts."

Braxton works with his team to create educational and motivational content for the next generation of voters. The YDL Instagram page contains information such as "everything you need to know about Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry's ban on critical race theory" to "how to register to vote."

Now, after a year of inactivity, YDL is working to relaunch their organization.

"Our team has been working tirelessly to reconnect with our members, promote candidates who align with the core values of Young Democrats, and engage voters on the critical issues in this upcoming election."

Once election season ends, YDL has a plan to keep members engaged.

"Moving forward, we will establish cau-

ses dedicated to researching and addressing the concerns of specific communities. These caucuses will ensure we are informed and proactive on the daily," Braxton shared. "Alongside this, we're planning community outreach events, newsletters and social campaigns aimed at boosting voter education and engagement, helping to make sure every voice is heard."

Braxton plans for YDL to offer resources

like training sessions for the community or establishing mentorships for their members with seasoned political leaders. "Our organization equips you with the tools you need to become an effective advocate," he said.

Members of YDL are essential to the organization's success, but they also benefit from being a part of the organization. For instance, members get the opportunity to engage in conversations concern-

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Both the Young Democrats of Louisiana (YDL) and the Louisiana Young Republican Federation (LYRF) are dedicated to bringing young voters together and training them to become leaders.



Submitted by LYRF.
Trevor Dunlap (Livingston Parish Young Republicans Member) volunteering for Julie Quinn Campaign for Public Service Commissioner district 2.



Submitted by LYRF.
Three people phone banking for Dave McCormick (R-Pa. Senate Race): Nathan Sanders (Chair), Carlee Rasche (Greater Baton Rouge Young Republicans Member) and Caleb Franklin (Livingston Parish Young Republicans Member).



Submitted by YDL .
 Young Democrats of Louisiana, in Jefferson Parish, partnered with Jefferson Parish Democrats, at the Woodmere Business and Community Festival.

ing policies and social justice, gain skills and resources to become future leaders, make life-long connections and make change happen, Braxton said.

“Being affiliated with the Young Democrats of Louisiana connects you to a network of like-minded individuals who are passionate about making a difference in their communities and our political landscape,” Braxton shared. “Our organization serves as a platform for young people to have their voices heard and to take action on the issues that matter most to them.”

YDL strives to help young people become informed, active participants in democracy by providing them with knowledge and guidance to make change within their communities.

In addition to this, YDL provides access to voting information resources through the link in their social media bios.

For those interested in getting involved with YDL, Braxton recommends visiting the link in their social media bios to find the membership interest form. After completing the form, an email will follow with more information on how to move forward.

For any additional information about YDL, email the organization at info@ydlouisiana.org or visit their social media @YDLouisiana.

Another organization with the goal of shaping young people into leaders is the Louisiana Young Republican Federation, a state chapter within the Young Republican National Federation, which focuses on preparing young leaders to embrace values like liberty, integrity and community. Serving ages 18-40, it is Louisiana’s leading young conservative leadership organization, according to the LYRF website.

“The mission of LYRF is to recruit, train and elect young Republicans who are committed to conservative principles, both as party leaders and candidates for elected office,” said Nathan Sanders, chairman of the LYRF. “By fostering re-

spectful dialogue, promoting individual freedom, and upholding the sanctity of life, we aim to build strong communities and drive meaningful change both locally and nationally. Through dedication and hard work, we are committed to electing principled young Republicans who will proudly represent Louisiana and the nation.”

Within his position as chairman, Sanders represents LYRF at the state level, working closely with the board of directors. His responsibilities consist of establishing new chapters, increasing young republicans’ engagement and more.

Currently, LYRF is preparing for the upcoming presidential election.

“Our national organization is coordinating canvassing efforts for key Senate and Congressional races in pivotal states like Arizona, Montana, and Pennsylvania, Georgia, etc. We’ve also planned for phone calls into these states,” Sanders explained.

LYRF is also focused on educating members and creating opportunities for their members to be part of the campaigning process by hosting candidates and volunteering with a candidate’s campaign team.

“For the presidential election, we’re organizing trips to critical battleground states like Georgia, where we’ll join other Republican organizations in canvassing efforts to support the Trump/Vance ticket,” Sanders said.

Aside from election efforts, LYRF prioritizes providing local chapters support by hosting events which feature elected officials, party leaders and policy experts, Sanders said.

