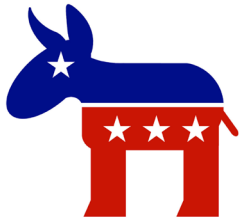


THE WIRE

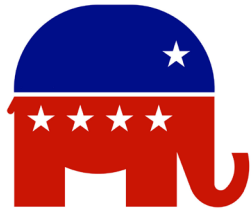
WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



DEMOCRAT

Hillary R. Clinton
Tim Kaine

DECIDED



REPUBLICAN

Donald J. Trump
Mike Pence

general It's Election Time

Mock Election Shows Voting Trends Among Young Voters at West Potomac

The Gender Gap in
West Potomac Politics

PAGE 13

The Experiences of
Trump Supporters

PAGE 15

What It is Like To Be a
First Time Voter

PAGE 19

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This issue's cover was created using Adobe InDesign. Political party graphics done by DONKEYHOTIEY/FLICKR/CREATIVE COMMONS. The images used for the Table of Contents, reviews, and articles were acquired using Google image search.

Letter from the Editors:

Nina Raneses & Hugh Moffitt

Welcome to the Election 2016 issue of The Wire! First, we'd like to thank our readers, patrons and everyone involved in the production and ongoing support of our student-run publication. In this issue, we explore how this presidential election has affected the lives of West Potomac students. We've also worked hard to inform you, the readers, on everything you need to know for November 8, whether you're eligible to vote or just want to stay informed! Without further ado, we hope you enjoy this very special Election 2016 edition of The Wire!

Thank You, *Wire* Patrons!

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Table of Contents

I Side With Quiz - Page 4
Music Reviews - Page 5
Who Am I? - Page 5
Polling Places - Pages 6-7
West Po Election Results - Pages 8-9
Gender Gap - Page 10
Trumping Stigma-Page 11
Celebrity Endorsements-Page 14

NOVEMBER

2016

OPINION



04-05

I SIDE WITH QUIZ

Not sure who you agree with this election cycle? Find out using our quiz about your values and thoughts on national and international issues

REFERENCE



06-07

POLLING MAP

Find your polling place for this election in our community

SCHOOL VIEWS



08-09

WEST PO VOTES

The results are in! Find out who won the West Potomac mock Presidential Election!

STUDENT LIFE

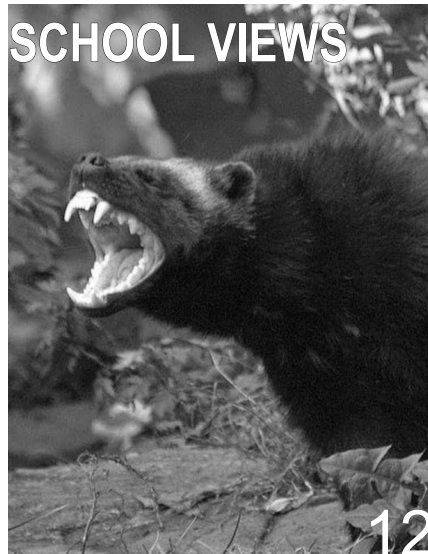


10-11

TRUMPING STIGMA

Trump supporters share their experiences with prejudice based on their political preferences

SCHOOL VIEWS

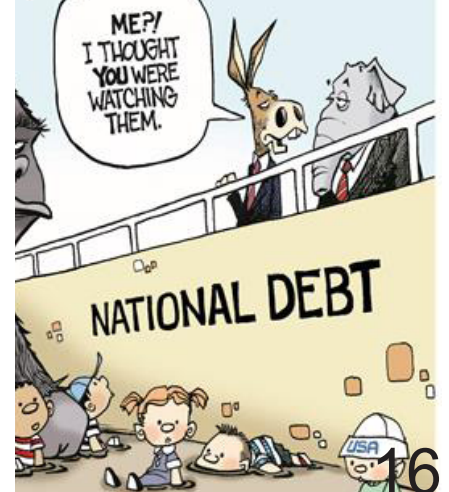


12

MORE ARGUING

Editors Hugh Moffitt and Shahtaj Ali go head to head in what makes the other's candidate the WORST

STUDENT LIFE



16

POLITICAL HUMOR

A break from the drama, we have compiled the political humor you need to relax during this tense campaign season

I Side With...

Take a brief quiz to find out which presidential candidate most aligns with your values

1. I support deporting illegal/undocumented immigrants.

There are approximately 11 million people residing in the United States who did not follow the legal immigration procedure, either by overstaying their visa or making an unauthorized crossing of the border.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

2. I support the funding of Planned Parenthood by the government regardless to whether or not they continue abortion operations.

Planned Parenthood is a nonprofit organization that receives government funding. They provide reproductive health services, including abortion, to people in the U.S. and globally.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

3. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act should be repealed.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare, was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010. The main goal of the legislation is to expand coverage to many uninsured individuals, but the program has come at a higher price for some people who already had insurance.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

4. I support raising the nationwide minimum wage.

The minimum wage is the lowest amount of money a company is allowed to hourly pay an employee and is currently \$7.25 per hour. A nationwide standard would mean the same minimum wage in every state in the country.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

5. I support stricter gun control laws, such as tougher background checks and restrictions on assault weapons.

Background checks implies that to purchase a gun, the criminal and mental health records of anyone purchasing a gun would have to be reviewed. Assault restrictions would place harsher laws on selling/buying guns classified as assault weapons.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

6. I support the increase of tax rates for high-income earners.

Every year, the IRS adjusts tax provisions for inflation. This is done to avoid people being pushed into higher tax rates or have reduced value from credits or deductions due to inflation.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

7. I support moving away from international treaties designed to target climate change.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

8. I support making college completely free for in-state universities for students under a certain income bracket and community college free for everyone.

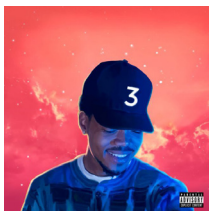
It has been suggested that for families that make under 125,000 in-state public universities should be free.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

9. I support working with Russia and Syria to conduct joint strikes against ISIS. I support working with Russian and Syrian forces despite humanitarian problems in Aleppo.

