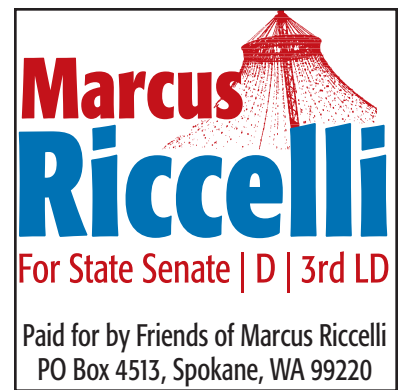


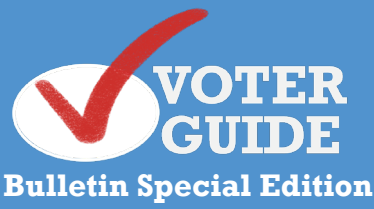
The Gonzaga Bulletin

A student publication of Gonzaga University

OCTOBER 17, 2024 — www.gonzagabulletin.com — VOL. 136 ISSUE 7



Marcus Riccelli
For State Senate | D | 3rd LD
Paid for by Friends of Marcus Riccelli
PO Box 4513, Spokane, WA 99220



2024 Voter Guide



Michael Baumgartner, the Republican candidate for the House, answers a question during a debate hosted at GU.

Polling back the curtain on votes

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Each year, many people are involved in ensuring that ballots are sent and counted properly during the election process as a means of protecting the democratic process of voting.

Even before ballots are counted, people are registering voters.

Norm Luther, an 88-year-old resident of Spokane, has spent the last seven years registering and pre-registering voters in Spokane high schools. He said that he trains student volunteers to help register their peers to vote because it has been more effective to have peers support each other than have someone else register the high schoolers.

"One of the principals simply suggested that, I quote, 'Use civically engaged students to actually do the conducting of the registration,'" Luther said. "Well, I've pushed that since then, because I think that the best way to do it, and actually my older volunteers agreed, you know, they get the students themselves involved so that they have more of a stake in it."

Luther said that it is important to register to vote as early as possible because, once someone is registered, they do not need to worry about receiving their ballots as they are in the system already. This takes stress away from voters and encourages them to vote, Luther said.

Luther also said he works in the high schools to register voters because he views young voters as important and wants to help encourage them to vote.

Beyond registering voters, Luther recruits and trains election observers. He said the role of observers is to watch the process of how ballots are counted and they are not actively involved with processing votes. Luther served as an observer himself and said typically observers are associated with a political party or specific candidate.

While election observers simply observe the election process, there are many people who are actively involved in counting votes and verifying signatures on ballots. Amy Quigley is an election supervisor in Spokane and said election workers are responsible for processing ballots.

According to Quigley, there is an extensive process in verifying signatures on ballots. Ballots are first run through a machine that scans and matches the barcode and signatures on ballots before ballots are sorted. Ballots then are reviewed by election workers at terminals to compare signatures, ensuring that the signature on the ballot is matched to the voter it corresponds to.

Quigley said once signatures are verified, ballots are sorted into precincts and sent to openers to then count ballots and separate the signatory and security envelopes. According to Quigley, this allows anonymity when votes are actually counted.

Quigley said ballots then go into stage two, where security envelopes are opened and analyzed for anything

Initiatives seek to limit climate efforts

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL, LAURA ERICKSON

In one of the most serious challenges to Washington state's sustainability efforts, voters are set to decide the fate of two recent climate laws, including the Climate Commitment Act, one of the most robust climate laws in the country, according to climate activists.

Ballot initiative 2117 will prohibit state agencies from implementing cap and invest carbon emissions programs, and ballot initiative 2066 will prohibit the state from discouraging the use of natural gas in buildings.

Together, the two ballot initiatives attempt to reverse much of the environmental policies passed over in the past four years.

"Who the heck believes we need more pollution?" said Gov Jay Inslee, who signed multiple climate bills into law and visited Spokane this weekend to gather support

to oppose ballot initiative 2117. "Who the heck thinks we need more forest fires? Who the heck thinks we need more childhood asthma in our state? Who the heck thinks that we should take away the benefits for our transportation sector?"

Proponents of the two ballot initiatives believed that their passage will make Washington state more affordable, while opponents, including many climate activists, have argued that the ballot initiatives signal a move away from addressing climate change.

The Climate Commitment Act, the policy that would be repealed should initiative 2117 is passed, required businesses that produce 25,000 metric tons of carbon emissions to buy allowances as a way of offsetting their carbon footprint and investing in green technologies and

SEE BALLOT PAGE 5

SEE VOTES PAGE 3

GU reflects on election issues



Climate change

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

With election day approaching, Hurricane Milton hurred toward Florida, major heat waves hit China and India and Spokane broke several temperature records, including a new record of 20 consecutive days with temperatures above 90 degrees.

In light of these recent disasters, Gonzaga University climate organizations reckon with climate change being an important issue in this election season.

"It's one of the most pressing issues in our time because without a livable world, humans don't exist," said Piper Krill, a sophomore at GU and member of Fossil Free Gonzaga.

Climate change is closely tied with other issues, some of which have taken

SEE CLIMATE PAGE 11



Abortion

By MARY CLAIRE PHELPS

Following the 2022 Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the issue of abortion has become one of the most divisive issues between the candidates and voters, prompting key states to vote on abortion's legality.

While abortion remains legal in Washington, Idaho has passed a ban on most abortions with some exceptions of rape and incest, reflecting the conflicting ideals throughout the nation and within the Gonzaga University community.

The issue has become a large topic of conversation, especially for a campus with radically different views.

"From the moment of conception, when the egg meets the sperm, we believe that that is alive all the way until natural

SEE ABORTION PAGE 11



LGBTQ+ rights

By HANNAH BROWN

According to Gonzaga University faculty, staff and students, issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community will be paramount this election season.

Restrictions to gender-affirming care, laws restricting classroom discussion of sexual orientation and book bans, issues affecting LGBTQ+ rights are on the ballot this year.

"I think that people should be paying attention to the limits for medical coverage because we're seeing legislators without medical backgrounds, without scientific backgrounds, decide who should get what procedures [and] who should have access to incur insurance coverage," Matthew Barcus, program manager of GU's Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center, said.

SEE LGBTQ+ PAGE 10



College affordability

By KAITLIN SMITH

Gonzaga University students graduating with thousands of dollars in debt will also decide who is in the White House and what they might do about the rising cost of higher education.

One of the topics that has been discussed coming into the election is the idea of student loan forgiveness. According to Federal Student Aid, certain professions and situations can still get their entire federal student loan forgiven, despite the discontinuance of the Biden-Harris student loan forgiveness plan.

"My sense is that the Biden-Harris initiatives around loan forgiveness were to combat and correct for the lack of public support that we've seen over the last 20 years from both state and federal sources,"

SEE TUITION PAGE 10

VOTING

Voting out of state? See guidelines and deadlines for absentee voting.

PAGE 2

OPINION

Trump's campaign uses racist language to fuel hate.

PAGE 4

CANDIDATES

Learn about top candidates and their issues in state and federal races.

PAGE 6-7

TIMELINE

Review the key moments impacting this year's campaign.

PAGE 9

Guide to receiving your absentee ballot

By **ABBY SCHREUDER**

Prior to Election Day on Nov. 5, college students across the country are given the option to request an absentee ballot in the mail if they live away from home. With 51% of Gonzaga University students coming from out of Washington, absentee ballots are the norm for casting votes. Here are the processes for requesting an absentee ballot in the top-5 non-Washington states students call home.

Colorado

Colorado conducts its elections by mail. Every voter will automatically receive an absentee ballot in the mail. However, students may provide a different mailing address where they would like their ballot to be mailed.

Students who wish to receive a Colorado ballot must use their residential address on their voter registration but are able to select a different mailing address to receive their ballot. Since Colorado has online voter registration, changes to existing registration can be made on the Colorado Secretary of State website. The form requires a valid Colorado driver's license, state ID or the last four digits of a Social Security number to access. Another mailing address may then be added under the field "Mail My Ballot to a Different Address." Voter registration changes must be completed at least eight days before Election Day.

Once voters have completed and signed their absentee ballot, it can be mailed back to the county elections office indicated on the return envelope. Voters must allow for enough time when returning their ballots through mail to ensure that they are counted. In Colorado, mail-in ballots are due to the County Clerk and Recorder by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

Additionally, Colorado voters can opt to track the status of their ballots online using the BallotTrax website.

California

Similar to Colorado, California also relies primarily on vote-by-mail. Online voter registration is open until Monday, and students who wish to receive a California ballot should register using their permanent address in their hometown. To receive a ballot at a different address, the mailing address on voters' current registration can be updated through the California Secretary of State website using a California driver license or state ID card.

Address changes should be received a week before the election.

Students can return ballots by mail using the envelope enclosed in their ballot.

Out-of-State Voting
Everything you need to know to make your vote count!

- California:** Online voter registration is open until Oct. 21. Ballots can be mailed back and must be postmarked by Election Day and received within seven days of Nov. 5.
- Idaho:** Absentee ballots can be requested as late as Oct. 25. Requests take 7 to 10 business days to be processed. Ballots can be mailed or returned in-person.
- Oregon:** Can have ballots mailed starting 29 days before Election Day and can update registration until Nov. 5, though ballots may not arrive in time.
- Colorado:** Have your ballot sent to your campus address by changing your mailing address on your registration. Must be completed eight days before election.
- Montana:** Absentee ballots can be requested until noon on Election Day. Ballots are mailed 25 days until Election Day and must be received by 5 p.m. on Nov. 5.

VOTER GUIDE

GRAPHIC BY FINLEY KNELHORNE

Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received no later than seven days after the election.

Oregon

Oregon residents can apply for an absentee ballot by printing and mailing the Absentee Ballot Request Form to their county elections office, available for download on the Oregon Secretary of State website. Out-of-state voters that are not long-term absentee voters have their ballots mailed starting 29 days before the election.

Officially, registration can be updated until 8 p.m. on Election Day per Oregon's requirements. However, if it is updated close to an election, there may not be time for the ballot to be mailed to another address.