“We engage in legislative advocacy during the legislative session, ensuring that young Republicans have a voice in shaping policy at the state level,” Sanders said. “Additionally, we work on building partnerships across the state and offer training for our members in areas like campaigning, leadership development and grassroots activism.”



Submitted by YDL .
 Young Democrats of Louisiana, in Jefferson Parish, partnered with Jefferson Parish Democrats, at the Woodmere Business and Community Festival.

LYRF works to shape young republicans into active leaders, both politically and within their community.

“Being affiliated with the Louisiana Young Republicans allows young conservatives to engage in the political process, build connections and gain valuable skills. We offer a platform to contribute to causes they believe in, whether it’s advocating for liberty, campaigning for candidates or influencing policy,” Sanders said. “By being part of our network, members become part of a larger movement dedicated to shaping the future of our state and nation.”

Members are also provided with networking opportunities, political training and more to help them further their skills and knowledge on campaigning, fundraising or advocating, Sanders explained.

“Engaging with these resources helps them advance their careers, make an impact in their communities and build lasting relationships with like-minded individuals,” he said.

For those interested in joining LYRF, Sanders suggests joining a local chapter. If there’s not a chapter nearby, reach out to LYRF and they will guide those interested through the process of starting one.

For more information regarding LYRF, visit www.louisianayr.com for more information on membership and upcoming events or their social media @LouisianaYR for the latest updates. For direct inquiries, email the organization at louisianayr@gmail.com or reach out via their social media platforms.

Taxes

According to the U.S. tax foundation, Trump has not released any official plans regarding capital gains and dividend taxes. However, the USA tax foundation wrote that Trump has confirmed efforts he promised toward business taxes, credit, deductions, exemptions, excise taxes, individual income taxes, payroll taxes and trade tariffs.

Trump proposes lowering the corporate income tax rate from 21% to 20% and to 15% for companies with production in the U.S. to increase the child tax credit to \$5,000.

Additionally, he proposes to tax large private university endowments, to exempt Social Security benefits, to tip income and overtime pay from taxation, to impose a universal baseline tariff on all U.S. imports of 10% to 20% and a 60% tariff on all U.S. imports from China and to consider replacing personal income taxes with increased tariffs, according to the U.S. tax foundation.

The 2024 GOP Platform for the Republican party, also known as Agenda 47, lays out plans regarding Trump's tax proposals including promises for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that he signed into office on Jan. 1, 2018.

Since several provisions of TCJA are set to expire by the end of 2025, Trump proposes to make the expiring estate and individual tax cuts permanent and to reinstate unlimited itemized deductions for state and local taxes paid or change their current limits.

"Republicans will make permanent the provisions of the Trump Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that doubled the standard deduction, expanded the Child Tax Credit, and spurred Economic Growth for all Americans," Agenda 47 stated.

According to an article by NBC News, Harris called for repealing the entire TCJA back in 2020, and, similarly, Biden called for unwinding several tax breaks within TCJA. Biden proposed to cut tax breaks for Americans that make more than a \$400,000 yearly salary, to raise the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, to make a \$3,600-per-child tax break for families, an \$800 average tax cut for "front-line workers" and a 25% minimum tax on billionaires.

Harris has not specified if she plans to carry over all of Biden's proposals, but the U.S. tax foundation has confirmed her plans to increase the top tax rate on long-term investments up to 28% for taxable incomes above \$1 million and to increase the net investment income tax to 5% for incomes above \$400,000. She also proposes to expand the child tax credit to \$6,000 for children under age 1, \$3,600 for children 2-5 and \$3,000 for older children.

For tax filers who do not claim children, she proposes to expand the earned income tax credit, premium tax credits and housing tax credits, to claw back deductions for depreciation and interest for certain rental construction investment and to increase the \$5,000 deduction for startup costs to \$50,000.

While Harris has not proposed plans for Estate and Wealth Taxes, Excise Taxes, Payroll Taxes or Trade Tariffs, she has included information about her other proposals in her official plan, A New Way Forward for the Middle Class.

Harris has also released an itemized agenda to "lower costs for American families," according to A New Way Forward for the Middle Class.

"The steps announced today will cut taxes for the middle class, reduce grocery costs, take on price gouging, lower the costs of owning and renting a home, continue to bring down the costs of prescription drugs, and relieve medical debt for millions of Americans," according to her agenda.