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

Music Reviews By Sean Franklin



Coloring Book *Chance the Rapper*
Chance the Rapper's newest effort, "Coloring Book," presents a fusion of genres that is rare to see, and even rarer to be done well. On "Coloring Book," Chance deftly blends hip-hop and gospel to create a sound that is unique in modern rap. Unlike many other recent albums of the genre, "Coloring Book"

is unabashedly joyful and full of soul. The record includes a diverse range of songs, both fast and slow, but all have a transcendently radiant feel about them, both sonically and lyrically. Hopeful, spiritual and refreshingly genuine, "Coloring Book" goes against the grain of modern rap while still building on the genre's foundation. By challenging genre convention, Chance has made one of the most unique and innovative albums of the year.

blond



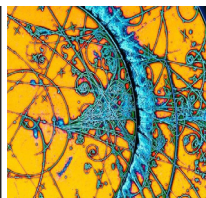
Blond *Frank Ocean*

After almost four years, Frank Ocean has released his much-anticipated sophomore album, "Blonde." Because Ocean's first album, "Channel Orange," was so critically acclaimed for its range and idiosyncratic musical style, all eyes were on him for a follow-up.

With "Blonde," Ocean has delivered a more conceptual album. Whereas "Channel Orange" had a diverse range of musical styles, "Blonde" has a much more unified sonic palate. This is both the album's greatest strength and its greatest downfall. On the one hand, the uniformity of the record creates an almost hypnotic listening experience. The album is easy to sink into. On the other hand, the relentlessly downtempo tracks blend into each other in a way that can quickly become stale.

"Blonde" is a very ambitious project. The lyrical themes are deep and compelling, and the music is sonically intriguing. However, that kind of intense artistry lends itself to an album that isn't always very accessible to the listener.

Images from Wikipedia



Is This It *The Strokes*

In 2001, rock music had hit record lows. Instead, bands like Limp Bizkit and Slipknot ruled the charts. The Strokes changed all of that with their debut album. Equal parts punk, garage rock, and self-aware indie pop, the Strokes swept away the nu-metal blight of the early 2000s and set the stage for the garage rock revival.

The Strokes had a sound radically different than the other bands of the day. "Is This It" has a remarkably authentic sound—a little fuzzy, a little muddled, but ultimately cohesive. That kind of authenticity was rare in those days, and it brought retro-sounding rock back into the mainstream. Bands like the Killers, Franz Ferdinand and Kings of Leon all took cues from The Strokes' style. Even taken out of context, "Is This It" is a monumentally good album. The Strokes craft catchy tunes that are nonetheless nuanced and harmonious. Relentlessly clever and almost contagiously listenable, "Is This It" is not to be missed.



Wild World *Bastille*

Bastille is probably most well known for their 2013 debut album, "Bad Blood," which included the hit songs "Pompeii" and title track "Bad Blood." Anyone familiar with the album will be in familiar territory here. This record is tried-and-true indie pop. While it's more guitar-driven than their earlier albums, "Wild World"

is still predominantly electronic, and layered with Bastille's signature vocal harmonies.

"Wild World" is, for the most part, very much a continuation of their earlier work. There's nothing very ambitious, and except for a couple tracks—"The Currents" and "Send Them Off"—that show stronger dance and electronic influences, the record is rather monotonous. This album's greatest flaw is its length. There are about nine too many tracks, and many songs are extremely similar, which lends the record its monotony. If Bastille had taken more risks with their sound and pared down the track list, this could have been a much better body of work.



Where were you born?

I was born here in Fairfax. I was raised in Woodbridge and I married and I live here in Fairfax.

How long have you worked at West Potomac?

Since 1999. Longer than most of the seniors now.

Where did you work before you worked here?

This is my first job at a school, before this, I was a food buyer. I switched when I had my daughter. So I wanted to have better hours, so I made a switch and became a secretary.

Out of your 18 years of experience, what is one of your favorite memories of this school?

Graduations are always a good time. When we did the graduation, I helped the senior class one year it was really nice. I liked working with everybody. I did transcripts for a couple of years too, that was pretty fun. Seeing where everybody was going to go to college that was nice.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Chocolate, very plain.

What is your favorite movie?

The Mummy.

What is your favorite animal?

Cats. I have two cats now, I had three but, yeah I'm a cat lady.

What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?

Read. I also do some gardening. I have a vegetable garden it's pretty massive.

If you were to write something new, what would it be?

It would be an anecdotal book about everything that's happened here at West Potomac. Everything that I've encountered in all my years here, so yeah it'll be an amazing story.

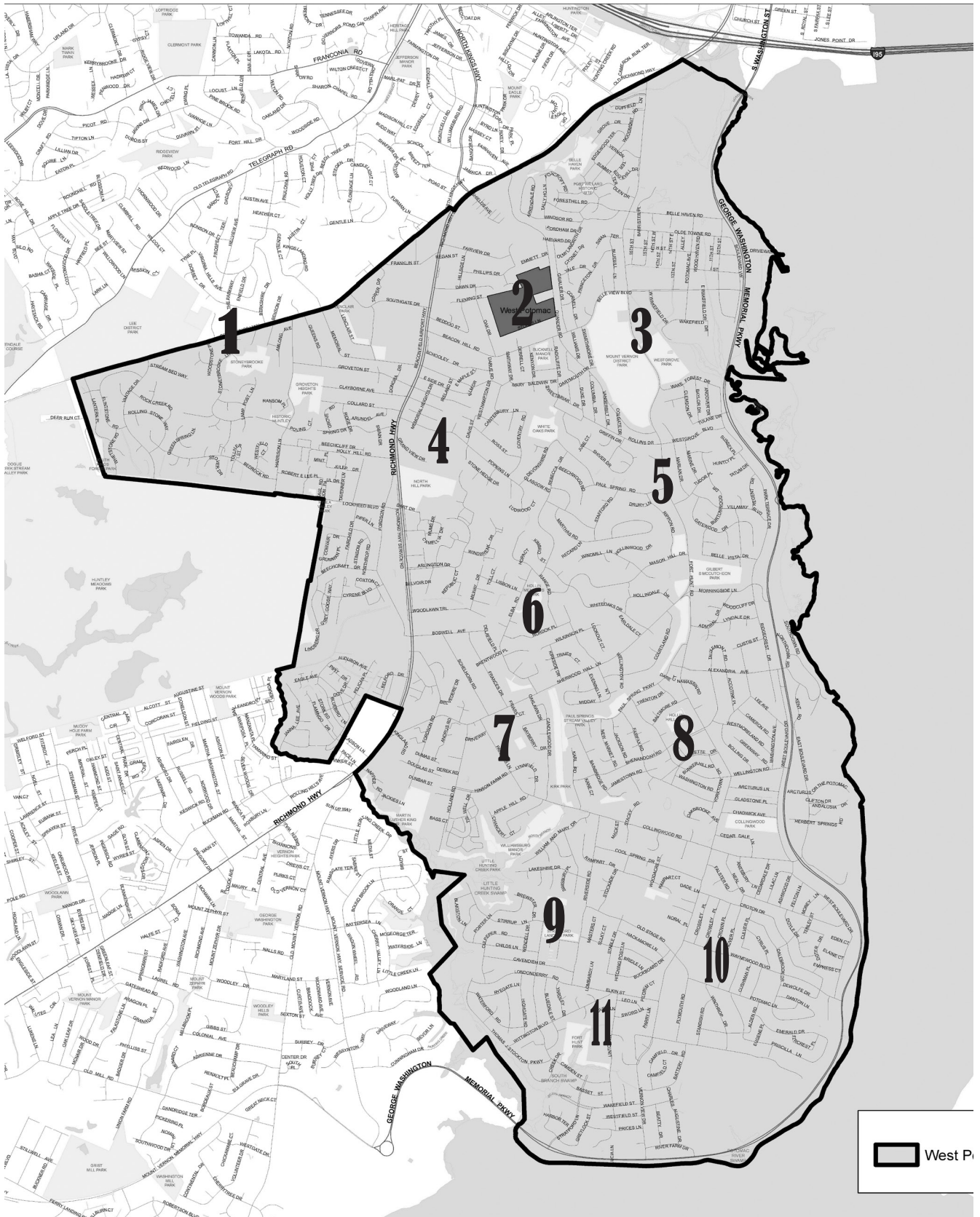
If you were a brand, what would be your motto?

