



# spotlight

October 2024 | Volume I | Issue 1

*A specialty magazine produced by The Accolade*

## DECISION 2024 GREAT EXPECTATIONS

### **The Great Debate | pg. 4**

Closer look into the Sept. 10 clash between presidential candidates

### **The Great Divide | pg. 9**

Political drama leads voters to hesitate speaking about their party choices

### **The Great Endorsement | pg. 14**

Find out what *The Accolade's* Editorial Board sides with regards to elections

*From the possibility that Americans could elect the first female U.S. president to Sunny Hills getting a second gym with passage of Measure L, The Accolade's Spotlight team takes a closer look at what's at stake leading up to the Nov. 5 elections*

illustration by EVINA LEE

DEAR READER,

We are excited to introduce this inaugural issue of our specialty magazine, *Spotlight*, in which we will focus on a single theme.

Last year, we started the pathway toward changing our coverage from a newspaper format to a magazine. We produced four specialty magazine issues. But this year, to advance our publication's offerings, we have decided to produce two theme coverage issues, calling the publication *Spotlight. The Accolade*, still in magazine format, will provide information like our previous newspapers.

We centered our first issue on next month's election. This topic was chosen at the end of last year, but with the addition of more historic and unexpected incidents that took place over the summer, we were able to add to this 16-page product. We started this issue in hopes of correctly informing our readers of the political events that are easily spread with false information as well as furthering student inclusion and voices on political topics.

Our issue starts with the topic of the Sept. 10 debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, which followed the first presidential debate between Joe Biden and Trump (page 5).

In the beginning of the school year, we found out about Measure L that would benefit our campus (page 9).

To achieve our initial goal of inclusion of student voices, we explored the different perspectives about election and voting rights through our cover story (page 10) as well as our different candids from students and an infographic (pages 10 and 11).

Amid the diverse media sources that constantly influence our views and knowledge about politics, we believe it's crucial to stay informed and engaged.

Thank you for picking up this issue, and we hope you enjoy the first *Spotlight* magazine as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Best,

Angelina Jeong & Faith Jung

Spotlight Specialty Magazine Editors

The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.



ABOUT THE COVER:  
The Accolade illustrator Evina Lee contrasts the great expectations for what Election Day results will reveal with the electorate's dread of ballot choices for the U.S. president and other local measures.

spotlight

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illustration by ELISA ARIAS

cover story

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After a historic series of events, *Spotlight* covers the upcoming 2024 presidential election and whether voters will keep California a blue state

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# HARRIS

## vs.

story by Katelyn Ahn

One and done.

Sports fans apply this expression to college basketball, referring to a player who joins a team for one year before declaring for the NBA draft the next.

Los Angeles Lakers' star LeBron James' son Bronny, Reed Sheppard and Stephon Castle are three recent one-and-dones who come to mind.

But in the 2024 political landscape leading up to the November presidential election, the candidates gave the electorate a different one and done treatment.

After the Sept. 10 debate between vice president and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and Republican nominee Donald Trump, the latter announced he wouldn't agree to any future discourses with Harris.

That was Trump's second presidential debate vs. Harris' only. Trump first clashed with 46th President Joe Biden on June 24. More than two months later, Biden dropped out of the election, announcing Harris to replace him on the Democratic ticket.

"In my unbiased [view], I think Harris had the slight upper hand throughout the debate," said junior Cheney Mo, who didn't disclose his choice if given the chance to vote. "Harris definitely reignited the spark with the liberals."

Although Mo observed that the moderators fact checked Trump more than Harris, some believed Harris created better arguments.

"I believe the debate greatly defaced Trump's [image], especially after making wacky claims," sophomore Evan Shinme said, referring to Trump's claim about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio eating pets.

Senior Mia Carley, who was too young to vote this year, believed that Harris also won the debate.

# TRUMP

*After the Sept. 10 presidential debate, Sunny Hills students, staff share their reactions*

"She was calm and assertive; [whereas], Trump was hot-headed and assertive," Carley said. "She provided plans and facts, while Trump made accusations and claims [that were] nothing concrete."

Even though senior Alexandria Douglas-Rejon is a registered voter favoring Trump, she said her candidate did not attack Harris' policies enough.

"Harris [falsely] claimed, 'As of today, there is not one member of the United States military who is in active duty in a combat zone in any war zone around the world, for the first time this century,'" Douglas-Rejon said.

Advanced Placement Government and Macroeconomics teacher Greg Del Crognale, who declined to divulge his vote, said he cannot divulge his vote, watching the debate for education.