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Housing Crisis

Harris calls for the construction of 3 million new housing units in the next four years, according to Harris' agenda. Harris proposes creating the first tax incentive for building starter homes, an expansion of existing tax incentives for businesses that build rental housing and the addition of a federal fund to promote housing construction.

According to A New Way Forward for the Middle Class, Harris has specified that she also proposes to unlock 1.2 million new affordable rental homes through historic incentives for the private sector, initiate new construction or rehabilitation of over 400,000 owner-occupied homes, launch a \$40 billion local innovation fund for housing expansion, end "unfair practices that help large corporate landlords dramatically raise rents" and expand homeownership with historic \$25,000 down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.

She advocates for federal programs to expand access to affordable housing, which both candidates agree is the solution to the housing crisis. However, their proposals for this solution differ.

Trump's approach, according to an article by Time Magazine, is to reduce regulations and open federal land for large-scale housing construction.

In a speech to the Economic Club of New York, Trump said, "Regulation costs 30% of a new home, and we will open up portions of federal land for large-scale housing construction. These zones will be ultra-low tax and ultra-low regulations - one of the great small-business job creation programs."

Within Agenda 47, Trump also supports plans "to help new home buyers, Republicans will reduce mortgage rates by slashing Inflation, open limited portions of Federal Lands to allow for new home construction, promote homeownership through Tax Incentives and support for first-time buyers, and cut unnecessary Regulations that raise housing costs."

Trump also said that he hopes the efforts of his agenda toward immigration and the economy will have a positive impact on the housing market, according to Agenda 47.

Education

To address the policies regarding education, Trump advocates for safe learning environments while Harris advocates for debt-free higher education.

Agenda 47 stated Trump's support for plans to cultivate "great" K-12 schools, to ensure safe learning environments free from political meddling and to restore parental rights within primary education environments.

"We commit to an education system that empowers students, supports families and promotes American values. Our education system must prepare students for successful lives and well-paying jobs," according to Agenda 47.

Trump also proposes accessible higher education through reduced costs as well as the creation of additional alternatives to a traditional four-year degree.

Harris' agenda does not mention proposals regarding public education. However, in her 2019 campaign kickoff address, she promised to guarantee the "fundamental right" for universal education from pre-K to debt-free college, according to NBC News.

In regard to costs for higher education, NBC News also stated Harris supports student debt forgiveness and the Biden administration's work to provide more than \$100 billion in student debt relief.



Foreign Policies: Regarding China, International Trade, Gaza and Israel

NBC News stated Harris also supports the Biden administration's view of China as a threat to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. She has backed the Biden administration's efforts to severely restrict exports to China.

Harris has called for continued dialogue with China and her official statement on political issues clearly stated, "she has met with China's Xi Jinping, making clear she will always stand up for American interests in the face of China's threats, and traveled to the Indo-Pacific four times to advance our economic and security partnerships."

Harris has not confirmed if she endorses Biden's view that the U.S. would support Taiwan if it was attacked by China.

However, according to Agenda 47, Trump believes that "the Biden administration's weak foreign policy has made us (America) less safe and a laughingstock all over the world."

As stated in Agenda 47, Trump's proposal is to "return peace through strength" by rebuilding the U.S. military and alliances, countering China, defeating terrorism, building an Iron Dome Missile Defense Shield and reviving our Defense Industrial Base.

Regarding trade with China, Trump supports phasing out imports from China, including the importation of Chinese vehicles, and to stop China from buying American real estate and industries. He proposes that American companies buy and hire Americans to become the "manufacturing superpower."

"Republicans will support baseline tariffs on foreign-made goods, pass the Trump Reciprocal Trade Act and respond to unfair trading practices. As Tariffs on foreign producers go up, taxes on American workers, families and businesses can come down," according to Agenda 47.

Harris has not confirmed plans for international trade within her official statement on political issues, however has made it clear she supports an alliance with Israel and its right to defend itself. She proposes to ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, as she and Biden are currently working to get a hostage and ceasefire deal done. Harris wants to ensure all hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can "realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self-determination."

Trump also supports Israel's right to defense. In Agenda 47, he proposes to stand with Israel and seek peace by rebuilding the U.S.'s alliances in the Middle East to "ensure a future of peace, stability, and prosperity."

Trump has not stated direct plans for ending the conflict in Gaza but stated he supports a fast end to the war, according to NBC News.