Keep it real.

WHO AM I?

Find out on thewpwire.org

Polling Places of the West Potomac District



1 Groveton
St Marks's Episcopal Church
6744 S Kings Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22306

2 Belle Haven
West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

3 Belle View
Belle View Elementary School
6701 Fort Hunt Rd
Alexandria, VA 22307

4 Bucknell
Bryant Alternative Learning Center
2709 Popkins Ln
Alexandria, VA 22306

5 Marlan
Paul Spring Retirement Community
7116 Fort Hunt Rd
Alexandria, VA 22307

6 Kirkside
Hollin Meadows Elementary School
2310 Nordok Pl
Alexandria, VA 22306

7 Sherwood
Whitman Middle Schhol
2500 Parkers Ln
Alexandria, VA 22306

8 Hollin Hall
Hollin Hall Center
1500 Shenandoah Rd
Alexandria, VA 22308

9 Stratford
Stratford Landing Elementary School
8484 Riverside Rd
Fort Hunt, VA 22308

10 Waynewood
Wanewood Elementary School
1205 Waynewood Blvd
Fort Hunt, VA 22308

11 Fort Hunt
Fort Hunt Elementary School
8832 Linton Lne
Alexandria, VA 22308

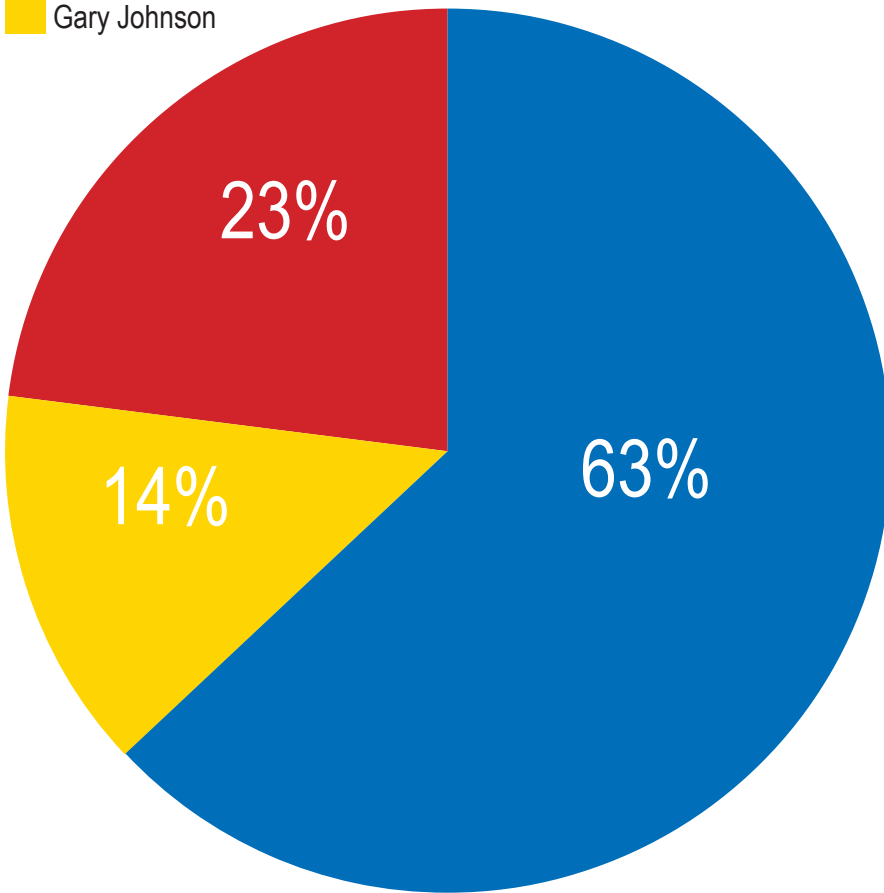
Woof and Walk
Dog walking and Pet Sitting

Sable Sorenson
Professional Dog Walker
themink99@yahoo.com

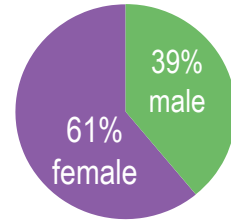
mid-day walks
experienced, affordable
insured, references available
servicing your area
571 230 4570

Clinton Wins West Potomac General Election

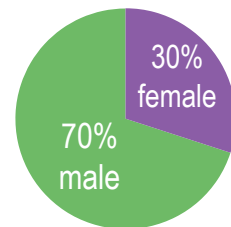
- Hillary Clinton
- Donald Trump
- Gary Johnson