"I like to watch it anyway, just because this is what I do," Del Crognale said. "I teach government, so I want to be informed."

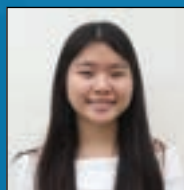
Douglas-Rejon also explained why 62 respondents of 141 from *The Accolade's* online poll released Sept. 25 about the debate didn't choose to view the back-and-forth among the candidates.

"What most people in both parties forget is that the average person really does not care about politics, and nobody, or close to nobody, went into this debate undecided," She said. "At this point in the campaign, I think everything is set in stone, and we are all just waiting to see the results."



For the full story, go to [shhsacolade.com](https://shhsacolade.com)

### CANDID: Where were you when President Joe Biden dropped out of the election on July 21?



**Natalie Hong**  
Freshman  
"I was calling my friends and one of them told me the news."



**Rhea Ji**  
Junior  
"I was getting ready to help my mom make dinner when she broke the news to me."

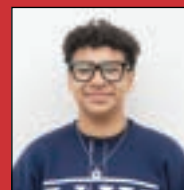


**Giana Eneria**  
Sophomore  
"I woke up from a nap and opened TikTok, and that was the first thing I saw."

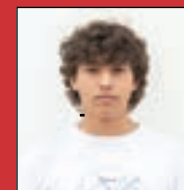


**Matthew Barta**  
Senior  
"I was at home doing my tutor homework when my friend texted me that Biden dropped out."

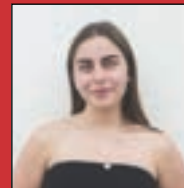
### CANDID: Where were you during Donald Trump's first assassination attempt on July 13?



**Jordan Raddatz**  
Freshman  
"I was at Disneyland scrolling through TikTok when I found out he was shot."



**Elliot Pop**  
Junior  
"I was at my hotel room in Hawaii, and I saw it on the hotel TV since it was on the news."



**Isabella George**  
Sophomore  
"I was eating a casserole when my aunt got off her phone and announced that he got shot."



**Ethyn Crane**  
Senior  
"I was on a road trip up to San Luis Obispo when my aunt saw it on Instagram."





# LET'S VOTE ON IT

compiled by ANGELINA JEONG  
illustrations by  
NATHANIEL COVARRUBIAS

*The Accolade highlights 2 California propositions on the ballot affecting education and teens*



## 2

### BOND FUNDS

- A measure that aims to authorize \$10 billion to renovate existing public school and community college facilities.
- "If the proposition falls in line with the bond, and if the bond is passed, it's additional money that could be used toward facilities upgrades," principal Craig Weinreich said. "A second gym and an all-weather track and field were prioritized for us, and potentially restrooms and lights and so forth."
- When and how much money the school would receive is still unconfirmed and will be announced if this proposition and local Measure (see page 8) get approved.

## 32

### MINIMUM WAGE

- A yes on this vote will mean the state minimum wage would increase from \$16 to \$18 per hour starting in 2026.
- "Raising the minimum wage to \$18 would mean greater help saving for college and getting around," said senior Paige Bringas, who currently works part time at Sul & Beans in Buena for \$16 per hour.
- Business owners are among those opposed to the wage hike.
- "It would affect my business negatively because I would have the same income but a higher outcome, causing a lower sales amount," said Daniel Jeong, the owner of Hello Sushi in Fullerton.



## Senior voices on Prop. 2 or 32



Ralph Contreras

"We need to vote yes on Prop. 2. The brushes in art class are all crusty and old. It is classes like that where we would need some new ones."



Lily Dalton

"Yes on Prop. 2, because we need more things for our school in general, since we don't really have a lot of supplies. We also need more funding for extra curriculums."



Jenna Forster

"Minimum wage should be increased because of inflation and everything nowadays is so expensive."

## NOTABLE NUMBERS

### TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE

- 63 seniors will turn 18 by Election Day
- Of the 63, 31 are eligible to vote
- Of the 31, 17 plan to and will vote but 14 will not

compiled by KYUWON HAN  
based on data provided by school officials



For the full story on students on the SH campus who can vote, go to [shsaccolade.com](https://shsaccolade.com)

# ENCOURAGING ENGAGEMENT

## High School Student Volunteer Program

### THE OPPORTUNITY

The Orange County Registrar of Voters office is actively recruiting 400 high school students to serve their community as a Student Customer Service Representative in one of our many Vote Centers throughout the County. Spaces are limited and students are encouraged to apply early. Visit [ocvote.gov/student](https://ocvote.gov/student) to apply.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 16 years of age or older
- GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- In good standing attending a public or private secondary educational institution
- A U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident
- Written approval from your school and parent/guardian

### DESIRABLE CANDIDATES

- Bilingual in Chinese, Korean, Spanish or Vietnamese
- Motivated individuals looking to strengthen their skillset
- Eager to learn about the elections process, and the rights and responsibilities of voters

### BENEFITS

- Earn a \$120 stipend (awarded upon completion of Vote Center assignment on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024).
- Opportunity to earn community service hours.