Immigration

When it comes to immigration, Trump has very clear plans regarding immigration laws and procedures. Trump proposes to strengthen Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to increase penalties for illegal entry and overstaying visas, to invoke the Alien Enemies Act which removes known or suspected gang members, drug dealers and cartel members from the U.S., and to reimplement Title 42 to end the child trafficking crisis. Along with these efforts, Agenda 47 stated the proposal to begin the "largest deportation in American history."

Trump supports "stopping the migrant invasion" with plans to seal the U.S.-Mexico border.

"We will complete the border wall, shift massive portions of federal law enforcement to Immigration Enforcement, and use advanced technology to monitor and secure the border. We will use all resources needed to stop the invasion - including moving thousands of troops currently stationed overseas to our own Southern Border," Agenda 47 stated.

While Harris also supports securing U.S. borders, she acknowledges that the "immigration system is broken and needs comprehensive reform."

During her time as vice president, Harris supported the bipartisan border security bill which would have added 1,500 security agents along the border and sent more technology targeted to detect and intercept fentanyl and other drugs from entering the country across all U.S. borders. Harris proposes to bring back the bipartisan border security bill and sign it into law.

Climate Change

Also within her time as vice president, Harris cast the tie-breaking vote to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which included federal spending toward clean energy and tax credits for electric vehicles, in an effort to stop the negative effects of climate change.

Harris' official statement on political issues stated, "As president, she will unite Americans to tackle the climate crisis as she builds on this historic work, advances environmental justice, protects public lands and public health, increases resilience to climate disasters, lowers household energy costs, creates millions of new jobs, and continues to hold polluters accountable to secure clean air and water for all."

According to ABC News, in 2019 Harris revealed a plan to spend ten trillion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a goal of getting to a zero-emissions economy by 2045.

She proposes to meet a global challenge and ensures that she is committed to building upon American leadership in international climate.

Trump has not released any plans toward attacking climate change, however Agenda 47 supports restoring American beauty by restoring "genuine conservation efforts."

However, Agenda 47 suggests Trump prioritizes the U.S.'s manufacturing power above environmental efforts. Furthermore, AP news shared information about Trump's proposal to boost production of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal and repeal key parts of the 2022 climate law.

Climate change, immigration, foreign policies, education, housing and taxes are only some of the political issues that voters will need to consider before casting their ballot. With one month left until the election, it is important to remain educated on all political issues which the candidates campaign for or against. For more information, visit the prospective candidates websites or corresponding media channels.



“

A NEW WAY FORWARD

Voting sites map in the city of Natchitoches

BY HAYLEY KEELER



**Scan for access
to the full map**



How social media influences politics

BY ISABEL JUAREZ RUBIO



The social media platform X displaying Donald Trump's profile page. Submitted by Lia Portillo.

Political election season is a time to see what issues politicians can amend or address; it is a decisive time for the U.S. This is also the time when many Americans are consuming more media news than ever, as they are trying to keep up with the candidates.

Media outlets have always had a big impact on political elections. Over time, these mediums of information have changed and now range from billboards to social media.

This transformation has led to an increase of social media consumption with apps like TikTok reshaping the social media world.

TikTok is a video-based platform, and users and influencers use it in many ways from sharing their daily lives to

politicians using it as a way to endorse themselves. Creators are able to communicate with their audience and users can leave comments, share, repost and follow other people.

Former President Donald Trump was known for his posts on the social platform X, formerly called Twitter. X is a social networking application. Users can communicate instantly with each other and are able to reply, like and share posts within the platform.

Both media platforms share similar features; one of the biggest differences is the age of the users and the target audience. TikTok targets a younger audience, but this is slowly changing as older people are starting to use it. X has an older audience as it targets an older population.

Trump used X to share his opinions and

used it as a form of communication between his supporters and followers.

Vice President Kamala Harris is doing something similar but through TikTok. Her team has been creating videos of 60 seconds or less following recent trends and audios on the app.

People have begun to question if it is fair to use media apps meant for entertainment as a way to get votes and promote themselves.

The truth is that there is no "right" answer, and everyone is subjective to their answer as explained by two professors at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

"Honest and civil campaigning is ethical, and politics is about deciding the parameters of honesty and civility," Greg Granger, a political science professor at NSU, said. "Political speech is given wide leeway in the broader context of the First Amendment protection of free speech, which raises the question of just where the limits to political speech are, especially in the wild, wild West of social media."

The truth is that politicians use every resource of endorsement that is available to them. Social media being one of them.