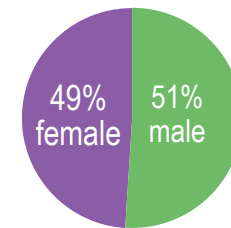
Clinton Supporters
Male vs Female



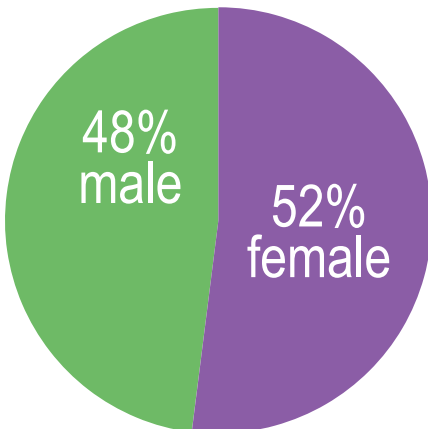
Trump Supporters
Male vs Female



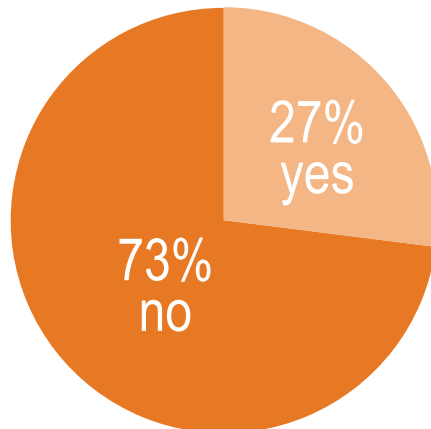
Johnson Supporters
Male vs Female



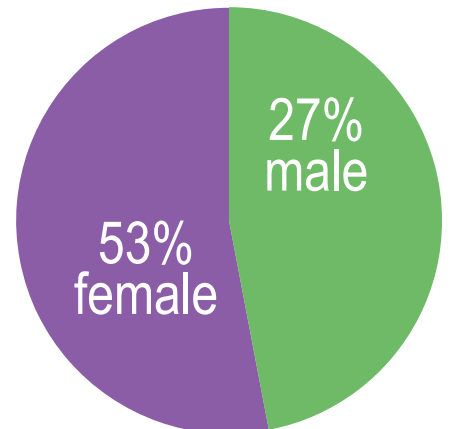
Female vs Male



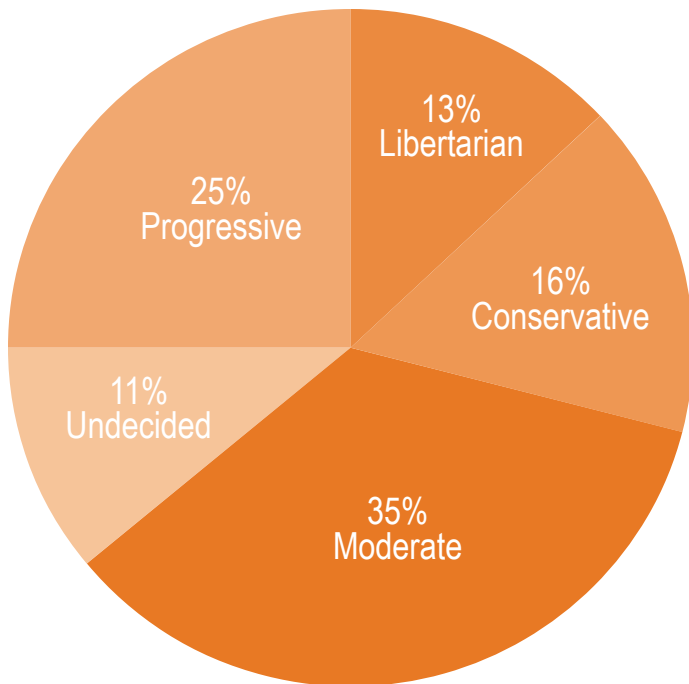
18 on 11.8.16?



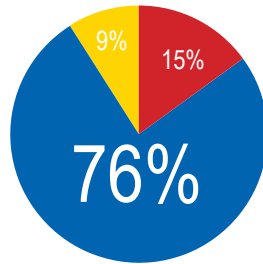
Gender for Eligible Voters



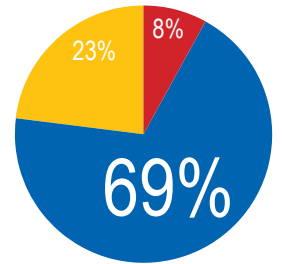
How would you define your political viewpoint?