Completed ballots can be mailed back to voters' county elections office, and the ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received no later than seven days after to be counted. Oregon also uses BallotTrax, so that voters can track the status of their ballot online.

Idaho

Voters in Idaho have a few different

options when it comes to requesting an absentee ballot.

An absentee ballot can be requested through the online request portal called VoteIdaho. Registered voters will need to put in an Idaho Driver's License or Idaho ID card and the last four digits of their SSN. If they are unable to provide these ID numbers, they will need to complete the paper application — available for download on the Secretary of State website — and mail it or return it in-person to the County Clerk. The deadline for the request to be received is Oct. 25 by 5 p.m.

Once the request is processed, the ballot will arrive in approximately seven to 10 days. Completed absentee ballots must be returned by mail or in-person to the appropriate county elections office or to an official drop box in Idaho by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. VoteIdaho's website also features a portal to track a ballot's status.

Montana

All registered voters in Montana can request an absentee ballot by printing out an application from the Montana Secretary of State website, detailing their seasonal mailing address at college and

returning it by mail or in person to their county elections office.

These applications are due at noon the day before the election, but according to Vote.org, it is recommended to apply at least seven days before Election Day to allow time to receive and submit the ballot. Montana absentee ballots are mailed to voters starting 25 days before the election, and should be mailed back to the address indicated on the return envelope. Ballots are due at the elections office by 8 p.m. on Nov. 5.

If students aren't sure if there is enough time to request an absentee ballot or mail it back, they may contact their county elections office with any questions regarding absentee voting. Students who did not receive a ballot by mail can instead register to vote in Washington at the Spokane County Elections Office and access voting services until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters cannot cast a ballot for two different states, so the ballot for a student's home state cannot be voted if they choose to vote in Washington instead.

Abby Schreuder is an arts & entertainment editor.

Employing resources to combat false information

By **ABBY SCHREUDER**

In an age of misinformation, it has become an increasingly challenging task to find resources to inform voting decisions.

For many students, a voting guide is one resource that informs their decisions when it comes to filling out a ballot.

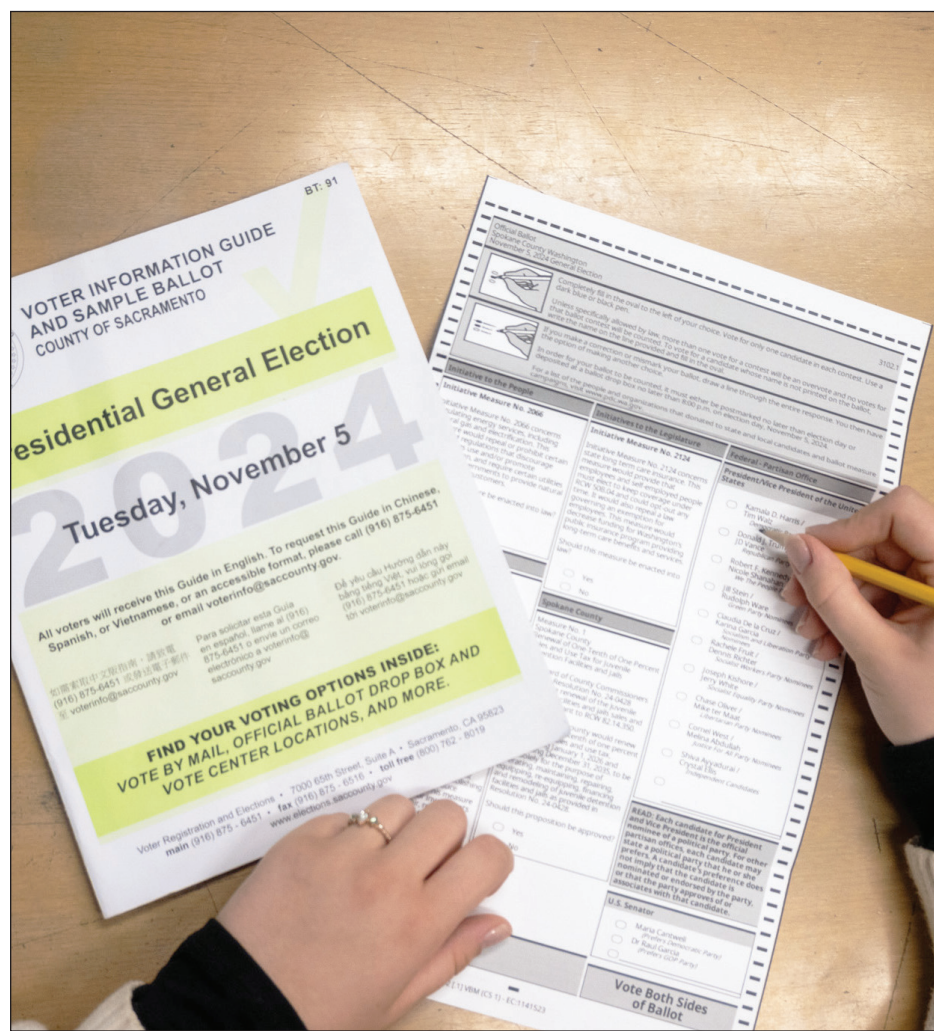
Sarah James, assistant professor of political science at Gonzaga University, said guides can be helpful for understanding ballot questions and races, but like any resource, they should be read with a critical eye.

Candidate information is included in the Washington State Voters' Guide, alongside text that reads "Candidates submit their statements. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections or verify statements for truth or fact." James said that the statements can be helpful to orient candidates, but voters can benefit from looking beyond the guide if they're having a hard time discerning what they stand for.

"If they've been in office before, looking at their records is really important, in addition to what they have voted on in the past," James said.

Additionally, Washington's voters' guide provides explanatory information for each ballot measure, as well as arguments for and against the measure that are prepared by each side.

"The people submitting the information are the people who will benefit from that particular vote happening, so I think it's really important to read that document



Voters' guides are meant to help readers make informed decisions.

with that in mind," James said.

The Washington State Voters' Guide includes an "Argument Prepared By" section that credits the individuals involved in creating the argument, and lists the websites and contacts of the campaigning organizations associated with each movement.

In addition, Washington requires that fiscal impact statements be assembled for each ballot initiative, which include approximations of the financial cost at the local and state levels if the measure were to be enacted.

"The attempt at trying to describe

what we think the impacts of it might be is not unhelpful, but it's also important to remember that predicting policy impacts is kind of a fool's errand," James said.

James said she thinks the guides are interesting documents, so there is effectively no reason not to read them.

"Even if you feel like you have your decision's made, there are also inevitably races that you haven't heard of that are going to be on the ballot," she said.

In terms of other outside sources, James said she recommends going to local media, such as newspapers and television, to find more information on certain races

and issues specific to an election.

"If that doesn't work, I think going to the candidates' websites is not uninformative; it's just important to remember that the candidates wrote their website, just like they wrote their statement," James said.

Joseph Flores, assistant professor of communication studies, said that he thinks it's difficult to present people with certain steps regarding how to get voting information due to the media landscape.

"One of the ways to combat misinformation is a return to local journalism, and I do feel like the general inclination to go local is the best result," Flores said. "But I don't know if saying 'just get more information,' is the solution, because the channels of information don't operate the way that they did even five years ago."

Flores also said he encourages people to consider the basics of who wrote the source, why they are writing it, where it is published and whether they feel it is something they can trust.

Flores said it's important that people familiarize themselves with the opposing side of an argument in order to make an educated decision, while still keeping in mind the issue of the information's origin and nature.

"I always encourage people, especially students, to try and obtain information from both sides, not as a 'both sides are good,' but more as a 'what are they saying?'" Flores said. "Knowing what you are opposed to is equally as important as knowing what you believe in or what you think would be best."

The Washington State Voters' Guide can be found online on the Secretary of State website, and many other states make their guides — if there is one — available online.

Abby Schreuder is an arts & entertainment editor.

JULIA SCHLECT PATINO

Improving voting access

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Voter suppression continues to be an issue that prevents many Americans from voting each year. In a diverse nation, access to voting resources remains difficult for those who may not speak English as a first language.

"Some people think voter suppression is a thing of the past, but the fact is that it's still happening to this day," said Tia Moua, the community engagement organizer at Asians for Collective Liberation Spokane.

According to Moua, voter suppression is the tactics used to suppress people from voting. Voter suppression especially impacts marginalized communities like people of color, people with disabilities and the queer community, Moua said.

Tactics used to suppress voting include voter purging, Moua said, where people are purposely removed from registration lists, and closing ballot boxes and polling stations in communities that are predominately people of color.

"We're lucky in Washington state where we have the mail-in ballots, but in many states, they don't have that," Moua said.

Voter suppression is also connected to inaccessibility, said Ryann Louie, who is the executive director of ACLS and Asians for Collective Action, both nonprofits.

"Inaccessibility comes down to how, historically, the government and politics has been very classist and very privileged, and it's been upheld and created by people that have just wanted to maintain and keep their own power and their interests, especially when it comes to their monetary interest," Louie said. "If you look at who were the first voters, it was land-owning, white, educated men and since then, women have had to fight for their right to vote. People of color have had to fight for their right to vote."

Louie said that one of the main areas of inaccessibility when it comes to voting is language and the lack of translated resources in other languages, especially Asian languages. They said that one of the resources ACLS provides is translated materials and events with translators present to answer questions about voting.

There is a significant threshold for a government document to be translated. Under the U.S. Department of Justice's safe harbor provision, 5% of the community needs to speak a language for a document to be translated into that language.

"That's pretty high considering the diversity of our Asian community, and how we have so many languages spoken," Moua said. "It's really hard for people to get the resources that they need to vote and be civically engaged."

Moua said that providing translated voting materials



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedmedia

GU students gathered to watch "Supressed and Sabotaged," a film discussing voter rights and voter suppression.

and resources is important to preventing voter suppression because it makes voters who may not speak English as a first language feel seen, which will encourage them to vote. She cited her own experience of feeling seen whenever she sees signs or materials in Hmong, the language her family speaks.