"I think what I would hope to see from any candidate is them - yes, using the platforms at their disposal - but also really focusing on the information about what they plan to do more than so tearing the other candidate down using tactics to try to manipulate voters into making a choice," Emily Zering, an assistant professor of communications at NSU, said.

Fans and voters, specifically of running candidates for the presidential election, have taken their sides and display their stance all over social media. Using social media for campaigning can be a valuable tool, but if it's used to spread lies about the opposing candidate, it can fog the minds of voters.

"I don't think they should be able to make false promises and say anything they want and then none of that be true and only have those campaigns just to smear the other candidate. I feel like that's not ethical; it should be about how they want to make things better and not 'look how terrible this other person is,'" Abigail Williams, a senior history major, said.

Because of the negative space social media has transformed into, regulations have been discussed and enforced in some platforms but also creates conflict in the public discussing if this is violating the First Amendment of freedom of speech.

"Censorship is a matter of a government limiting free expression. In an informal sense, one might say that a private social media company silencing an account is censorship, but in the law, it is simply a matter of the company enforcing the rules that members agree to when registering an account," said Granger.

Candidates also use other forms of media to share information such as television, billboards and radio ads.

"I think that if you are going to try to regulate how they campaign themselves on social media platforms, you should also think about how they are campaigning

on TV because it's basically the same thing; it's just three different audiences," Williams said. "So, if you are going to try to regulate one, you should regulate all of them."

One of the biggest issues with the implementation of social media is the amount of false information being shared. Apps simplify sharing information to where it helps the public get immediate notice of information even if it's misleading or not true.

"The company is allowed to set certain parameters on what it will and will not allow to be posted. The most important issue in this regard is not about the sharing of opinions or information, but of disinformation in the form of intentionally false information and deep fake images, among other deceptions. The purpose is to sow doubt about the integrity of the political system, Granger said. "Social media and Artificial Intelligence accelerate the rate and widen the scope of damage that can be done by hostile foreign actors as well as one's neighbors and anyone in between."

Because individual users are responsible for the information they share, double fact-checking is necessary, and making sure that the information comes from a variety of different trusted sources is a good way to start.

"We don't fact check everything we see, and something might just be something of a passing influence and move on with our day, but if it comes in a conversation, we always refer back to the information we saw, but in politics it's specifically dangerous because it contributes to the polarization of an us or them mentality," Zering said.

Social media analytics, information which shows account holders what content is performing well, allows apps to track user activity and plan more strategic algorithms for users to engage with. While the algorithm is tailored differently to everyone, it usually displays the trendiest content within the platform regardless of whether this content contains accurate information.

When making a decision on who to vote for, it's important to keep this information in mind: Not everything in social media is true.



TikTok is a video-based platform that garnered popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photos by Isabel Juarez Rubio.

Analysis: The impact athletes have on politics

BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

Each election season, influencers and athletes use their social media platforms to endorse candidates. Whether athletes endorse a candidate or athletes take a stand on social issues, their influence can affect the view of their fans.

According to the White House Historical Association, the White House has held various celebrations and has been engaged in sports throughout history. The closest athletes get to U.S. politics is when they are invited to meet the current president at these ceremonies to be recognized as champions.

Although this is a great accomplishment for athletes across the country, it has also sparked controversy. For example, there have been some athletes such as the Bulls' former shooting guard Michael Jordan and the Steelers' former linebacker James Harrison who both declined invitations to the White House, despite it being a tradition. Jordan explained that he was unable to go as he was attending vacation with his family, while Harrison thought of the invitation to be "not that big of a deal."

Regardless of the reason, these incidents reflect the influence athletes have on the media.

While athletes have the same rights as anyone in the nation, their high profiles place them on a pedestal. This prompts fans to call out athletes when they choose to or choose not to speak out on politics.

Athletes still have the same right to speak on political and national issues by using their platform to influence their followers. Depending on what they are advocating for, an athlete supporting a

politician or social message has an impact in not only the sports world, but also at a political and national level.

In an article, Douglas Hartmann, professor and chair of sociology at the University of Minnesota, told Al Jazeera that athletes have every right to support or talk about politics from their point of view.

The article also explained that in 2016, Colin Kaepernick, former NFL quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers and civil rights activist, kneeled during the national anthem to show his support for the Black community and the injustice to minorities in the judicial system. This was one of many instances in which athletes gave their opinions on national issues that brought awareness to ongoing problems that everyday citizens speak of or are affected by.