Image used with permission from Hera Kwon

**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY:** An excerpt of the Google Doc that social science Hera Kwon posted Sept. 19 in her Google Classroom for students in her four American Government classes. Capped at 400 volunteers, eligible students gets excused on Election Day to help out at an Orange County voting center and receive a \$120 stipend afterward.

## Poll worker program gives students chance to help on Election Day

story by ASHLEY KANG

\$120.

That amount can cover a year's subscription to a Netflix account.

And that stipend from the Orange County Registrar of Voters could be the figurative carrot on the stick to recruit 400 poll workers on Nov. 5.

"Being flexible, having great customer service, great attitude and being available and ready to assist is what the job entails," said Imelda Carrillo, the election service manager at the Registrar of Voters Santa Ana office.

Senior Chara Yoon was among the Sunny Hills students who jumped at the opportunity before the Oct. 7 application deadline once she found out about the program from her American Government teacher and California Scholarship Federation [CSF] adviser, Hera Kwon, on Sept. 19.

Although Yoon said the fact she was getting paid for her time was a factor in her participation, she also values the upcoming opportunity.

"I thought it would be a good experience to get to know how the voting process works," said the senior, who is in Kwon's first-period government class.

Junior Orianna Stocco-Guia, who also got accepted to this program, said she is looking forward to seeing how she can help on Election Day.

"I think it's a great way to be a part of the community," Stocco-Guia said. "It's a great way to get a way to get real-world experience because I don't vote, but I can see how it's going to be like to vote."

Individuals interested in working as poll workers had to fill out an application on the Orange County Registrar of Voters website for their respective counties; however, according to the website, those who wish to serve in counties outside their residence must directly contact the county's election office.

The agency's website provided the following information about the poll worker application process:

- To qualify, teenagers had to be at least 16 on Election Day.
- Applicants also must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and have permission from their guardian and school to participate.
- School administrators or counselors then had to fill out students' GPAs and high school information.

Applicants will get the title of customer service representative and will

be responsible for assisting voters with their ballots and monitoring the voting area.

Once the Orange County Registrar of Voters Office approves an application, students are required to take online and in-person training, said Ene-dina Chhim, the Orange County Registrar of Voters' community outreach manager.

The online training is in video format and is composed of five training modules and knowledge checks covering expectations, duties and language services available to voters. After completion, students must score 80% or higher on the cumulative knowledge check to move on to in-person training, she said.

Approximately two hours long, the in-person training sessions will take place in Santa Ana and San Juan Capistrano throughout the rest of this month and will allow students to apply what they learned from the online curriculum through review and simulations, Chhim said.

"It definitely is a valuable program," said Imelda Carrillo, the Election Service Manager at the Orange County Registrar of Voters Office. "Students are excited, they're engaged, they get to see a hands-on experience, and then when they actually go vote, they have that idea of what they're expecting."

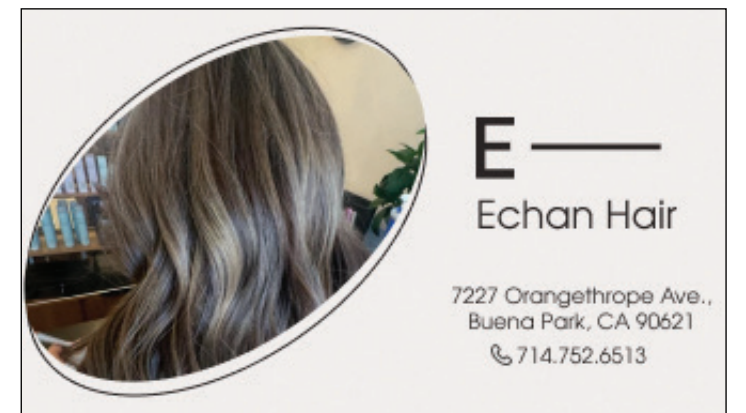






photo by NOAH LEE

# YES OR NO ON MEASURE L

**ALL-WEATHER TRACK? TURF FIELD?:** If passed, Measure L will provide the Fullerton Joint Union High School District with funding to fulfill the wish list of items that need upgrading at Sunny Hills, including sports facilities. For it to pass, the bond measure needs 55% or more approval from voters living in the district boundaries.