"I always get so excited because it makes me feel seen and like I belong," Moua said. "It's not only sending a message of we want you to be part of the movement, it's like 'we see you, you matter, we're going to put in an effort to make sure [materials] are accessible in your language because we care about you.' It sends out a dual message."

Both Louie and Moua said that language inaccessibility discourages many people from voting, but they encouraged people to seek out resources through their organization and offered by other organizations to make informed decisions when voting.

"Paying attention now, and getting your ears perked up, or your light bulbs going off, like that doesn't stop just because the president is not being elected in the next year, there's elections every year," Louie said. "And so I think that access [is important] to make sure people know what their rights are and what protections they have."

Moua said that though ACLS and other organizations in Spokane are providing resources to combat voter

suppression and inaccessibility, there is still work to be done to ensure voters have the resources they need to make an informed decision at the polls.

"I feel like it shouldn't just have to be political organizations and community-based organizations that are doing this work to educate the community on voting rights and how to vote, why it's important," Moua said. "It should be a movement from the schools to make this information a lot more accessible, maybe through more seminars or town halls, but also just teaching it in the classroom too."

For those who may not be directly impacted by voter suppression and inaccessibility, Moua and Louie said that it is important for them to vote mindfully because their vote matters.

Moua said young voters have power in this election and should use their votes to uplift and support others.

"I like young voters," Moua said. "We have these more diverse and fresh perspectives too. We have more new, creative ideas and I think that young voters, with newer pressure perspectives, can create change together and just be able to focus on more relevant issues to us."

Kaya Crawford is a news editor. Follow her on X: @kayadrcrawford.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photob00th

GU hosted a voter registration drive on Sept. 16. to help students navigate the complexities of being a college-aged voter.

Tips and tricks for voter registration

By MIA GALLEGOS

Voter registration in Washington is open until Election Day, allowing citizens to register to vote all the way up to the same day that they cast their vote.

As Election Day comes closer, Gonzaga University staff and faculty are working to encourage people to register.

Andrew Mercer, the program coordinator of the Center for Student Involvement, said his office is one of the bodies responsible for the task of voter education for students on campus.

"We are trying to support students in their own growth and finding ways to consciously and correctly approach the election and the kind of information that is out there, while providing them with a safe space to ask questions," Mercer said.

Within the education campaign, Mercer and those working with him have created a set of QR codes that have been disbursed throughout different academic buildings on campus. One of the codes can be scanned to view your registration status, taking you to the National Voter Registration page if you are not registered.

The other of the QR codes takes you to a presentation about what it means to vote and how to do it, including details of when you need to be registered to vote.

The importance of voting is one of the things that Mercer is seeking to educate students and faculty on throughout this election season. Mercer added that voting aligns with Jesuit values.

"We talk a lot about what it means to be a Jesuit university and fulfill those Jesuit values," Mercer said. "[Voting] is one of the more significant ways that students can participate in the larger global society while also being in this bubble that is allowing them to experience new things, get out of their comfort zones and expand their knowledge and informational base."

Professors, along with the Center for Student Involvement, are working to incorporate election information into their curriculums to further educate their students on elections. Sarah James, assistant professor of political science, said a new element she's incorporated into her class routine is to encourage her students to remain current on election news.

"I started doing this thing in my classes called 'Breaking-ish News,'" James said. "Here is the political stuff that has happened in the last 48 hours or few days since I've seen you and here is the political science explanation for why it's a big deal."

Additionally, James and Rebecca Donaway, a professor of communication studies, are cross-teaching several political science

courses. The unfolding of this election in real-time makes course content difficult to anticipate and plan for, specifically in the way they will incorporate breaking news into the next day's lecture when it hits mainstream media the night before class, James said.

Ultimately, James said she encourages students to use their right to vote.

"I think it's important to remember that the wonderful thing about representative democracy is that even when you lose, theoretically, you have the hope of winning again in the future," James said.

James also said that regardless of the result, there are going to be people walking around campus disappointed with the result of the race.

"I hope for the country, in addition to Gonzaga, that whatever happens and whatever side is disappointed by the outcome of this election, that there is thoughtful reflection," James said. "How do we rebuild within the norms of democratic society and how do we move this forward and win again while still respecting that there is value in both the winning and the losing. The balance of that is inherent to being a part of democracy."

Mia Gallegos is a staff writer.

VOTES

Continued from Page 1

“

I'm upholding democracy. It's huge. I'm keeping something that is working and is important for Washington state...

Amy Quigley, election supervisor

anything that could prevent the scanner from clearly reading the ballot. Quigley called these ballots "problem children" and said these ballots go on the top of the pile to be put smoothly into the scanner. The priority is making sure that no matter what, ballots are not lost and the same amount of ballots are scanned as election workers count throughout the process, Quigley said.

Quigley said that election workers go through "arduous" training put on by the Secretary of State before they become involved in ballot processing.

According to Quigley, the ballot processing procedure is a strong system that works well.

"It is secure, it is safe, it is reliable," Quigley said. "It is probably one of the best systems that I have ever seen in regards to consistency for approved signatures reaching out."

Quigley also said that she views her role as an election supervisor as essential to the voting process.

"I'm upholding democracy," Quigley said. "It's huge. I'm keeping something that is working and is important for Washington state, and being part of a really large county, and making sure it flows smoothly and it is being held, and done correctly."

When it comes to the act of voting, Luther said it is important to make informed choices because votes have lasting impacts.

"If we want to continue a democracy, we need to vote for it," Luther said. "A lot of people think it doesn't matter who you vote for but that's not true, especially now. Your lives can be affected by the people who are making laws."

Kaya Crawford is a news editor.

Spokane voting by the numbers

Aug. 6 primary election:

Number of precincts: 451
Registered voters: 368,608
Ballots cast: 144,832
Voter turnout: 39.29%

2020 general election:

Number of precincts: 362
Registered voters: 363,137
Ballots cast: 297,104
Voter turnout: 81.82%

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Hey there, voter!

Journalism has long been a cornerstone of civic education and a vital guardian of democracy, championing truth, accountability and transparency amid the turbulence of U.S. politics.

In this week's special issue, *The Gonzaga Bulletin* continues this tradition by producing a comprehensive voting guide that upholds these same principles. This project — one of the most ambitious undertaken by the newspaper in recent memory — demonstrates our commitment to the values embedded in the history of journalism.

This special issue offers in-depth content on the November election, including campus political initiatives, explanations of key candidates and ballot measures and stories addressing social issues like voter suppression and far-right extremism. We've also incorporated a wide range of perspectives on political



By HENRY KRUEGER

topics such as abortion, climate change and college affordability, along with an inside look at how ballots are counted.

This issue does not shy away from *The Gonzaga Bulletin's* commitment to spotlight community members, with features on a GU alum and art activist, along with stories on two political

journalists who also teach here at the school.

It is the hope for this content to be both an honest testament to the election and robust piece of print journalism.

Still, *The Gonzaga Bulletin* recognizes the zeitgeist of this election that have made this cycle especially challenging, particularly the deep polarization, misinformation, distrust, political violence and youth indifference that has become the norm in contemporary politics.

Today, partisan divides stifle meaningful debate, reducing political conversations to harmful stereotypes. Misinformation erodes trust and encourages movements built on falsehoods. Political violence, once unthinkable, has now become alarmingly normalized. And persistent voter apathy among young people threatens to undermine the electoral process, leaving older generations to dominate the ballot box.

We hope that our election coverage encourages young people to recognize the

importance of civic engagement and to see voting as both a responsibility and a commitment to the common good.

This project reflects the newspaper's enduring dedication to truth, accountability and transparency — values we believe are essential for creating meaningful social change.

This work also is driven by the Jesuit charism that guides the university and our newspaper, specifically as it relates to the calling of being critical thinkers and embracing lives in leadership and service to the common good.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the incredible work across campus by students, faculty and staff to mobilize and educate young voters, fostering spaces for civic dialogue and engagement. *The Gonzaga Bulletin* is proud to contribute to these efforts, and we will continue our election coverage in the coming weeks.

Henry Krueger is the editor-in-chief of The Bulletin. Follow him on X: @henrykrueger.

The polarizing nature of this election season should not stun us into submission

Donald Trump's hateful rhetoric needs no citation because of how ingrained it has become in voters' minds. Few former United States presidents have demonstrated Trump's lack of tact and eloquence while speaking, making his political presence remarkably polarizing.

Trump's language thrives on absolutes, and he refuses to be questioned or challenged. I was born in 2004 and have little memory of the Bush administration. My earliest memory and image of a president was Barack Obama.

Although his presidency fell prey to controversy from both sides of the political spectrum, his ability to address the nation was almost impeccable. Obama's composure and skill in speaking seemed entirely natural. He was a leader who acknowledged the value in community and varied perspective.

He spoke about the U.S. population with respect and care without singling out marginalized groups. His language wasn't divisive like Trump's and always attempted to reassure his audience.

Trump's language promotes racial and social divides that have been ingrained in this country for far too long. When Trump speaks, he sounds painfully unintelligent and uninformed. He lacks the ability to speak on another perspective, or from a place that doesn't directly benefit him.

What this country needs is a president that is interested in mending the dividing wounds that have impeded true equity in this country for decades. As John F. Kennedy wrote, this is a nation of immigrants. The unique value this country possesses is the variety of cultures, and it is the government's job to



By SOFIA BELTRAN

create an environment where all people can thrive and coexist.

There will never be a candidate that perfectly encapsulates each voter's needs and goals. However, as voters, we can choose to support a candidate that functions outside of selfish motivation. Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again," captures precisely why his interests have nothing to do with the progress of the nation.

Discarding and disregarding the past to promote himself and his picture of the future devalues the history of this nation. A president should have the utmost respect for this country and its whole population with no exceptions made.

He has done his best to demonize our governmental structures and liberal leaders so that he can be framed as the white savior coming to restore antiquated order and appease more conservative voters.

With an abundance of information available constantly, it can be challenging to find reputable sources that are concerned with providing a full and

accurate picture. The danger in Trump's language comes from his absolutes. His voters can cling onto the baseless things he says because he has framed himself as someone who cannot be challenged.