In 2020, point guard of the Dallas Mavericks and social activist Kyrie Irving protested getting the COVID-19 vaccination, according to an article published by The Hill. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, center and power forward Giannis Antetokounmpo and the rest of the Milwaukee Bucks left the court during the playoffs.

The 2024 election has shown athletes and coaches openly supporting certain candidates.

According to an article published by Black Enterprise, Harris has opened a campaign called "Athletes for Harris" where she gained athletes' support including NBA Hall of Famer Magic Johnson, Paralympic swimmer Ali Truweit and other athletes.



Magic Johnson speaks up about endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/csufnewsphotos/16099287434>

"I have known Vice President Harris for over 25 years, and you can count on her to deliver on what she says she is going to do," Johnson said in the article. "She'll be a president for all people, no matter the race, language, sexual orientation or party line."

According to an article published by USA Today, Truweit said in a statement, "I just got back from the Paralympics a few weeks ago and now more than ever feel the importance of unity and unifying voices. Vice President Harris is a vote for kindness and inclusivity and unity."

Several athletes have publicly shown their support for Trump's reelection including former NFL wide receiver Antonio Brown, former MLB outfielder

Johnny Damon and other athletes. Brown confirmed in an interview with OutKick that he would endorse Trump in the upcoming presidential election, as stated in the article by Tribune.

"Yeah, I'll endorse Trump," he said.

According to an article written by Ok Magazine, Johnny Damon, former MLB outfielder, confirmed his support for the former president on the social media platform X by writing "Trump 2024" with a U.S. flag emoji.

Whatever side athletes choose to support, their voices and platforms make an impact in this age of social media during the presidential race.



President Joe Biden welcomes the Super Bowl Champions LVIII, the Kansas City Chiefs, to the White House.
<https://picryl.com/media/patrick-mahomes-president-biden-and-travis-kelce-19e9f5>



Johnny Damon endorses former President Donald Trump.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Johnny_Damon_by_Keith_Allison_2.jpg

What do **NSU students** think about the 2024 election?

BY MADISON RAYMOND



Lou Lewis
Sophomore
Nursing

Question:

How do you feel about a woman running for office?

Answer:

"I feel like having a woman running for office is very good for the younger little girls, whether it's black, caucasian, mexican. It gives girl power; it shows that no matter your race, or your background or where you come from it helps us envision that we can be leaders and show that it's not just a man's world. It's everyone, everyone can do it, anyone can do it, we all can be leaders."



Tyler Winchester
Freshman
Radiological Sciences

Question:

How do you feel about Donald Trump running again?

Answer:

"Honestly I feel like, doesn't he have like so many felony charges on his name? And he's currently under investigation as well, but I just don't understand how a felon can run for president but [we] can't even get a decent job in America, but that's the generation we're living in apparently. But I feel like he shouldn't be able to be reelected, but that's my personal opinion, everyone has their own opinion. So, it's just kind of bending the rules for certain people in my opinion again. But that's how I feel about it."



Arthur Malveaux
Freshman
Criminal Justice

Question:

Is voting important to you? If so, why?

Answer:

"Voting is important to me, especially as the younger generation we have a responsibility to go out and do our civic duty and vote. And a lot of the times as a younger generation we often say that 'we don't want to hear that' or stuff about politics, when in reality we have to go out and vote because in the future we're the group that it's going to affect the most."



Alexa Matternich
Freshman
Radiologic Sciences

Question:

How do you use your voice during election time?

Answer:

"Encouraging my friends to vote, by giving them factual information and also providing a ride if they are unable to go vote."



Tricia Paterno
Freshman
Nursing

Question:

If Kamala Harris were to be elected to office, how would that impact you?

Answer:

"If Kamala Harris were elected to office, I think I would feel more represented as a woman of color, because she's also a woman of color. Other than that I don't know how much of an impact her being in office will have on me, but I do hope to see some improvements in specifically education, environment, those things."



Bailey Thomas
Junior
Communication

Question:

If Donald Trump were to get in office again, how would it impact you?

Answer:

"If Trump was re-elected President it wouldn't be very good for me, it would negatively impact me for sure."

Is America ready for a woman president?

BY VICTORIA RODRIGUE



Illustrations by Hayley Keeler

For the second time in U.S. history, citizens have the option to vote for a female presidential candidate. This year, Kamala Harris is the running Democratic candidate and has a chance to be the first female president of the U.S.