*FJUHSD bond proposal is among 9 others in the state up for voters to decide on Nov. 5*

story by ELLEN HWANG



For the full story, go to [shhsacolade.com](https://shhsacolade.com)

A second gym and other athletic support facilities, estimated to cost \$35 million. An all-weather track and artificial turf field, estimated to cost \$10 million.

That's \$45 million already.

Those are two of the items Sunny Hills school officials put down on their wish list of campus improvement projects if 55% or more of voters in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUSHD] cast their ballots next month in favor of Measure L.

Commonly referred to as a bond measure, the proposal is one of nine similar ones Orange County school districts are seeking approval for; the state also has one called Proposition 2.

If approved, Measure L would allow the FJUHSD to issue bonds of up to \$284 million – paid for through additional assessment taxes on property owners in the district.

“From what I understand, initial

polling and survey results have been favorable with respect to passing all of the local bond measures despite there being multiple ones on this year's ballot,” said principal Craig Weinreich, who plans to vote “Yes” on the proposal.

## MIXED REACTIONS

Athletic director Paul Jones said Sunny Hills will benefit the most from the passage of Measure L because it's the only campus in the FJUHSD that either doesn't have two gyms or a football stadium. It's also the only athletic facility that comprises natural grass instead of a turf field.

“Our facilities are not up to par,” Jones said.

Sophomore Josef Hudak said he hopes voters will keep these issues in mind.

“Being able to upgrade our school facilities – getting a track and a new gym and support spaces – will help us

a lot in our training and development toward becoming more dominant athletes,” said Hudak, who competed in track and field in his freshman year and plans to do so again next semester.

Senior Matthew Yoon, who isn't old enough to register to vote for this year's elections, said Measure L would add too much of a financial burden on homeowners.

“Passing the bond measure could put a lot of unnecessary stress and pressure on families and residents in the district who are already devoting a significant portion of their money to other expenses,” Yoon said.

## SUPPORT FOR MEASURE L

Since the week of Oct. 7, “Yes on L” outdoor yard signs have been made available for instructors who live in the district to pick up from the North Orange County United Teachers office in Brea, union members said.

illustration by RYAN SHIN



story by FAITH JUNG

# HISTORY IS ON THE LINE

The first woman of color to run for president in America. The second president in our nation since Grover Cleveland in 1893 to possibly serve two non-consecutive terms.

No matter who comes out on top in this year's presidential elections, history will be made one way or another.

Already in the record books when she became the first woman to be elected the country's vice president in 2020, Kamala Harris became the Democratic presidential nominee on Aug. 5, two weeks after the incumbent, President Joe Biden, dropped out of the race.

The former California attorney general follows Hillary Clinton in seeking to become the first woman in the U.S. to

get elected to the executive branch. (Clinton lost in her bid back in 2016.)

On the other side of the ticket is Donald Trump, who since securing the Republican nomination for president on July 15 has endured his own challenges in surviving not one, but two assassination attempts – the first one being on July 13 during a rally held in Butler, Pennsylvania, and the most recent one being on Sept. 15 at a golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida.

If elected the country's 47th leader of the free world, Trump will make history as well as becoming the first convicted felon to sit in the Oval Office in the White House. (He was found guilty of 34 felonies on May 30 for attempting to illegally falsify business records to cover up a \$130,000 pay-



“The last cult of England” By Francis Toms is licensed under CC by SA 2.0

to an adult film star before the 2016 presidential election, which he won and served his first term.)

Such unprecedented events during this election cycle have also impacted the electorate in California, which has historically favored Democratic candidates in local, state and national races. With 54 electoral votes that the Golden State carries, many eligible voters at Sunny Hills whom the *Spotlight* team reached out to have either declined to state who they plan to cast their ballots for or have decided to avoid favoring one candidate or the other. For those who were willing to go on the record – including those not eligible to vote because of their age or citizenship status – a majority favored Harris to win.