Authority cannot function properly without questioning, just as democracy cannot function without healthy debate. The alternative is dictatorship, and that is precisely the kind of leadership I believe Trump fantasizes about.

The danger in his hate-filled rhetoric is that it validates some of the most disturbing bigoted beliefs in this country. Hate groups were previously waiting in the wings or hiding in the shadows and now, Trump has given them a voice and a stage.

Contrary to Trump's belief, there are no genetic determinants of a human being's value. Hate groups have no place in this country or in the world. Their rhetoric serves to divide and harm, and Trump has shown that he serves to support them.

As members of a democracy, we have the responsibility to vote. I understand feeling hopeless and voiceless, and thinking that your individual vote makes no difference. Think of the times you have been faced with a challenge, and consider if you are someone who stands back and waits or someone who does what they can.

Especially if you can't find the motivation within yourself, I ask that you think about the people you love while you vote. Your family and friends, anyone who you want to advocate for and those who can't do so for themselves. Our votes should be cast with the intention of bridging gaps and mending distance

between the people in this country.

Candidates like Trump hope to make us believe that we are all vastly different and meant to be divided. We have to fight the urge to distance ourselves from our neighbors and have the strength to see them as other human beings seeking to love and be loved.

While that may sound cliché, the political climate has created a chasm between the right and the left. I can readily admit that the sight of a MAGA hat disgusts me. However, I have been trying to remember the human being who is wearing the hat has a whole life of experiences I do not understand.

We can never know what life experiences lead a voter to making their choice, but because of that lack of knowing we must resist demonizing others just as Trump does. His language is baseless, but not powerless, which is what makes it dangerous.

Do your best to seek truth, and question what your chosen leaders say no matter how much faith you have in them. One of the greatest tools we have as individuals is to form our own opinions and perceptions of reality.

All U.S. citizens have their own definitions and feelings about this country. Those feelings are based in millions of unique life experiences. Learn to appreciate the differences as a way of piecing together the full picture we seek from leaders.

With the election right around the corner and ballots arriving to your door, fill in that box using both your mind and heart. Don't allow the polarizing nature of this election to paralyze you.

Sofia Beltran is the opinion editor.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

Editor-in-Chief

Henry Krueger

Managing Editor

Noah Apprill-Sokol

News Editors

Clarinne Kirk**Natalie Keller****Kaya Crawford**

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Emily Niemann**Abby Schreuder**

Sports Editors

Zach White**Cam McCann**

Opinion Editor

Sofia Beltran

Photo Editor

Lucy Booth

Diversity Editor

Grace Applegate

Digital Editors

Mary Claire Phelps**Lily Pearse**

Copy Editor

Shei McLaughlin**Laura Erickson**

Adviser

Kip Hill

Technical Adviser

Brett Hendricks

Assistant Director, Student Media

Joanne Shiosaki

Program Coordinator

Morgan Scheerer

LETTERS POLICY

The Gonzaga Bulletin welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and no more than 800 words. The Gonzaga Bulletin reserves all rights to edit letters. Please include your name and a telephone number for confirmation purposes only. All written correspondence will be considered fit for printing unless otherwise requested. Email letters to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu with "OPINION" in the subject header. The deadline for letter submission is 4 p.m., Tuesday.

The Gonzaga Bulletin is a weekly student publication serving the Gonzaga community. Weekly circulation is 3,000. Opinions expressed in the pages of *The Gonzaga Bulletin* represent the views of their respective authors and not necessarily those of the faculty, student body or administration of Gonzaga University. Please direct all queries to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu or 509-313-6826.

Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

Advertising: 509-313-6839 or adoffice@gonzaga.eduwww.gonzagabulletin.com

Intense political division in the social sphere

It's commonplace in the United States to refuse connection with individuals that readily express a political ideology separate from one's own. Would you consider being friends with someone who disagrees with your political values?

American liberals often assume Trump supporters are bigots, misogynists and racists, an assumption that generalizes a group of followers as a perfect reflection of their leader.

Conservatives are frequently heard describing liberals as fragile: too emotional to rationalize and too radical for success, the symptoms of a virus that has spread from one lazy millennial to the next, instigating hyper-sensitivity and idealistic expectations.

Those who justify dismissing liberals as being too naive and sensitive to be taken seriously are imprisoned by the same fear that possesses those who assert that voting for Trump is an instant "red flag": the primal fear of change. Being open to those who disagree with you presents opportunities for you to be wrong, a conclusion that coerces the misguided to recalibrate their belief systems for a change in personal attitude and perspective.

Admitting ignorance or being incorrect and henceforth accepting a new understanding of the world in replacement has become an increasingly terrifying endeavor to see through. As stereotypes snowball and political tribalism doubles down, a change in one's political perspective can result in an upheaval of one's social life.



By SEAN LIVESAY

Reluctance to respect those with a differing understanding of the world results in social circles that are both homogenous in their political tendencies and unwavering in their condemnation of those who deviate. Those within these echo chambers wishing to diversify their understanding of the truth are prone to belittlement and disappointment from within their own support group; this dynamic births a reciprocal fear of change that is bolstered by the intermingling of political beliefs and social boundaries.

Including one's political beliefs and perspectives as a measure of social compatibility is enormously damaging to our democracy and mental health. We operate in a society in which political divisions are settled via social wars and public shaming rather than discourse and compromise, a dynamic that places fierce competition of moral correctness as our people's first priority under the guise of a discardable democracy.

Political division in the social sphere is eroding not only our democracy; it's rotting our

personal well-being from the inside-out. As the mental health crisis in America continues to engulf Generation Z, pushing many young people to take a path of social isolation, many Americans are receiving their perception of the opposing political aisle via the internet.

Anyone who regularly makes themselves active on social media knows that most political participants on these platforms describe their opposition with gross generalizations and scathing personal remarks. This intensifying tribalism is undoubtedly making our world more isolated and barbaric, further promoting the nihilism so pervasive among young people.

It may seem readily apparent that forming relationships with those who share your values is within your own interests and serves as a barrier against interpersonal conflict. If expanding your understanding of the human condition, morality or the truth is within your interests, however, one should seek to bond with those holding the farthest perspectives from their own.

One must recognize their own ignorance in an effective pursuit of the truth, and in doing so, engage with minds most divergent from one's own to expand their scope of the truth. It takes empathy to recognize that a particular person's political beliefs are not entirely a choice they've decided on but rather a reaction to their environment.

Sean Livesay is a staff writer.

BALLOT

Continued from Page 1

infrastructure.

Initiative 2066 will prevent state agencies, specifically the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, from assessing alternatives to current and planned gas infrastructure projects.

Dante Jester, a program manager in the Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment, said the two ballot measures will weaken the ability of Washington state to transition away from natural gas and undermine the benefits of the climate legislation that invests in communities.

They also said that Spokane County receives \$25 million from funds raised through the Climate Commitment Act and that these funds help support some of the work that the climate institute does in the Spokane community.

"If 2117 passes, we would lose all of that funding, and it would really, really impact Washington's ability to meet its climate goals," Jester said. "Washington, thus far, has really been a leader in the nation as far as climate change work goes. We have set the standard in a lot of ways for how other states should react to climate change, and if we lose this landmark program, all of that would not be good."

Ballot initiatives 2117 and is one of the ballot measures that voters from across the state will see on their ballots in November.

Other ballot measures include those that are set to repeal capital gains tax and state long term care insurance.

All of the ballot measures were largely supported by hedge fund millionaire Bryan Heyward, who bankrolled the campaign by spending over \$6 million to hit the necessary signatures to have the four ballot initiatives on the ballot.

"We're trying to also show people the interconnectedness and how we risk losing billions of dollars of funding for our transportation, for wildfire prevention programs, for different programs that help protect our clean air and clean water, but not only that, also trying to show people this is why you also need a vote no on these other three initiatives that will be on the ballot," said Tia Moua, an outreach coordinator for the No to 2177 campaign.

Jester, along with Moua, encouraged students to educate themselves more about the initiatives on November's ballot in Washington state.

"Gonzaga students should educate themselves about initiatives on the ballot, because the voting is a chance for them to have a say, and if they aren't fully understanding what they're voting on, then are they really getting a say?" Jester said.

Noah Apprill-Sokol is the managing editor. Laura Erickson is a copy editor.



SAM RAINS IG:@samuel.rains

Aaron Hedge, left, and Kip Hill, right, advise voters to think critically when casting votes.

Political journalists encourage critical thinking in election season

By NATALIE KELLER

Amid the media avalanche that comes with election season, seasoned journalists have a piece of advice for voters: be simultaneously open-minded and critical about information regarding candidates.

"Read and watch things that challenge your assumptions," said Kip Hill, an assistant professor of integrated media at Gonzaga University. "Ask yourself what values you want somebody [in office] to possess, and then critically look at what you're seeing. 'Does that candidate match with my values?'"

Hill wrote for The Spokesman-Review from 2013 to 2023 and had the opportunity to cover elections on the local and state level.

As journalists find themselves on the front-line of political coverage, they battle misinformation and encourage voters to do the same.

Hill said journalists live and work alongside the consumers of their media and have a genuine desire to uphold democracy and educate the public.

"[A journalist's role is] giving people the information that they need — not that they want — the information that

they need in order to make an informed decision," Hill said.

Aaron Hedge, a journalist for RANGE Media, echoed Hill's sentiments.

"We need to bring information to the people who are going to be voting on issues in a way that they can understand," Hedge said. "Further than that, I think that the media has the responsibility to bring meaning to these things."

In his experience as a journalist, Hedge focuses on stories focused on marginalized voices.

"I think it's really important to bring voices to the foreground that aren't traditionally heard from," Hedge said.

While journalists work to uplift voices, they face judgement and criticism from others.

Hill covered Donald Trump in 2016 and said the experience was memorable because of Trump's rhetoric against the media.

According to Hill, Trump's anti-media claims have exacerbated the country's distrust of journalism, a trend that has developed over decades.

Journalists urge voters work to inform themselves about candidates and issues in order to combat misinformation.

Hedge has covered state initiatives

and several local and state political candidates. He offered several pieces of advice to voters when evaluating initiatives on the ballot.