Has the time come for America to accept a female president?

Throughout history in the U.S., women have taken strides in social, business and political settings where women have shown their full capabilities. The number of women cabinet members in America rose from 17% in 2017 to 46% in 2021, according to a press release by UN Women.

America seems ready for a female pres-

ident, however there are other factors that weigh into voters' decisions such as religion, age, political affiliation and personal beliefs.

Some religions portray men to have authority over women, therefore they are more likely to prefer a man in office. Other people may agree with the stereotype that women are too emotional and

unfit to make crucial decisions. Having a strong decision making process is paramount when leading the nation, but this skill is not reserved to a specific gender. Yet, 58% of Americans say that showing emotion hurts a woman's chance of being elected, according to a report by the Pew Research Center.

While gender may play a role for some voters, a candidate's views on key policy issues and their ability to solve the country's problems is obviously more important when it comes to what citizens look for in a president. According to another report by the Pew Research Center, the majority of voters expect no differences between a female and male president when it comes to key leadership skills such as working out compromises and being honest and ethical.

As society becomes more accepting of women holding office in government, the idea of a woman becoming president is accepted by 93% of Americans as long as she is well-qualified, according to an article by U.S. News and World Report. Both parties have supported female presidential candidates such as Kamala Harris for the Democrats and Nikki Haley, former United Nations ambassador who left the presidential race in March 2024, for the Republicans. This shows a significant increase in readiness, especially among young voters who prioritize equality and diversity.

Regardless of gender, citizens must thoroughly research each candidate's platform and make an informed decision about who they prefer.

KNWD DJ Schedule Fall 2024

	9 a.m.-10 a.m.	10 a.m.-11 a.m.	11 a.m.-12 p.m.	12 p.m.-1 p.m.	1 p.m.-2 p.m.	2 p.m.-3 p.m.	3 p.m.-4 p.m.	4 p.m.-5 p.m.	5 p.m.-6 p.m.	6 p.m.-7 p.m.	7 p.m.-8 p.m.	8 p.m.-9 p.m.
Mon.					D.A.A.M.N News Show	Argus Hour	Brit Pilled	Hard Kore	Mental Mondays			
Tues.			Strike Up the Band			Southern Street	Grunge After Lunch		Keeping the Scene	Nitty Gritty Natty	Elite Takes w/Jay	
Wed.						Earworm	The Graveyard 3:30-4:30		Talking to the Void			
Thurs.	Sideline Talk 9-11		Cam's Corner			Greek on a Leash	Southern Street	Indie Spotlight	Power & Love Power Hour	Ayee Ifs Bryce: On Air		The Alternatives
Fri.				Decade Delights	Miscellaneous Mix	The Gentalmans Pub	Grunge After Lunch	Jessy's Junction 4-6		Welcome to D.C.C.		

Staff Volunteer

SIGMA NU PRESENTS
 8-30TH OCTOBER, 2024
NIGHTS OF FRIGHT
 MTW 7-10:30PM
 PROCEEDS GO TO ST. JUDES
 730 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY
 \$10 A PERSON, \$5 FOR KIDS UNDER 10
PLEASE PARK IN THE WATSON LIBRARY PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM THE SIGMA NU HOUSE.