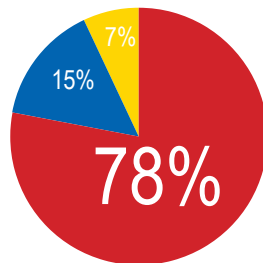
Progressive



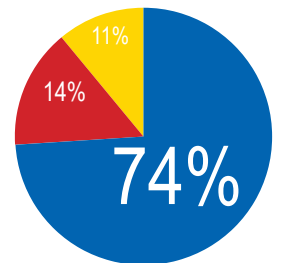
Libertarian



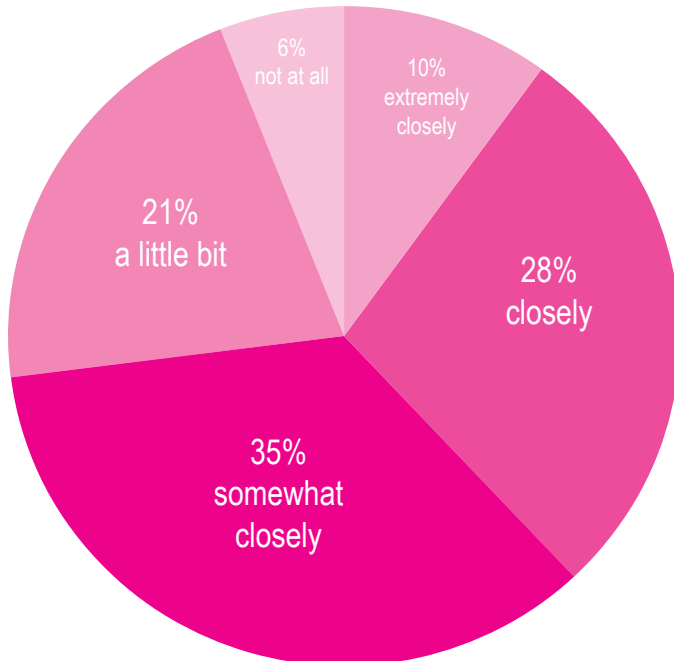
Conservative



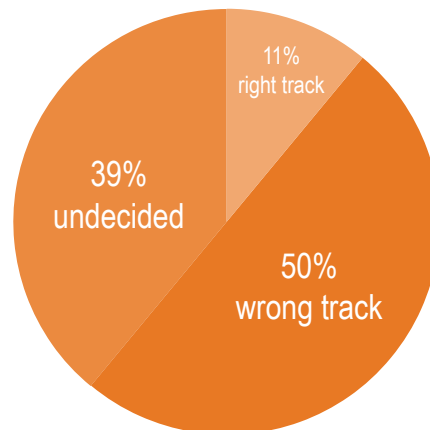
Moderate



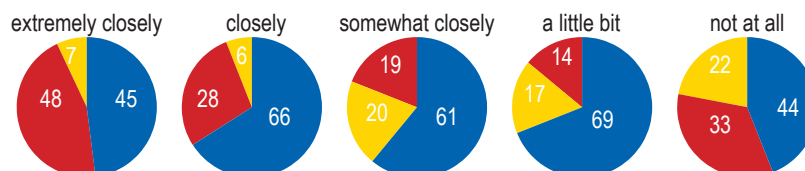
How closely have you followed this election?



Is the country on the right track?



How closely did you follow this election season?



Political Clubs Reflect National Trend

By **Andrea Lugo**

As a result of this historical upcoming election, politics have never been more relevant in the lives of teenagers. West Potomac's Young Democrats and Young Republicans Clubs allow students to share their political ideas and attitudes. However, something quite obvious is the demographic of these clubs, which parallel patterns of a national issue.

There is an evident gender gap in American politics, in which women are more likely to vote Democratic while men are more likely to vote Republican. According to National Public Radio (NPR), "Since 1980, women have consistently voted more Democratic than men have, and since 1992, they have consistently voted majority-Democratic." While the Young Republicans club is primarily composed of young men, Young Democrats is primarily young women.

Senior Madison Davis, one of the few female members of Young Republicans, says that although women are the clear minority in the club, they are treated with the same respect as everyone else.

"They treat me as a normal person; they don't treat me any differently because I'm a girl," Davis said. "I think that a lot of guys are so worried to talk about feminism's issues and women's issues because they're not a girl and [don't] necessarily know," she added.

Senior Katie Schweickhardt, who is also a member of Young Republicans, thinks that there are many female Republicans in the school, but they don't prioritize politics and therefore don't join the club.

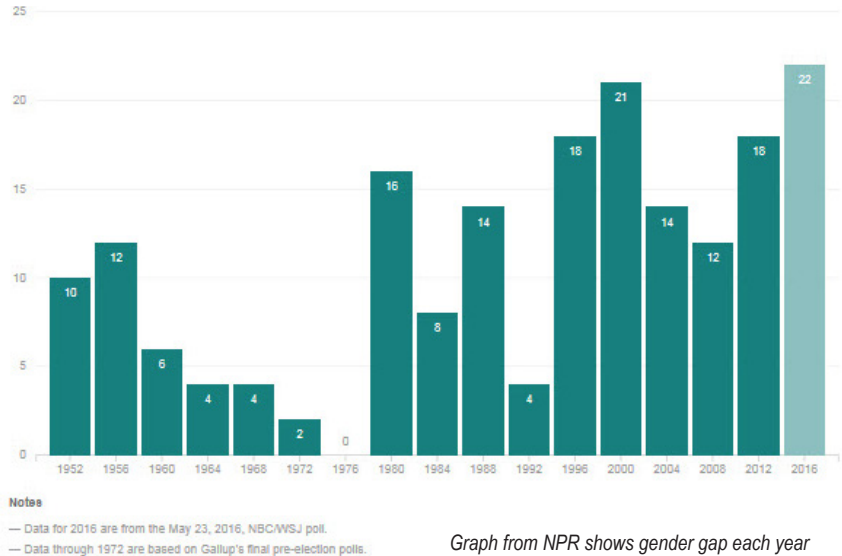
"I know there are a lot of Republican November 2016 | The Wire | 10

girls in this school. I think that in most cases though, they do sports or other extracurriculars after school," she said. "I think there are a lot of Republican girls in this school who just don't talk about it that much."

Senior Andrew Taylor, who is one of the only male participants in Young Democrats, understands why women

economists, I am focusing on the fact that it's false. There's facts that women in other countries have it way worse."

At the high school level, however, she thinks the election has had an impact on why Young Republican has seemingly little appeal to girls. NPR estimates that this year's presidential election has the potential to have the



Graph from NPR shows gender gap each year

would be attracted to the values of the Democratic Party.

"The values of the Democratic Party empower women to make their own choices and decisions instead of a party that wants to regulate them," he said.

Davis believes that American women don't align with the Republican party because of a perceived imbalance in the value of women's equality.

"A lot of women think that there's an extreme injustice in the world and I tend to look at the U.S.. [It] as one of the most free and liberated places especially for women and we have a lot of things a lot of women don't have in other countries," Davis said. "While the left is looking at this gender pay gap that is a myth, it's been debunked by

largest partisan gender voting gap in modern elections.

"Our first meeting last year it [the girl to boy ratio] wasn't even, but it was pretty close," she said. "I think a lot of women are more put off by some of the quotes made by Donald Trump about women. If I would have to guess why women aren't going, it would have to do with [the election]."

Trumping Stigma

By Nina Raneses

From the day Republican presidential candidate Donald J. Trump announced his run for office, the businessman and “Apprentice” producer has dominated headlines with his controversial one-liners and policy proposals. In his memorable June 2015 speech, Trump delivered the line that has since acted as a key selling point for many of his supporters.

“...I will build a great, great wall on our southern border,” he said. “And I will have Mexico pay for that wall.”

In the past year, Trump has garnered a loyal and

invested following through his core principles and promises. While immigration is one hot-button issue, Trump also promises big changes concerning the economy, terrorism and trade policy—issues that 10 to 15 percent more of his supporters care about compared to Hillary Clinton’s, according to a Pew Research Center poll.

It is no secret that both Trump and his supporters are consistently seen in a negative light. The media and certain polls have painted a picture of your “average” Trump supporter—buzzwords like “blue-collar,” “white,” “male,” and “no formal education,” have found themselves tucked into poll data analyses and headlines since primary season.

These key demographics don’t equate to their negative connotation on their own. An endorsement from former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke paired with their candidate’s controversial statements on illegal immigration, religious groups, national security and much more has surrounded Trump supporters since.