#### WHAT THE POLLS SAY

With less than two weeks before Nov. 5 Election Day, a majority of polls conducted by various media outlets project a tight race. Political pundits like Ben Shapiro and Anderson Cooper predict the winner with the most electoral votes – 270 or higher – will have earned the majority of the electorate from battleground states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

As of Oct. 13, the CNN Poll of Polls find 50% of likely voters supporting Harris with 47% supporting Trump, while the Fox News polls find 48% of likely voters supporting Harris and 50% supporting Trump. Both polls do not provide a margin of error.

While not as scientific as CNN’s or Fox News, *The Accolade* also posted its own survey on its online news website starting Sept. 25 and as of Oct. 15, 54 of the 142 who responded predict that Trump will come out on top with Harris only two votes behind.

Interestingly, 26 opted for the choice, “I don’t know because the polls keep showing a tie race,” while the remaining 10 selected the last option: “I don’t care because it doesn’t matter who leads our country.”

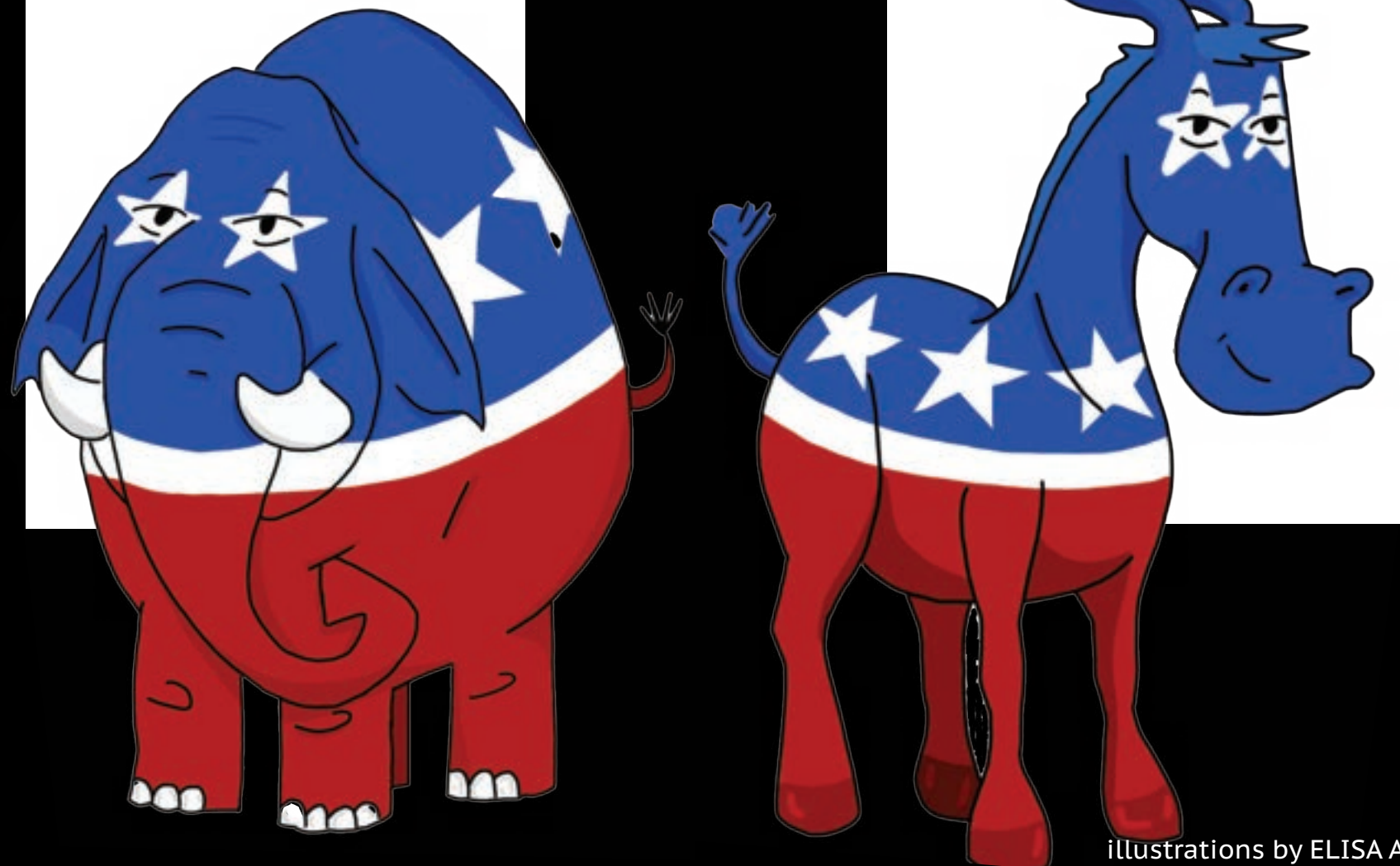
Advanced Placement [AP] Physics teacher Chris Peoples said he’s taking a similar approach with the presidential elections.