2024 Election Word Search

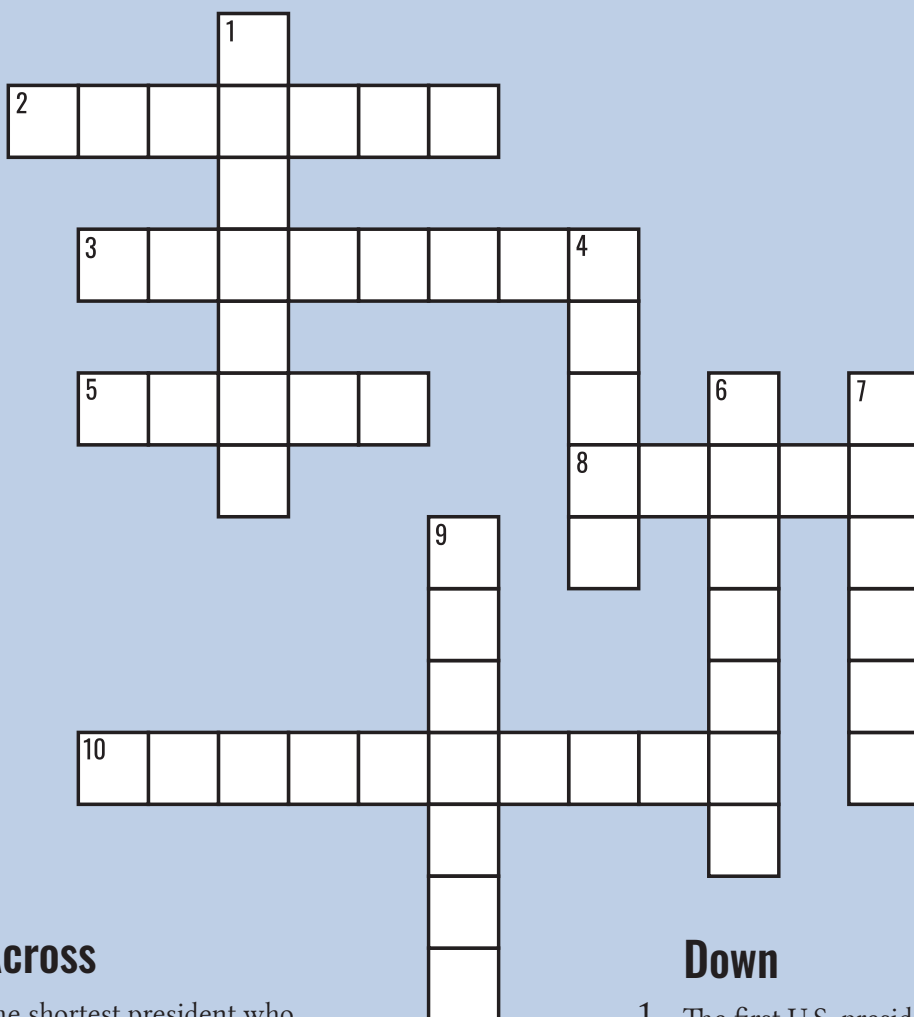
Word Bank

1. Ballot
2. Campaign
3. Candidate
4. Debate
5. Democrat
6. Election
7. Harris
8. November
9. Politics
10. Primary
11. Republican
12. Trump
13. Vance
14. Vote
15. Walz

T F T I I G D R P Y Z Q D W N G F Q Q J
 W M S W Y G W C R O Y R A M I R P X H O
 B A V A N C E Y X H L Z X S X Q Q V R D
 W N J T U R J X R V C I L S I Q S I G E
 R M Y R E Z Y P E G T Y T H T R Z V B M
 B N M U R V H I P W S J K I B W R N Q O
 N U C M Y Q J Q U L D Y O C C K C A T C
 H X P P G W F H B J U F T M I S B W H R
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 V R O E X S A K K M R M Z A N Y L N B F
 P U Y U C L I M J N E Y E A O Z I O T A
 K E Z N L T X Y S F O V V U X X Q A R U
 F K S O I O I A Q K P X O Y R Y J H V B
 J F T M N C S O R L V V F N E U X V J B
 A H E T A D I D N A C P C G M L Y J A P

U.S. Presidents Crossword

Answer the last names of a former U.S. presidents.



Across

2. The shortest president who stood at 5 foot 4 inches.
3. The only president to never marry.
5. Known to have had the most children of any U.S. president with 15 children.
8. The first African American president of the U.S.
10. The first president of the United States.

Down

1. The first U.S. president to ever be assassinated.
4. Was involved in the "Watergate Scandal".
6. Famously had the campaign slogan "return to normalcy".
7. The first president to live to the age of 100.
9. The president that was assassinated in Novemeber of 1963.



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Event organizer writes the number of students who have registered to vote on a board.



Outside of Kyser Hall, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society and the Hispanic Student Journalist Association hosts a voting registration drive.



Gabe Parker participated in Demons for Voting



Flyers printed from the Secretary of State website were provided for more information on registering to vote.



By the end of the event, organizers reported around 50 people had registered to vote.

HSJA and Sigma Tau Delta host Demons for Voting Submitted Photos



Angela and Dominick Saldivar hold up Demons for Voting sign.



Levi Paul participated in Demons for Voting



Anthony Ugokwe participated in Demons for Voting



Bailey Gaspard and Angela Saldivar, event organizers, greet NSU students as they learn how they can register to vote.

Watch NSU-TV News Story on the event [QR Code]