However, it is more important than ever to separate the stigma from the supporter. In our increasingly diverse American electorate, and the circumstances brought upon by this election, pigeonholing a voter to their candidate’s worst stereotypes can hurt relationships, encourage ignorance and undermine what issues may be important to them—and no voter in 2016 can relate to this problem more than a Trump supporter.



Sanjay Hawn is a senior and will vote for the very first time in the upcoming election. Like many of his fellow supporters, he believes a Trump presidency will ensure a bright future for the United States.

Seniors Sanjay Hawn and Hugh Moffitt at a Trump rally of support, but because I’ll be labeled all sorts of things as soon as they see my mouth form the ‘T’ in Trump.”

“To keep it very brief,” he said, “I care a lot about this country, and believe Trump is the best and only candidate to truly put America, and the interests of the American people, first.”

Not only does Hawn believe Trump can put America first, he’s confident that Trump can win the election.

“I’m confident that he will win,” he said. “The ‘silent majority’ has never been more important. People are afraid to announce their support for Trump out of fear of [being labelled a bigot]. Slowly, we’ve seen one Trump sign go up in a yard, then two more on the street, then four more in the neighborhood. I’ve seen more signs for Trump than I’ve seen for Hillary.”

Despite certain pressures and labels that may affect the “silent majority,” Hawn is relatively open with his support for Trump, as he shares his political views on social media. Although he acknowledges that it comes with its fair share of negative reaction.

“I have a lot of trouble answering when people ask who I’m voting for,” Hawn said. “If I want to remain friends with someone, I’ll usually choose not to answer. Not out of embarrassment or lack



The reluctance to open up about his support stems from stereotypes he’s heard in the past.

“If I answer that I’m voting for Trump, I’m usually immediately labelled sexist, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, etc.” he said. “Someone told me that ‘of course I supported Trump’ because I was a white male—but didn’t want to keep talking once I told her I wasn’t even white.”

While Hawn does his best to distance himself from labels that surround Trump supporters, he believes that Trump is not the man that his critics suggest

he is. His Islamophobia problem, for example—as Trump proposed a ban on terror-prone regions, is something Hawn believes “isn’t racist, but common sense.” His comments on Mexicans were not about all Mexicans, but illegal immigrants, he added.

“He gets called a racist and immediately all of his supporters are labeled racist as well,” he said, mentioning Trump receiving the Ellis Island Award from the 80s. “Even if Trump was racist, which he clearly is not, and all of his supporters are inherently racist, does that mean all Hillary supporters are liars, murderers, and thieves?”

Leading up to this momentous election, Hawn has done all he can to show support for his candidate. He wanted to attend the Trump rally at Briar Woods High School in August, though he was one of at least 6,000 people who could not fit in the gym. He was able to make friends with the people behind him, however, and appreciated how nice and the crowd was. As for November 8, Hawn is ready to cast his ballot, though he wishes he could do more in the time being.

“I can vote, and will vote,” he said. “I would love to volunteer for the Trump campaign but I have to focus on school [and] college applications, so I’m content passing out my Hillary for Prison/Vote Trump stickers.”



For more interviews, go to thewpwire.org

The Case Against...

Hillary Clinton

By Hugh Moffitt

By the time of this issue's publication, the country will be close to making the most momentous decision in the recent history of our nation. America will either elect Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. If the former happens, our future will be dark. Hillary represents the troubling paradigm shift that has gripped politicians of our era—she has zero respect for the laws and customs of our land, she is more beholden to her corporate donors than the American people, and she has an utter disregard for the truth.

Hillary is the mouthpiece of the world's current status quo. Her campaign is the largest confluence of big money and power in history¹. Every position she has ever held, from Senator, to Secretary of State, to Democratic Presidential Nominee, she has gotten as a result of extreme nepotism, and executed with such grave incompetence that in certain cases, it is literally criminal. With Hillary as President, the world's elite will have their own puppet as the leader of the free world, which means more unnecessary war, more erosion of our constitutional liberties, and a climate of kleptocracy so powerful that Hillary's friends and allies live comfortably above the law.

A Clinton presidency would put American lives in danger through conflict overseas. If her support and vote for the lie-based Iraq War, or the fact that she "admires Henry Kissinger"² is not enough to convince you she is a warmonger, all one must do is take a cursory examination of her record as Secretary of State.

In 2011, Hillary went against the counsel of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and advocated for the bombing of Libya under a supposedly humanitarian pretence: that Muammar Gaddafi was planning a genocide of many of his own citizens³. This claim, as the Defense Intelligence Agency (and therefore Hillary) knew at the time, was completely unsubstantiated by any evidence whatsoever⁴.

Now, Hillary Clinton is threatening Russia with military action for allegedly hacking the Democratic National Committee and exposing how she cheated her primary challenger Bernie Sanders⁵. And Trump is the one who can't be trusted with our nuclear arsenal?

But on the subject of trust, there is a more serious issue: that of Hillary's abject dishonesty. Numerous times, Hillary has been caught in the act of blatantly lying, but for the sake of brevity I will stick to the latest, most egregious revelations about her character. WikiLeaks has been releasing regular email dumps from John Podesta, Hillary's campaign manager, which have shown a stark contrast between Clinton's public talking points and her private confessions. In fact, she even remarked during a paid speech on Wall Street

that "you need both a public and a private position on policy."⁶

In another speech, this one to a Brazilian bank, she said "my dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders."⁷ If she is elected, which Hillary do you think America will get? The one who will take Wall Street to task, or the one who gives paid speeches to big banks, discussing the importance of lying to the public? The one who takes border security seriously, or the one who dreams of open borders?

All evidence and reason points to Hillary Clinton being under the near total control of her donors. What happens, then, when her donors are foreign? With Hillary's "charity," the Clinton Foundation, Hillary was able to amass a great amount of international power and present a positive public image for herself at home.

However, there's a catch (as there always is, when it seems a Clinton is doing something good). The Clinton Foundation received a very significant portion of its funding from the Saudis and other gulf state tyrannies like Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait⁸. Why would these governments—ones that routinely violate human rights—give millions of dollars to a foundation that is hypothetically supposed to be fighting for those same rights? It makes no sense, and reeks of an ulterior motive. It is not a reach to assume that in return for those donations, Hillary will provide a favor for them.

This sort of blatant politicking on a global scale is enraging to fathom. We fought hard to earn our independence, and have fought hard to keep it ever since. A presidency which puts the interest of donors above the interests of their people, especially when some of those donors are foreign governments, is one where the citizens lose every time.