“I have no confidence in either the Republican or Democratic presidential candidate, so I’m not going to

vote for either one of them,” said Peoples, who doesn’t recall who he voted for in the 2020 election but still plans to cast his ballot on other local, state and national races and propositions/measures. “Neither one has earned the right or privilege to my vote.”

However, the physics teacher said if he were to make a prediction about the outcome, he’s going with the country having its first female president.

**“I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN EITHER THE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE”**  
- science teacher  
**Chris Peoples**



“I don’t know if people really want to deal with that kind of chaos again from the Trump administration,” Peoples said.

Senior Keira Holland agrees with the science teacher’s assessment.

“From everything I’ve seen, it’s pretty tight right now, but I think Kamala is pulling ahead just a little bit,” Holland said.

Although she’s not eligible to vote in this election cycle, the senior said if she could have qualified to cast a ballot, she would lean Democratic, which is what most California voters tend to do.

“I feel like [Harris] has respect for my body and other women’s bodies,” Holland said.

Senior Jeremiah Sung is also not old enough to vote, Sung acknowledging he’s more apathetic about the whole process.

“I am not affiliated with any party, so I’m not particularly

in desperation of wanting someone to win,” he said.

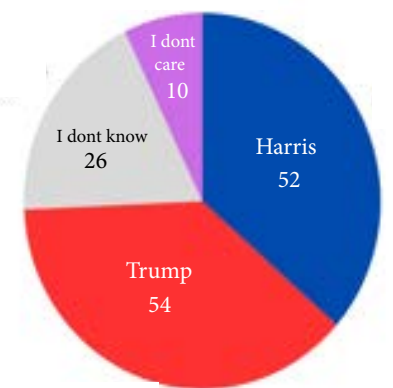
#### ELECTORAL COLLEGE DISCUSSION IN U.S. HISTORY CLASSES

Ironically, students in their U.S. History classes have been discussing the Electoral College system after finishing their unit on the American Revolution.

“We’ve been talking about it a little bit, and in the polls, Kamala is slightly in the lead, but when it comes to actual representation in the Electoral College, I think it’s gonna be a toss-up,” said junior Aaron Green, referring to the discussion in his zero period AP U.S. History class. “So we won’t really know who’s going to win until the actual day [after all the votes are counted] because it’s so split.”

Junior Evelyn Choi, also in APUSH, said she believes the Electoral College system should change.

“The Electoral College disproportionately represents smaller states,” Choi said. “This could lead to a situation where a candidate wins the presidency without winning the popular vote.”



**ACCOLADE POLL: Who do you think will win the 2024 presidential election?**



# Q&A with cast of 'GIRLS★STATE'

## Three from documentary share thoughts on presidential election, future of politics among women

compiled by SERENITY LI



**Cecilia Bartin**, who ended up getting elected as Girls State “governor,” answered *Accolade* copy editor junior Serenity Li’s and adviser Tommy Li’s questions via a Zoom meeting held on Aug. 31. Bartin is now a sophomore attending Brown University in Rhode Island with an undeclared major. The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity. Be sure to go online at [shhsaccolade.com](http://shhsaccolade.com) for more and to see the Zoom recording.

Released April 5 on Apple TV+, “Girls State” focuses on select moments from an annual event of the same name held in Missouri for young ladies in high school. It follows five girls and their experiences in 2022 running a mock government up to the final day announcement of the elected “governor.”

The one-hour and 35-minute documentary garnered two awards from the Television Academy’s Creative Arts Emmy program held on Sept. 7: Outstanding Cinematogra-

phy for a Nonfiction Program and Outstanding Directing for a Documentary/Nonfiction Program.

Soon after President Joe Biden announced his decision on July 21 to no longer seek re-election and instead replaced his name on the 2024 presidential ticket with vice president Kamala Harris name, *The Accolade* had the opportunity to reach out to four cast members for their thoughts on this development, and three agreed to be interviewed.

**Q** At the beginning of the “Girls State” film, there was a speaker who said, “The truth is, femininity is powerful.” ... and then you mentioned at a certain point in the film that the future is female. When you guys said all this in 2022, we didn’t know that we would now have a female presidential candidate again. What do you think about the chance for Harris to make history again; she was the first female vice president and now she could be our first female president?