Hedge said he recommends reading scientific studies regarding the initiatives. He also said people should consider who supports and funds the initiatives and their reasons for doing so.

"Even though we don't have the time, even though it seems impossible to untangle stuff, it's important to dive deeply, if you can," Hedge said.

Meanwhile, Hill has advice for voters regarding political candidates. In addition to consulting multiple sources of information, Hill said he advises people to seek out quality sources and employ their critical thinking skills. Hill said it is important to remember that candidates are not infallible.

"No matter how much they'd like you to think of them as perfect entities, they're human beings prone to mistakes and errors," Hill said. "How much are you willing to tolerate in who you decide to represent you is a question you have to come up with."

Natalie Keller is a news editor.

ZAGS VOTE

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

LEARN MORE

GONZAGA

CAUGHT READING

Noelani B. was caught reading The Gonzaga Bulletin last week and won a \$25 gift card to Caruso's. Read The Bulletin today and you could get caught too!

REWARD:

CARUSO'S
SANDWICHES & ARTISAN PIZZA
* DAILY FRESH *

★ WA State ★ Races Roundup

President

Kamala Harris (D)

- U.S. Vice President; former U.S. senator; California Attorney General
- Current money raised: \$678,938,066.55
- Current money spent: \$445,387,691.45

Donald Trump (R)

- Former President
- Current money raised: \$313,042,095.41
- Current money spent: \$178,466,404.74

U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell (D)

- Four-term U.S. senator for Washington
- Current money raised: \$9,871,334.87
- Current money spent: \$3,031,114.96

Dr. Raul Garcia (R)

- 25-year emergency room doctor
- Current money raised: \$596,882.70
- Current money spent: \$428,003.60

U.S. Representative

Michael Baumgartner (R)

- Spokane County Treasurer; former Washington state senator
- Current money raised: \$790,180.61
- Current money spent: \$519,739.68

Carmela Conroy (D)

- Former Foreign Diplomat; Chair of the Spokane Democrats
- Current money raised: \$234,412.19
- Current money spent: \$211,519.34

Governor

Bob Ferguson (D)

- Washington state Attorney General
- Current money raised: \$12,359,698.55
- Current money spent: \$8,725,024.81

Dave Reichert (R)

- Former U.S. representative; former King County Sheriff
- Current money raised: \$6,009,069.36
- Current money spent: \$4,414,080.55



GONZAGA UNIVERSITY | Arts & Sciences

Alumni Career Panel & Networking Event



Five Gonzaga College of Arts & Sciences alumni from diverse fields will share insights into their job search and career experiences **Q&A and networking reception to follow.**

October 29 | Hemmingson Ballroom | 5:30 p.m.

BULLETIN BOARD

GONZAGA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

New postings go online daily. <http://www.gonzagabulletin.com/classifieds/>
Questions email: classifieds@gonzaga.edu



Seeking Parents' Helper

Seeking help with basic household tasks and dog walking 1-2x per week ~7 minutes from campus. Flexible scheduling and competitive pay.

Text Sarah at 210-421-6377 for more info.

Lt. Governor

Denny Heck (D)

- Lt. Governor; former U.S. representative; former member of Washington state representative
- Current money raised: \$327,457.88
- Current money spent: \$187,346.96

Dan Matthews (R)

- former Air Force member; GOP chair
- Current money raised: \$44,928.66
- Current money spent: \$35,590.75

Secretary of State

Steve Hobbs (D)

- Washington state Secretary of State; Washington state senator
- Current money raised: \$206,980.28
- Current money spent: \$147,360.95

Dave Whitaker (R)

- Tax and Accounting Professional
- Current money raised: \$88,560.94
- Current money spent: \$60,416.07

State Treasurer

Mike Pellicciotti (D)

- Washington State Treasurer
- Current money raised: \$470,388.75
- Current money spent: \$231,077.70

Sharon Hanek (R)

- Chair of the Pierce County Charter Review
- Current money raised: \$41,263.89
- Current money spent: \$31,901.71

State Auditor

Patrice McCarthy (D)

- Washington state Auditor
- Current money raised: \$38,804.74
- Current money spent: \$10,632.45

Matt Hawkins (R)

- CEO and Senior Business Consultant
- Current money raised: \$17,360.71
- Current money spent: \$9,870.71

Attorney General

Peter Serrano (R)

- Pasco City Councilmember, former lawyer for the Department of Energy at Hanford
- Current money raised: \$205,968.87
- Current money spent: \$415,837.59

Nick Brown (D)

- Former U.S. Attorney for Western Washington
- Current money raised: 1,997,586.65
- Current money spent: \$1,363,225.42

Commissioner of Public Lands

Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)

- Former U.S. representative for Washington, former member of the Washington House of Representatives
- Current money raised: \$6,009,069.36
- Current money spent: \$4,414,080.55

Dave Upthegrove (D)

- King County Councilmember, former member of the Washington House of Representatives
- Current money raised: \$1,137,714.28
- Current money spent: \$613,786.32

AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE
 SPOKANE'S LITERARY LANDMARK
 YOUR PERSONAL BOOKSTORE
 402 MAIN AVE SPOKANE WA 99201
 (509) 638-0206
 HTTP://MERLYNS.BIZ

SOMETIMES THE DRAGON WINS

Cards, D&D, Books, Games, Comics, Figures, and more!

MERLYN'S
 W 15 Main 509-624-0957
 WWW.MERLYNS.BIZ

Uncle's Games
 Puzzles & More!
 GAMES, JIGSAWS, TOYS, AND MORE!
 404 W. Main Ave. Spokane, WA 99201
 (509) 456-4607
 unclesgames.com

FOLLOW THE BULLETIN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

the gonzaga bulletin

@thegonzagabulletin

@gonzagabulletin

Finding ways to speak out with political art

By EMILY NIEMANN

Art has always been a means for expressing the human condition, a space for exploring one's thoughts on the nature of our world. In a country so split by political values, political art has been especially important for understanding the discourse and finding ways to create solutions.

Kay O'Rourke, an artist based in Spokane, knows this well, spending much of her career creating stories through her paintings.

"I'm a narrative artist, and I've been doing it since the day I was born, but I didn't really think I was an artist," O'Rourke said.

After attending art classes at Gonzaga University, O'Rourke explained how the art department took her under their wing and gave her the tools to consider the world in a different way. Both of her sons and her grandkids were Zags too.

Since then, the way that O'Rourke approaches complicated issues through her art has changed as the controversial topics that dictate political conversations changed too.

"During the Vietnam War, I did a lot of paintings because I was against the war," O'Rourke said. "For me it is the way that I go to try and figure out what I'm feeling and what's happening. I would say that at that younger point in my life I was way more careful, now I'm not."

With current politics, O'Rourke said that a lot of her political art pieces center around Donald Trump.

"When he was first elected I was so against him, and I ended up doing paintings because I despised the man," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke said that, for her, paintings are the best way to explore and explain the way that she feels about politics and that she hopes her work incites dialogue across the aisle.

"I don't want to be doing political signs, anybody can do that," O'Rourke said. "I've found that by doing a painting that hints at things sometimes has a greater impact on people than if you were to talk about it."

Ildikó Kalapács is another political artist that has been active in Spokane, after studying visual art at Eastern Washington University. After having grown up in Hungary, Kalapács' views on political art reflect her global background.

"I do not regard myself as a dictator of values through my art," Kalapács said. "I do not necessarily see my artworks as objects, but results of processes which might have certain impact on people: Positive, negative or indifferent. I let people interpret the images in their own ways."

Kalapács further explained the importance of understanding her work through that international lens.

"I consider myself more of a humanist," Kalapács said. "If my art is political in some sense, it is progressively political, based on an uncompromising value system I hold



dear due to my background growing up in an orthodox political system where dissent was crushed, including the arts."

To a certain extent, both Kalapács and O'Rourke talked about the value in their own personal perspectives in their pieces.

"The best thing I've learned in life is that my paintings I do for myself, and when I do them for others they're not very good," O'Rourke said. "If you're really a good artist you have to just be yourself and always know that there's always going to be somebody that doesn't like what you do."

Despite experiencing some "scary" backlash from extreme MAGA supporters, O'Rourke she is unwavering in her resolve to continue speaking out since this election is so important to the futures for so many Americans.

"I don't remember the hate that we're experiencing now," O'Rourke said. "I don't know whether it was something that was just meant to finally happen, but I do believe that Donald Trump and some of the people with him encouraged it."

With only a month left, O'Rourke said she still is still trying to make a difference. With Trump as a recurring political character for America the last few years, O'Rourke says her style and content has repeating themes and characters, too.

"What's interesting about [my] paintings is that they're as current today as when I first did them," O'Rourke said.



COURTESY OF KAY O'ROURKE
Some of O'Rourke's work include "Emperor's new clothes" (top) and "Ability to harm" (bottom).

Emily Niemann is an arts & entertainment editor.

Spokane International Airport
SpokaneAirports.net

Nonstop Service to Top Destinations Throughout the U.S.

Seattle, Portland, Boise, Minneapolis, Chicago O'Hare (SEASONAL BEGINS JUNE 2024), Charlotte, Atlanta, Dallas Fort Worth, Dallas Love Field (SEASONAL BEGINS JUNE 2024), Phoenix-Mesa, Phoenix, San Diego, Orange County (SEASONAL BEGINS JUNE 2024), Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Jose, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, Salt Lake City, Denver.