If you're voting this November, I urge you: vote for Donald Trump, vote for Gary Johnson, or write in someone else, but whatever you do, do not vote for a puppet with a penchant for war.

1. <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/clinton-has-built-the-biggest-big-money-operation-ever-229831>
2. <https://www.thenation.com/article/henry-kissinger-hillary-clinton-tutor-in-war-and-peace/>
3. <http://original.antiwar.com/srlichman/2016/01/13/hillary-clinton-proven-warmonger/>
3. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/29/hillary-clinton-libya-war-genocide-narrative-reje/>
4. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/clinton-us-should-use-military-response-fight-cyberattacks-russia-china-1579187>
5. <http://dailycaller.com/2016/10/07/hillary-you-need-a-public-and-private-position-on-every-issue/>
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7. <https://theintercept.com/2016/08/25/why-did-the-saudi-regime-and-other-gulf-tyrannies-donate-millions-to-the-clinton-foundation/>

Donald Trump

By Shahtaj Ali

Donald Trump will never be president. This is a mantra repeated by those who oppose him, as they assure themselves that their worst nightmare will not come true. It's been shouted from the hilltops, whispered during debates, and chanted at rallies.

Why is there such vehement hate for a man by the same country that made him a celebrity? After all, we watched him in the "Apprentice" and "Home Alone Two: Lost in New York." Not to say that he only experienced love and adoration before running for president. His insensitive tweets after Hurricane Sandy and his overtly racist dogging of President Obama over his birth certificate brought him under fire long before his campaign.

Does that behavior truly justify the hate he receives now? If his only job was creating sham universities and starring in primetime, it would not matter. However this "short fingered vulgarian," as Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter called him, is running for the highest office in the most powerful country in the world and something must be said.

"Never Trump" support has come in the form of witty insults, a published "sexism tracker," or publicly denouncing him on every platform available. Some of the most powerful people in the world have slammed him in the public arena.

To recount every awful thing Trump has done or said in this election cycle would be impossible in this space. If you want to see it for yourself, there are videos to watch and lists to read. But, I'll provide a brief roundup here, separated by category. General xenophobia/racism, not understanding the functions of the U.S. government, and threatening democracy as a whole. Pretty important categories, wouldn't you say?

First off, Donald Trump is xenophobic; from calling Mexicans "rapists," to proposing a huge wall to be built to keep them out, to proposing a ban on all Muslims entering this country and creating a Muslim database, and even suggesting we "take out [the] families" of terrorists he has proven time and time again that he disregards any person who isn't like him. And, surprisingly enough, eating a taco bowl as he strategically tweeted on Cinco de Mayo, hasn't done enough to reach out to any of the communities he has attacked.

Trump has whipped crowds into a frenzy over the prospect of committing war crimes. He embraces the most deplorable part of human nature with open arms, and makes it the mainstay of his campaign. He will never be accepted by major world leaders and will ultimately go down in history as a sign of a growing global fascist movement.

Aside from the depressing bowl of star-

spangled jingoism that is Trump's attitude to anything "foreign" are the even more concerning thoughts of his on the function of U.S. law and government. The most mild offense being his clear misunderstanding of what Hillary Clinton would have been able to do as a U.S. senator. This was evident when he asked her why, as senator, she didn't single-handedly change the tax code.

However, he's also made comments that suggest closing down Mosques in America, threatened to blacklist several prominent news organizations and threatened to sue others for libel, which spells trouble for First Amendment rights.

If he holds such disdain for the media and other religions now, it's almost unimaginable the damage he will cause as president. He's also threatened to throw his political opponent in jail, didn't understand the term "nuclear triad" during a primary debate and named himself his primary consultant on foreign policy. He isn't just a hate-mongering racist with no credibility to stand on; he's an incredibly uninformed one at that.

Trump threatens democracy as a whole. At this point, in what has become a very cathartic piece, I've already mentioned examples of Trump threatening the core principles of our democracy. We have had conservatives and liberals before. We have had racists and xenophobes as well—and even those Strom Thurmonds and Barry Goldwaters of our world eventually changed their views. Goldwater was an active critic of the religious right as it developed; he had some semblance of perspective. This tabloid fodder turned presidential candidate doesn't deserve any seat in public office, the respect of his colleagues or national attention.

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/work/wp/2016/05/09/donald-trumps-bizarre-explanation-of-how-the-national-debt-works/>
- <http://www.dailyo.in/politics/us-donald-trump-illegal-immigration-barack-obama-syrian-refugees-bigotry-sexism-white-house/story/110281.html>
- <http://thehill.com/blogs/balot-box/249102-trumps-most-notable-insults>
- <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/07/22/racist-xenophobic-islamophobic-and-misogynistic-donald-trump-accepts>
- <http://www.politicususa.com/2015/08/04/donald-trump-humiliates-understanding-senate-planned-parenthood-vote.html>
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- <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/10/donald-trump-scandals/474726/>

The String

The Wire's new satirical* column
*satire: the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Erin Gruwell

By Jason Lakier

While it may not be Teacher Appreciation Week yet, we at the West Potomac Wire feel that EVERY week should be a time to appreciate all of the teachers, mentors and staff who work so hard to make providing a quality education their goal. Because of these selfless educators, our youth are sent off into the world enlightened and ready to face the challenges of the world. In order to recognize these gifted teachers, the String would like to begin a tradition of 'Teacher of the Week*' columns.

Our first honoree was chosen after having carefully considered a wide and diverse pool of applicants. A team of experienced editors at the String (me, myself, and I) have come down to a decision. With all

due honor, aplomb, and reverence, we would like to award the first West Potomac High School String 'Teacher of the Week*' Award to... drumroll please...:

Ms. Gruwell**! Erin Gruwell, a longtime English Teacher beloved by many, made national news just a few years ago for her incredible alternative teaching style and creation of personal connections to her students. While we can't detail all of her accomplishments here, we highly recommend you check out the documentary on her accomplishments, 'Freedom Writers'. Congratulations to Ms. Gruwell, and best of luck to all our educators for next week!

*No guarantee that the 'Teacher of the Week' Column will be weekly, no purchase necessary, many will enter few will win, please don't send us hate mail if you don't win, must be 18 years or older and live in the continental United States to be considered.

**OK, so Erin Gruwell didn't ever work at West Potomac, but here at WPHS we believe in being the World's Greatest High School. If that means appropriating the World's Greatest Teachers to add on to our already stunning cast of educators and staff, then so be it.