**A** It’s incredible. We all were watching the Biden versus Trump campaigns feeling, OK, it’s just going to be another old white man in charge, and things are kind of the same as they’ve been. But Kamala upon coming into the race, she’s done a great job with re-energizing everybody. And the fact that she’s going to be our first female president if she wins, it’s monumental.

**Q** What’s the vibe like at Brown? Does it seem like the majority of the youth are voting for Harris, or are they all mixed?

**A** Everyone I know is voting Kamala Harris just because a lot of my friends are women and Democratic. Especially, Brown University is a very liberal school, so everyone is definitely voting for Kamala Harris.

**Q** Since the documentary came out, do you see other people coming up to you, or do they sort of ask you for feedback on what it’s like to be in a documentary?

**A** Most of my friends know about me from my Instagram. It’s not like I’m in a Marvel movie or something; it’s like people saw my Instagram and then asked me about it, so I’m not getting stopped on the streets or anything.

**Q** So your documentary ends with the song from Taylor Swift called, “The Man.” So if Harris wins, would that be an appropriate song for the Harris celebration or like for her inauguration?

**A** I don’t know if I know a lot of the words, but the message is about how I can do any job a man can do and also the whole acknowledging that women do have to work harder than men right now to get to the same place.

**Emily Worthmore**, who leans conservative but unsuccessfully ran for Girls State governor, answered Serenity Li’s questions via email on Sept. 7. Worthmore is now attending Lindenwood University as a communications major with an emphasis in broadcast and media production. The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity. Be sure to go online at [shhsaccolade.com](http://shhsaccolade.com) to read more from Worthmore.

**Q** In the movie, you shared a dream to run for president in 2040. If you get elected, how will you be different from other presidents in the past?

**A** I think I’m an honest person who will remain incorruptible, even in office. I’d want to unify the country and work toward more bipartisanship because we can’t make any progress while we’re this divided.

**Q** What are your thoughts about this statement from the documentary, “The truth is, femininity is powerful”?

**A** Very true. Some of my favorite political leaders are beautiful, feminine and powerful. I love when women embrace feminine power and show the world how beautifully women can lead.

**Q** What do you think about the chance for Harris to make history again [as she was the first female vice president]?

**A** As exciting as it is to be a part of a vote to make history – and I love women representation in politics – I will also add that voters should focus on making educated choices rather than casting ballots out of excitement for a milestone. All good things come with time. I’m confident that there will be a woman president in my life, and I want it to be because she is best fit for the position.

**Q** Who are you voting for this year and why?

**A** I’m voting for Trump because I believe he prioritizes supporting and protecting the U.S. Constitution. His focus on limited government and individual liberties resonates with me, and I believe he can help preserve the core values that our nation was founded upon.



images used with permission from Apple Original Films

**Nisha Murali**, who unsuccessfully ran for Supreme Court justice, answered Serenity Li’s questions via email on Aug. 31. Murali is now a sophomore attending Texas Agricultural and Mechanical as an engineering major. The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity. Be sure to go online at [shhsaccolade.com](http://shhsaccolade.com) to read more from Murali.

**Q** How do you think you made an impact on this world with the documentary you participated in?

**A** My hope is that at least one person saw the documentary and felt encouraged to get involved. I want them to realize that there is power in using their voices, trying to change the world around them.

**Q** What are you doing currently to make a difference?

**A** I’ve done quite a bit of political volunteering, and I’m also active in a few different political organizations at Texas A&M. Additionally, I’ve become more involved in teaching and have gotten involved in some organizations focused on teaching girls.



**FRESHEN UP YOUR TASTE!**

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# A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

**IT'S TIME FOR OUR FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT; MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD GO UP TO \$18 IN THE STATE**

illustration by LINDSEY UM

*In following common practice among most legacy media outlets like the Los Angeles Times or the Orange County Register, The Accolade's 17-member editorial board has come up with its own endorsements for next month's local, state and national elections on Nov. 5. We based our discussion on what this Spotlight issue covered, which ranged from the race for the next U.S. president to the state proposition to increase the minimum wage to the district's bond measure to help fund school facility upgrades. For those who are eligible to cast their ballots, we hope you can use this as a guide to consider before you finalize your votes.*

**U.S. PRESIDENT: 9 Kamala Harris (Democrat); 0 Donald Trump (Republican); 8 declined to cast a ballot.**

"The lesser of the two evils" has become an increasingly common phrase among voters this election season as a reference these candidates.