Alaska, allegiant, American Airlines, DELTA, Southwest, suncountry airlines (SUMMER SEASONAL), UNITED

Key Events

in '24 Election Cycle



October 7, 2023

Hamas terrorist attacks escalate ongoing Israel-Palestine Conflict



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo_b00th

April 16, 2024

Fossil Free Gonzaga leads demonstration against the university's fossil fuel investments



MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

April 29, 2024

Right-wing group Turning Point USA opens GU chapter



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

July 21, 2024

Kamala Harris replaces Joe Biden as the Democratic Presidential Candidate

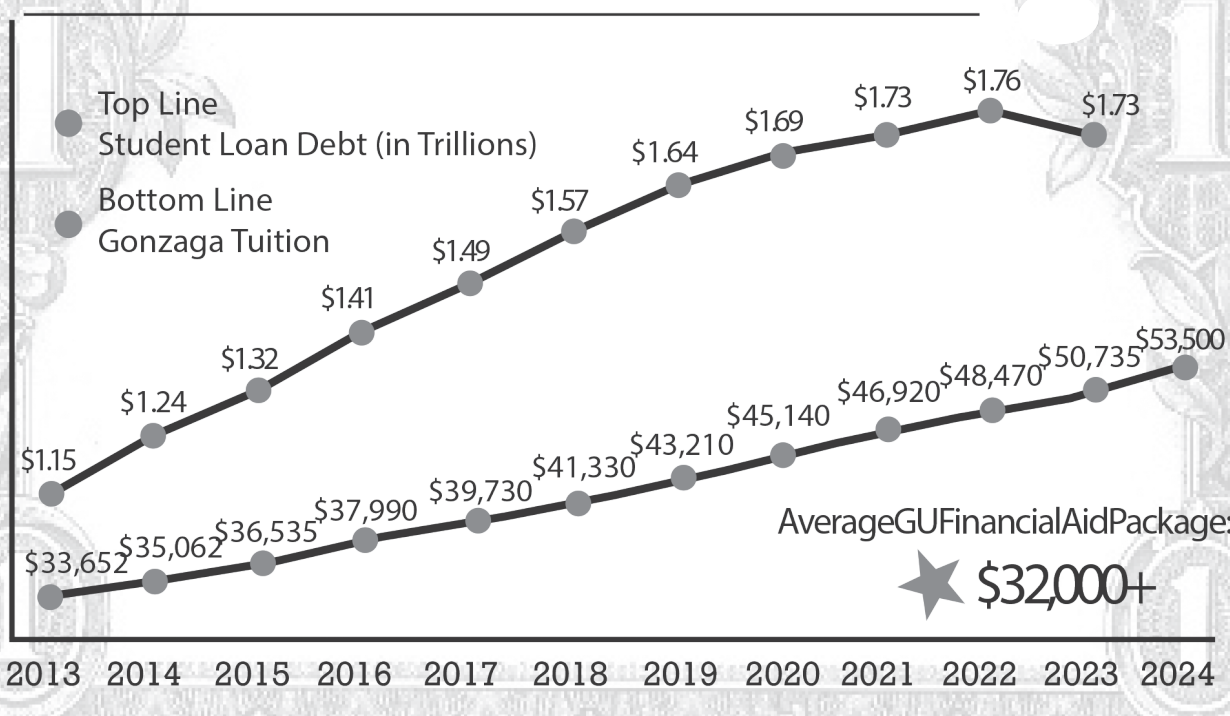
September 10, 2024

Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo_b00th

By the Numbers: College Affordability



TUITION

Continued from Page 1
said Director of Financial Aid Sarah Everitt. "It's also interesting because I think loan forgiveness is a point in time fix, but I don't think it addresses the larger issue around the lack of resources and college affordability in general."

The total cost of tuition for the 2024-25 school year is \$78,136, according to GU. While 99% of students receive scholarships, according to Everitt, GU is among the most expensive colleges in Washington state.

"In terms of the costs, I really appreciate Gonzaga's leadership for how thoughtful the approach is," Everitt said. "But I have trust in our leadership, and ultimately, it's the president and the board's decision to be responsible and realistic when thinking about what the top number is for the cost."

Especially in recent years, college prices are on the rise. Just here at GU, we have seen a \$920 increase in full-time undergraduate tuition between last school year and this school year.

Reasons for these increases are not obvious, said Vik Gumbhir, assistant professor of sociology and criminology.

"I have my suspicions. Technology is probably a cost that I don't really

see, it's not visible to me on a daily basis, and I know it's a huge cost to students," Gumbhir said. "I'm frankly perplexed as to how we, not Gonzaga but schools in general, have gotten away with raising tuition prices so much."

Despite these price hikes, GU's Financial Aid Office has a commitment to making tuition more manageable for students and families, Everitt said.

"In terms of affordability, I would point to our institutional financial aid programs," Everitt said. "We have robust merit and need-based scholarships to bring out the cost of tuition ... we also have really specific financial aid programs that we've leaned into and grown quite a bit in the past five or six years."

Even with the tuition assistance programs that the university offers, about 60% of students were graduating with debt as of 2019, according to a GU news release, making the topic of student loan forgiveness even more prevalent to GU graduates.

"I think one of the reasons we haven't heard from American Colleges and Universities about cost is because the conversation is all about debt forgiveness, not about the process through which students go into debt," Gumbhir said. "There's not enough people asking why the price is so high."

According to U.S. News, the

average federal loan debt for students at GU is \$24,454. While this number only reflects the amount of loans that are taken out in the names of students, many tuition bills at GU are paid by the families of students and not by the students themselves.

"The principles and financial aid structure in the United States is that it is the family's obligation to help pay for their kids' education," Everitt said. "Obligation might be too strong of a word, but that certainly the family's financial situation is taken into consideration when determining how much financial aid someone qualifies for."

Vice President Kamala Harris is expected to continue the efforts that the Biden administration made towards student loan forgiveness, according to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. On the contrary, former President Donald Trump opposes loan forgiveness according to the NASFAA.

"One of the things I really love about what I do is seeing the direct impacts of policy that are decided both at the federal and state level and how that impacts students that we serve," Everitt said. "I would encourage students to investigate what the various campaigns' commitment is to higher education."

Kaitlin Smith is a staff writer.

LGBTQ+

Continued from Page 1

Still, while many critical issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community will be playing out on the national stage during this election, Sara Diaz, associate professor and department co-chair of women, gender and sexuality studies at GU, points to issues on the local scale that pose problems to queer people.

"Things just get out of hand very quickly when it comes to certain queer issues," said Faith Watkins, GU senior and Queer Student Union president. "Like book bans, they ban any book that mentions a gay person and it gets out of hand very quickly. So, just recognizing that these are real people and they're real lives."

There are several policies that directly single out the queer community, including Florida's law on classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity. There is also a whole host of other legislation that, while may not be directly aimed at queer people, have an immense impact on their lives.

"The ways that policy and legislation impact marginalized communities may not necessarily be targeted, but if we think about laws that are being targeted toward the unhoused population, that's not targeting the LGBTQ+ community, but we have decades of data, contemporary and from the past, showing that there is a higher youth homeless rate among the LGBTQ+ community," Barcus said.

Barcus added that due to the discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community, they are at a higher risk of sliding into housing insecurity. This is just one example of the intersectionality in the issues faced by the queer community.

Diaz echoed this sentiment, also directing voters' attention to recent conversations about obstructing access to services like IVF which is "a technology that a lot of queer people use to start their families."

Still these elements reinforced the idea that there are many impactful changes happening within individual communities at the state and local levels.

"[There is] loss of certain protections, protections of marriage equality, protections with respect to non-discrimination and then there are a whole host of other concerns that are playing out at this point more at the state level than the federal level," Diaz said.

There are many ways people can support the queer community during this election including checking in with people who's on their mental health and well-being might suffer due to these politics, according to Diaz. Another way to support people is by understanding the platform that the person you vote for is standing on.

"I think there are people who may be supportive of queer people in their lives, or even queer rights, but they don't realize that some of the people they're voting for aren't," Diaz said.

Barcus encouraged young voters to take action if they want to see change occur.

"We can't be change agents if we're not informed, if we're not implementing that change if we're just passively waiting for it to come to us," Barcus said.

Hannah Brown is a staff writer.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

9				6		2			
		3				7	9		
			3	8					
	3		5	2		1			
			9		3				
		6		4	1		3		
					2				
	8	7				3			
		2	4	9					5

Solution to Last Week's puzzle 9/29/24

3	8	1	7	6	9	2	5	4	
6	9	2	1	4	5	7	8	3	
4	5	7	2	8	3	9	1	6	
1	7	5	6	3	4	8	2	9	
2	4	9	8	5	7	3	6	1	
8	6	3	9	1	2	5	4	7	
7	3	6	5	2	1	4	9	8	
5	1	4	3	9	8	6	7	2	
9	2	8	4	7	6	1	3	5	

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

© 2024 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19					20				21					22					
23					24				25					26					
27				28				29				30	31						
		32	33				34	35				36							
37	38							39				40							
41				42	43		44	45				46			47	48	49	50	
51					52				53	54				55		56			
57				58					59				60						
61			62		63				64				65						
66				67		68						69			70		71	72	
		73			74				75					76			77		
78	79							80				81			82		83		
84							85				86						87		
88					89		90				91				92				
					93				94	95					96				
97	98	99	100	101				102			103	104		105	106				
107								108			109			110			111	112	113
114							115	116			117							118	
119							120				121				122				
123							124				125				126				

INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE" BY JOHN LEIB

ACROSS

1 Texas A&M athlete

6 Foldable dish

10 Study like mad

14 Nightstand lights

19 Hotel bookings

20 Wrinkle remover

21 Georgetown athlete

22 Words of empathy

23 "What is your least favorite form of advertising?"

26 Edible

Arrangements bit

27 Australian hub, for short

28 Starters

29 March Madness openers?

30 Last part

32 Procedures

34 "What pricing advice do you have for garden centers?"

37 Les États-___

39 High pts.

40 Spanish gold

41 Depends (on)

44 She, in Lisbon

46 Phillies slugger Harper

51 "What aspect of your personality are you working on?"

55 Domed homes

57 Help at a wedding, informally

58 Took a spill

59 Former SCOTUS monogram

60 Sunscreen

61 Garish

63 Does harm to

65 Pink cat in "Garfield"

66 "Tomorrow" musical

68 "What would you wear, say, when spending St. Patrick's Day in Madrid?"

70 Aquarium fish

73 Soy-based meat

75 Inorganic

77 Sealed

78 Rum cocktails

80 Finish with zero cards in Uno, say

81 Couldn't stand still, say

83 Musician Brian

84 Throat part

85 "Not to put you on the spot, but who is your favorite pet?"

88 Math subj.

89 1970s Renault model

91 Fútbol cheer

92 Pan-fried

93 Sis or bro

94 "It's ___-brainer!"