LULAROE
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MULTICONSULTANT SALE
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10-6
16 CONSULTANTS!
THOUSANDS OF PIECES



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Local Childcare Coordinator

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(800) 333-6056
culturalcare.com

Celebrity Endorsements

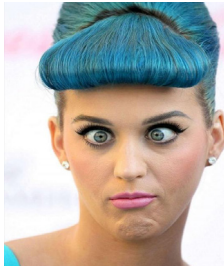
By The TypeRIGHTers

Hillary Clinton



Demi Lovato

"I'm proud to support a presidential candidate who will fight to ensure all people living with mental health conditions can get the care they need to lead fulfilling lives, that candidate is Hillary Clinton"



Katy Perry

"Unconditionally, I sing this next song for her, because I do believe this woman shows unconditional love." (Said at one of her concerts)

More Clinton Support

Ben Affleck	Lena Dunham
Lady Gaga	Elton John
Christina Aguilera	Jesse Eisenberg
Kim Kardashian	Beyonce
Jon Bon Jovi	Dakota Fanning
Morgan Freeman	Pharrell Williams
Cher	Robert DeNiro
Tom Hanks	Demi Lovato
George Clooney	Jamie Foxx
Salma Hayek	Amy Schumer
Ellen DeGeneres	Jane Fonda
LeBron James	Sting
Leonardo DiCaprio	Kanye West
Katy Perry	Sia

Donald Trump



Hulk Hogan

"I don't want to be in the ring with any candidates, I want to be Trump's running mate."



Sarah Palin

"He is from the private sector, not a politician, can I get a Hallelujah?"

More Trump Support

Kirstie Alley	Ted Nugent
Scott Baio	Loretta Lynn
Stephen Baldwin	Dennis Rodman
Azaelia Banks	Willie Robertson
Stacey Dash	Caitlin Jenner
Mike Ditka	
Gary Busey	
Lou Ferrigno	
Hulk Hogan	
Kid Rock	
Mike Tyson	
Tila Tequila	
Robert Davi	

My Civic Duty: Voting for the First Time

By Claudia Santa Anna

It's strange to be a first time voter in the 2016 election. My comparative government class has taken on a sense of urgency to me. When I read the newspaper in the morning, I always look for articles and information on the election. I have always tried to follow politics throughout high school. Still, coming into the 2016 election as an 18 year old feels weird— but in a bad way, as if voting has a higher urgency now than it would have been in a “normal” election.

Seeing that both candidates' approval ratings are historically low, it's hard to deny that this election cycle has been—and will continue to be—anything close to normal. In an October 3-10 Gallup poll, both candidates had majority negative approval ratings, with 63 percent and 55 percent of sampled voters holding negative views on Trump and Clinton, respectively. With both Trump and Clinton littered in controversy, most recently with Trump's comments in the leaked “Access Hollywood” 2005 tape and the Clinton campaign's emails released by WikiLeaks it seems as if neither candidate is following the norms of a presidential election.

“Coming into the 2016 election as an 18 year old feels weird— in a bad way.”

This is what makes voting for the first time in this election different. Suddenly, you have people voting for one candidate not because they agree with their policies, but because they are not as outrageous as the other candidate.

Another new difference in this election is the fact that millennials are well on their way to becoming one of the largest age groups of eligible voters. According to Pew Research Center, Millennials and Gen Xers combined now make up more of the eligible voters than Baby Boomers, with 58 percent of the population. Millennials alone make up about 21 percent of the voting population alone, and for 16.5 million of them this year is the first year they can vote. This means young voters will strongly matter to the general outcome of the race, especially in swing states-- CIRCLE at Tufts University ranked Virginia as #7 in the top 10 states that will have youth electoral significance in the presidential election.

Historically, 18-24 year olds have always had lower voter turnout compared to older age groups. According to the U.S.Census CPS, In 2012 only 45 percent of 18-24 registered to vote compared to 66.3% of people 30 and over. Even farther back, Generation Xers and Baby Boomers had similar turnouts as millennials when they were essentially the same age.

I have known that I wanted to participate and vote once I was able to. While the statistics say the majority of young people don't vote, I didn't want to be in that category. I understand that my vote matters, even if in the grand scheme of things it seems like it doesn't. Understanding why participation is important influenced me to vote in the primaries last March. I remember I was so excited going into Super Tuesday. The 2016 election was already an

eventful one back then, and I wanted to participate and do my part.

It's important for young people to vote because one of the two candidates in this election will lead us into the future, into our adult lives. When young adults don't vote, we are letting older generations decide on issues that will primarily affect us. Besides, voting is a right, and so many other countries aren't democracies. The election of 2000 alone taught the U.S. that every vote counts, and the millennial vote can make or break a campaign. Whether you like either of the

“Whether you like either of the candidates or not, this election are deciding the country's future.”

candidates or not, this election (and all elections) are deciding the country's future— who wouldn't want a say in what happens next? I am a first time voter because of all of these things. Though this election year is, to say the least, strange, I won't let that stop me from doing all I can to help the future.

We All Need A Little Humor

Especially when all we want to do is cry

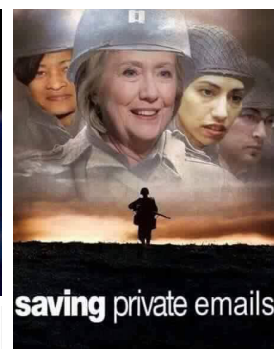
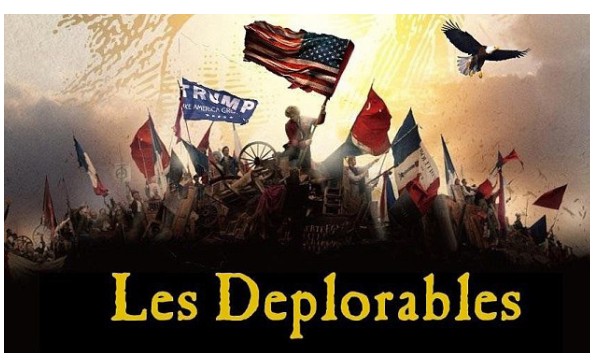
By West Press



America be watching the debate tonight like



[thoughts of the candidates]
Hillary: *don't cough, don't cough*
Trump: *don't racist, don't racist*



Hillary: Don..
Trump: WRONG
Hillary: I believ..
Trump: WRONG
Hillary: The sky is blue
Trump: WRONG