Whether out of embarrassment or a lack of understanding, eight board members confirmed this hesitancy and declined to vote on this matter.

For the nine of us, we support Harris because she will continue president Joe Biden's legacy in ensuring that public schools continue to receive federal funding and support. We also agree with the Biden-Harris emphasis on finding ways to establish college loan forgiveness programs.

The public education system has a higher possibility of being funded and overseen correctly with the democratic candidate in office.

Finally, a majority of us agree that Harris' priorities lie in the interests of the people, highlighting freedom to one's body with her pro-choice endeavors. Her progressive mindset undoubtedly sets her apart.

Women are undeniably the face of the future, and as the first fe-

male president of the U.S., Harris would be able to further this idea as only 26 countries held a female in office.

Equality and liberation cannot be emphasized to the same degree under the typical white, male president. While at one time, this everyday man represented the majority of the nation, the U.S. has since progressed and needs a leader as diverse to accurately represent the voice of its constituents.

**STATE PROPOSITION 32: 11 YES; 6 NO.**

With record-breaking costs nationwide, the majority of us concur that minimum wage should match the increase seen in the economy.

As the majority of employees seen manning the minimum-wage jobs are young adults and high schoolers, a higher paying job will allow for them to cover the high prices of gas and other accommodations — which are out of reach given the current lowest salary.

**BOND MEASURE L: 4 YES; 13 NO.**

The proposed updates toward school facilities will likely not be in the favor of deserving academic programs, but instead to athletic facilities that have already had money invested into them within recent years.

We believe that the emphasis on athletics will only continue to grow if this measure is passed. In a school setting, this will leave underrepresented programs to continue their fruitless work in the shadows of the bigger groups.

**The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2024-2025 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theacoladeshhs@gmail.com.**

# I'M A VOTER.

**Turning 18 and becoming U.S. citizen give me chance to be part of history**

story by SEOWON HAN

**I**f you're 18 by the time you're a senior, you would be eligible to vote," my Advanced Placement Human Geography [APHUG] teacher said to the class in my freshman year.

That was back in 2021. At that time, I knew I would be eligible in terms of age, but I would be disqualified from being able to register in California's voter rolls because I was a South Korean citizen and not a U.S. one.

Two years later as a junior, my parents decided to become U.S. citizens, which allowed me to become a naturalized one as well last November.

Because I was over 14 but under 18, I was invited to an Oath Ceremony on Sept. 23 at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Santa Ana. None of the family members knew what to expect or what the ceremony would entail walking in. Spotting the building out of the fancy federal structures, we found the "CITIZENSHIP" sign with a giant arrow pointing.

Facing a room full of patriotic decorations and American flags, I checked in. As I grabbed a seat, I received a letter from President Joe Biden and posters listing my rights as a U.S. citizen, including the ability to vote. A group of 20-30 minors stood to recite a paragraph-long Oath of Allegiance, and I finally received my Certificate of Naturalization.

It simultaneously felt surreal thinking I could now vote by meeting the minimum age exactly during this election year, unlike my assumption that I couldn't do so four years ago while sitting in my APHUG class.

Especially with most seniors unable to vote yet, I'm excited for the lifetime oppor-

tunity to cast my ballot on Nov. 5. As a first-time voter, I've found myself pensive about the choices I need to make — both at the national and local levels.

I don't strongly identify with any particular political party, but I've been leaning toward Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris for her stance on several issues. As an environment advocate, Harris' policies resonated with me more than Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's, believing she would better help regulate industrial pollution.

While I wasn't fully aware or attentive that I can vote for local measures, learning more about each options in my practice ballot I received in my mail upon online registration to vote made me feel I have a say in our community improvements.

For example, I will vote "yes" for bond

Measure L to bring a second gym and other facility upgrades to foster a better environment here even though it may affect taxes. I'm excited to learn more about what other decisions I can influence in my local community.

Whether Harris sets a record as the first female president or Trump returns to office, I feel I'm making part of history now as a citizen.

**"I FEEL I'M MAKING PART OF HISTORY NOW AS A CITIZEN"**

illustration by Joanna Joo



# EXPECTATIONS GREAT

illustration by RYAN SHIN

**TRUMP  
2024**

**HARRIS  
for PRESIDENT  
2024**

★★★★★  
**TRUMP  
2024**  
★★★★★

★★★  
**HARRIS  
for PRESIDENT**  
★★★

Yes on  
Measure L

**Michelle  
Steel**

**Derek Tran**

★★★★★★★★★  
No on Proposition 32  
★★★★★★★★★