96 Missives: abbr.

97 "What investment do you recommend to your fellow creatures of the night?"

105 Trickster of the

107 Title girl in a No. 1 song by the Knack

108 Poetic contraction

109 Norse pantheon

111 Poetic contraction

114 ___ grigio

115 "Above all else, what must your minions be?"

119 Off-taped joint for athletes

120 Alan of "Bridge of Spies"

121 Running shoe brand

122 Actress McDonald

with six Tony Awards

123 Bouquets, at a vineyard

124 Articulates

125 "Roundball Rock" composer John

126 Guide

DOWN

1 Shuttlecock paths

2 Like some horror movies

3 Film with the Boston-accented line "How do you like them apples?"

4 Some online exchanges, briefly

5 Composition

6 Run out of steam

7 Like a cheering crowd

8 Grammatical pause

9 Musician Yoko

10 Wind ___

11 Perch

12 Author Rand

13 Virtuosity

14 Maximum or minimum

15 Northeast Corridor train

16 Oscar winner

Rami

17 Given (to)

18 Elates

24 NBA stat: Abbr.

25 "This is only a ___"

Standoffish

33 "Yeah, right!"

35 Apple desktop

36 Shofar, e.g.

"The Little Mermaid" witch

38 Liam of "Taken"

42 Pitcher's stat

43 Org. looking for alien life

44 Seder prophet

45 Relent

46 Peaty wetland

47 Everglades bird

48 "Enough with your sass!"

49 Murmur

50 Broadband letters

52 Yard dividers

53 Golf great Lee

"Peer Gynt" playwright

56 Highway divisions

60 Deliver a sermon

62 Meal plans

64 Send payment

65 Classified stat

67 Inbox message

69 Drive off

71 Athlete in a triathlon's last leg

72 Holding conflicting

74 Supplies additional criticism

76 Many August babies

78 NYC subway org.

79 Early ISP

80 "One, two, three, four, I declare a thumb ___!"

82 "Dance the Night" singer Lipa

85 Hindu "sir"

86 Middy

87 Brood

90 Noisy insects

94 Sports venues

95 Foam toy material

97 Channel created as a community service

98 Thick-skinned herbivore

99 BoSox rivals

100 Member of the working class

101 "For sure!"

102 Rambunctious

103 Make one's mark, in a way

104 Legendary Himalayans

105 Tell tales

106 Black-and-white whales

110 Deposed Iranian ruler

112 Memo starter

113 Coveted symbol in Dr. Seuss's "The Sneetches"

116 Lisbon greeting

117 Cheerios grain

118 Tennis call

ABORTION

death," said Kaylynn McClimans, vice president of the Gonzaga University Students for Life club.

McClimans said that when it comes to being anti-abortion, she would lean more toward an anti-abortion presidential candidate who is speaking about protecting life from the moment of conception.

"If I believe it's a life inside the mother's womb, then I believe that there's two people there. Technically, there would be two human beings that both have bodily autonomy," McClimans said.

McClimans said there should be more honesty when it comes to women's health, and it is deceptive to tell women that abortion is their fundamental right.

Regarding the presidential candidates' stances on this topic, the outcome of the election could look very different.

"In one case, there would be absolutely no restrictions on abortion," McClimans said. "I think people's hearts are going to be super grieved in the sense of we're allowing this to happen and then actually understanding the weight of what it entails."

Noralis Rodríguez-Coss, a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies, said abortion and reproductive justice is a highly polarized topic, and it is a shame that it has to do with women's bodies and sexuality.

According to Rodríguez-Coss, this issue extends beyond the issue of abortion. It is about access to safe abortions, contraception and pregnancy care. She said that this issue not only involves supporting the termination of a pregnancy, but also the right to have children and to raise children in a healthy and loving environment.

"Adoption is not always necessarily the right thing to do because, in many cases, children tend to end up in a system that is not working for their best interests, and many experience abuse and trauma as they survive being born in a welfare system," Rodríguez-Coss said.

Rodríguez-Coss said that politicians tend to use religious discourse to keep control over what is believed to be right and wrong.

"I think it's very important to be aware of other

messages and that if one is religious, that can create a different approach to these issues, particularly our ability to understand that whatever happens in my life is not necessarily the same way that other people are experiencing society," Rodríguez-Coss said.

According to Rodríguez-Coss, it is important to be aware that whether abortion is legal, it will continue to happen. She said she believes that there have to be resources that help women do this in a safe way in order to preserve their lives.

Voters like Angela Gill, vice president of Zags for Reproductive Justice, also believe that it is important to have access to abortion and other services because it is a human right.

Gill said religious institutions and political groups often weaponize the issue, and that it feels more like trying to control female bodies.

"They capitalize off of it, they benefit from it, they hide behind it," Gill said. "I think that hearing from more voices who are Christian and are anti-abortion for themselves but do not believe that this should be decided by the government would be really cool to see in all circles."

Another issue that voters struggle with is the topic of miscarriages and abortion. Gill said that having a miscarriage is the same procedure as an abortion.

"The fact that you can be having a miscarriage and then a doctor can't perform anything and help you at all because an abortion has been made illegal or criminalized is pretty scary, and I think that that hopefully has the potential to convince some voters who are anti-abortion to vote for a different candidate or to be open-minded," Gill said.

The issue of abortion is a prominent topic during this presidential election cycle and involves many different perspectives. Gill said that this dialogue comes with an attempt to understand, while McClimans said that this dialogue needs to be constructive, not combative.

"You have to be able to stand up for what you believe in," Gill said. "I think that people need to base themselves, find evidence that debunks a lot of lies that people are telling and get out there and vote."

Mary Claire Phelps is a digital editor.

CLIMATE

higher priority for the presidential candidates and have been covered more extensively.

According to Annie Cooper, a senior at GU and president of the Gonzaga Environmental Organization, one of these issues is immigration because of the exacerbated impacts of weather events on southern countries closer to the equator.

"People are going to be trying to escape the effects of climate change in coming years," Cooper said. "That's something that presidential candidates are going to have to address with immigration policies, and there's no quick and easy fix."

Another intersecting issue is transportation. Jim Simon, director of the Office of Sustainability, said it is crucial to achieve a sustainable future that has walkable cities and meets emission goals.

"The more we can offer wide-scale, reliable transportation, the more people are going to start using it," Simon said. "They'll move through our states and communities with less greenhouse gas emissions, more efficiency and ultimately more safety because cars are off of the road."

Additionally, Krill said that climate issues are closely related to race and class disparities and said that income can determine the impacts of climate change.

"The most affected people are those in acute poverty and people of color," Krill said. "These neighborhoods are most affected by pollution and effects of climate change. Leaders aren't intentional enough about including BIPOC struggles and Indigenous struggles in strategies to mitigate climate change."

Despite its importance to many voters, climate change has not been addressed in depth by the presidential candidates in this election so far, according to Cooper.

Cooper said the lack of discussion about climate change resilience between the presidential candidates at the debate on Sept. 10 was disappointing.

"Only one question was asked about climate change, and for such a hot topic, it's pretty surprising," Cooper said. "Harris is trying to be very careful with her responses because she's trying to reach as many voters as possible, but she could be taking a stronger stance."

Krill said avoiding acknowledgment of climate change could be harmful to the turnout of climate-concerned voters, as the voices of climate activists get lost in the political turmoil.

"Climate change is lower on the list of talking points because many think if you care a lot about the climate, you're going to vote blue," Krill said. "Not spending time trying to win over people who care about the climate and spending more time on other moderate issues is a dangerous game to play. Every time climate is brought up, it's brought back to the economy. Yet when our economy is at its highest, emissions are at their highest as well."

Cooper said that she hopes to see climate brought up more in the election despite the lack of conversation among past candidates.

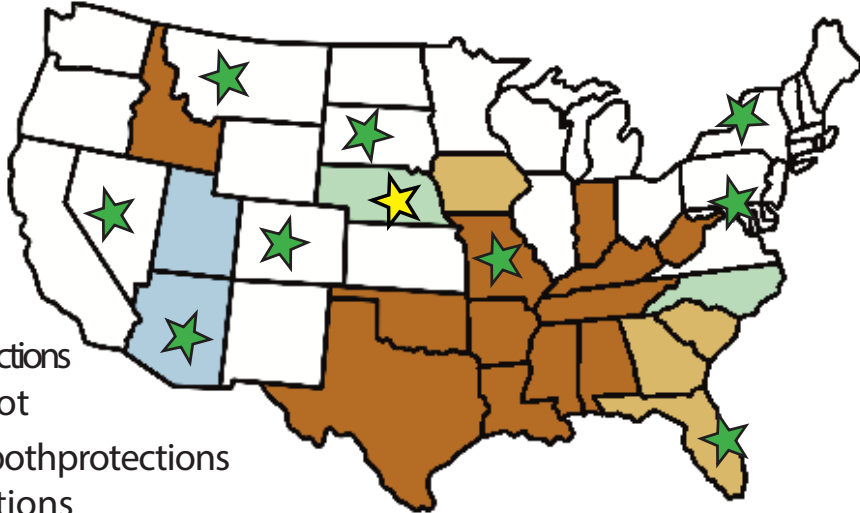
"The longer we wait to fix climate issues, the more money we're going to have to spend on addressing it. We should have gotten ahead of it a long time ago," Cooper said. "If our administration is worried about money and about our economy, we should be doing everything we can now to try to fix this ahead of time."

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.

Abortion on Ballots



- 15-18 weeks
- 12 weeks
- 6 weeks
- Full ban



- States with abortion protections on the ballot
- States with both protections and restrictions

GRAPHIC BY FINLEY KNELHORNE

Graduate Programs

- Online and On Campus
- Accelerated Options

gonzaga.edu/graduate



GONZAGA UNIVERSITY



WEEKLY SPECIALS

\$9.39



**MONDAY - FRIDAY
11:00AM - CLOSE
SPECIAL ROTATES WEEKLY**

**OCTOBER 21 - OCTOBER 25:
BLT ON FLATBREAD**

**OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 1:
CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH**

**NOVEMBER 4 - 8:
MEATBALL SUB**

**NOVEMBER 11 - 15:
SRIRACHA CHICKEN SANDWICH**

**NOVEMBER 18 - 22:
BUFFALO CHICKEN FLATBREAD**

**NOVEMBER 25 - 29:
TUNA MELT**

**DECEMBER 2 - 6:
CHOPPED ITALIAN**

Far-right hate highlights 2024 political issues

By CLARINNE KIRK

During the presidential debate on Sept. 10, Donald Trump falsely claimed that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating the pets of local citizens, perpetuating misinformation that continued to gain traction on social media and news outlets.

That next Saturday, in Springfield, members of far-right hate groups gathered in the city, KKK leaflets were distributed and a white power organization called the Aryan Freedom Network posted flyers on utility poles.

In an election that has been described as divisive, comments like Trump's statement have fueled far-right extremism and tapped into fears of a loss of privilege which have existed since the U.S.'s creation.

"It's the fear-based notion that if you want to keep what you have and preserve your society and your economic benefits, you've got to keep [the U.S.] the way it was," said George Critchlow, a GU law professor and a founder for the Center for the Study of Hate.

As a nation founded by white, land-owning males, many of whom were slave owners, Critchlow said hate and oppression have been ingrained within the U.S. by pursuing ways of thinking that ensured the dominance of privileged white males.

"Hate is all-American," Critchlow said. "Part of American history has been finding strategies and approaches to overcoming that hate that was inherent in the way that we were constructed as a nation and as a society."

Vik Gumbhir, a GU professor of sociology and criminology, said there is a long history where the frustration and anger individuals harbor are a result of long-standing notions of equality within our society and are used to justify acts of violence against those who pose a threat.

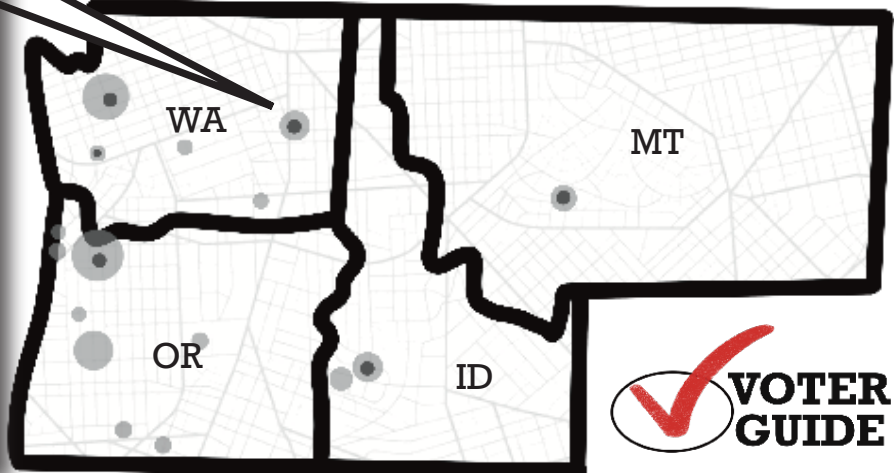
One example of an organized far-right hate group is the Skinheads, which Gumbhir said began to emerge in the late 1980s when young, disenfranchised white men were recruited into movements by older, politically motivated men. Then, with leaders like Tom Metzger in the '90s, organizing switched to the "lone wolf strategy" where this ideology began to blend in and infiltrate more mainstream outlets, changing the system from the inside. It's a strategy that Gumbhir said remains active today.

"What I see today is pretty strong evidence that Metzger succeeded and that the lone wolf strategy is alive

Where is far-right extremism?

Spokane, Washington: A downtown LGBTQ+ themed crosswalk painting has been defaced numerous times in 2024 alone.

The map below locates hotbeds where far-right extremist crimes are prevalent



GRAPHIC BY FINLEY KNELHORNE

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE'S HATE, EXTREMISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, TERRORISM (H.E.A.T.) MAP

and well," Gumbhir said.

Now, in response to growing social rights movements, Critchlow said advantaged white men feel threatened, leading to growing organizing that draws on historical ideals of hate and white supremacy.

"[The right wing] is drawing on all of this, these currents, these threads that created and composed the fabric of our country," Critchlow said.

According to Critchlow, this organizing was made possible through the churches and labeling anyone who did not fit their white, privileged, Christian ideal as a "communist."

"Certain kinds of Christians, those true believers, have a right to dominate and to control, and if necessary, even if they're not a majority, they have a right to impose their control, their values, the domination of their version of Christianity on the rest of us; that became the theme," Critchlow said.

Though far-right extremism has existed for decades, Critchlow said Trump helped integrate this ideology within mainstream conservatism, drawing on issues of immigration and abortion to further strengthen his base. Critchlow added that Trump's rhetoric plays on fears that the old system and the white males who benefited from it are under attack.

"[Trump] understands fear, and that fear probably is stronger than a positive message," Critchlow said.

Gumbhir said that while Trump has used hateful rhetoric, this issue has existed long before Trump's first

run for office in 2016 and will continue to be prevalent long after Trump.

"Those who believe that this is simply a Trump issue are wrong," Gumbhir said. "What I believe Trump has done, he has become an idol and a mouthpiece who channels that hate, dissatisfaction and frustration of the loss of a birthright."

According to Critchlow, the spread of misinformation and hate has been enabled through the internet and social media, which reinforce echo chambers. Gumbhir added that with the internet, individuals can more easily post and connect with hateful content.

"[The internet] decreased substantially the amount of effort that people have to do to bring together these different interest groups, people who wish to promote hate, dehumanization and violence and those who are frustrated and who might find resonance with that ideology," Gumbhir said.

To combat far-right hate and extremism, Critchlow said there needs to be more education on the history of oppression within the U.S. and the way that continues to be upheld by dominant social structures.

"We need to introduce this common notion of humanity, and I think that needs to be in the educational system," Critchlow said.

Clarinne Kirk is a news editor.

Extremism by the numbers

1,531

Incidents of extremism in 2024 across the country

36

Incidents of extremism in 2024 in Washington State

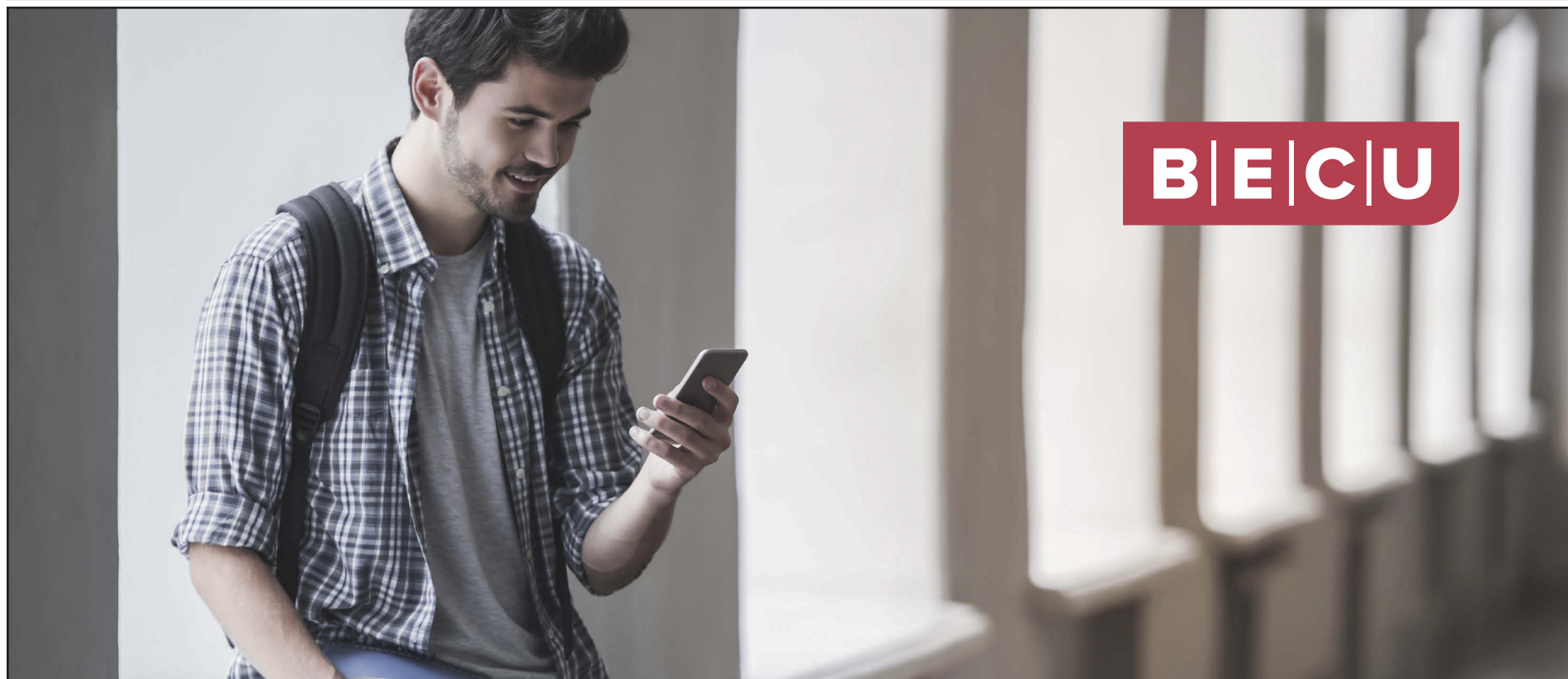
34

Incidents of antisemitism in 2024 in Washington State

30

Extremist incidents per state in 2024

ACCORDING TO THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE'S H.E.A.T. MAP



YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING MATTERS

As a BECU member, you have access to free tools to help you live your best financial life. Schedule a Financial Health Check or explore Money Manager to evaluate your spending habits. It's just another perk of BECU membership.

Stop by and learn more about BECU membership today:

Spokane Division Neighborhood Financial Center
916 N Division St., Spokane, WA 99202
becu.org | 800-233-2328

Go Zags!

Insured by NCUA. Membership required. Restrictions apply. All Pacific NW residents are eligible to join.