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OPINION | by Charles Giraud
Liberty, 2026

The 2024 U.S. presidential election was a defining moment for the Democratic Party, culminating in Kamala Harris's defeat. Despite high expectations and a fervent push for progressive change, the election revealed significant challenges within the party. By examining three key factors—voter engagement and turnout, the party's focus on social issues over economic concerns, and leadership challenges—we can better understand why the Democratic Party struggled in this election cycle. Voter engagement/turnout and the shift in traditional

strongholds were central factors in the Democratic Party's loss. Throughout the campaign, it became clear that Republican voters, particularly those who supported Donald Trump, were far more energized than their Democratic counterparts. This enthusiasm led to higher turnout in key battleground states, giving the Republican Party a significant advantage. While Trump's appeal remained strong among his base, the Democratic Party faced difficulties maintaining voter enthusiasm. Traditional strongholds—counties who reliably voted Democratic in previous elections—shifted toward Trump. This change directly resulted from the party's failure to effectively connect with the working class, who felt that

their concerns about economic stability were being overlooked in favor of progressive social issues. In a time of rising costs and economic insecurity, many voters felt the Democratic Party no longer represented their interests. The focus on social issues over economic concerns was another crucial factor in the 2024 election, which was the Democratic Party's heavy emphasis on social issues at the expense of addressing more immediate economic concerns. Issues like transgender rights, racial justice, and LGBTQ+ healthcare were prioritized, which, while important, did not resonate with many voters who were more concerned with economic stability. The economic challenges facing American families—inflation, rising *Continued on page 3*

THE 2024 ELECTION THROUGH FRANKLIN COUNTY'S EYES

by Augustus Farrell

November 5th, 2024. I'm on my way to school, and I notice something different. "Yes on 3" signs popped up—seemingly overnight—purposely in front of every "No on 3" sign on my route. We would later find out that Amendment 3 passed statewide by a margin of 1.6% (less than 100,000 votes). However, in Franklin County, it failed by 10.42% (about 12,000 votes). Here's my account of Election Day in Franklin County and its most contentious topics.

To many, Amendment 3 wasn't about abortion. Instead, it was framed as allowing "child sex-changing surgeries." There was a clear effort to undermine reproductive rights' popularity by falsely creating a fallacy of equivocation. Nowhere in Amendment 3 is there any mention of allowing minors to undergo gender-affirming surgery. Regardless, I spoke with "No on 3" electioneers in Washington Ward 1, one of Franklin County's most left-leaning jurisdictions, where 67.29% voted still for Donald Trump. Each "No on 3" electioneer said that Amendment 3 "absolutely" allows for such conditions. A few minutes after the interview, I

witnessed a mother storm out of the polling place screaming at the electioneers. Before she and her husband got into their car, I ran over and got the chance to talk to them. Here's what she had to say:

"No, I think that's ridiculous. They can't even give a kid Tylenol at school without calling their parents; they're not gonna change their sex at school... We have a trans child; we know the *Continued on page 4*



Franklin County campaign signs

Missouri's Lost Stakes

by Emily Nguyen
Liberty, 2026

President Barack Obama won his 2008 election by a dominating 365 electoral votes. He captured Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana, key swing states at the time, albeit losing one state: Missouri. Despite campaigning in the state twice in the weekend before his election, and Missouri's history as a bellwether state, accurately predicting almost every presidential election winner from 1904 to 2004, Obama still lost Missouri's 10 electoral votes to John McCain. Missouri has failed to vote for the last three Democratic presidents, going blue for the last time in 1992 for Bill Clinton. Obama lost the state again in 2012, and Missouri forever lost its swing state status.

While Missouri is very likely to continue to keep its current Republican trifecta, in the governorship, state house and state senate, and provide its 10 electoral votes to the 2028 Republican presidential candidate, some Missourians maintain that the state is *not* red.

"It's an uncontested state," answered Bethany Mann, 2024 MO-03 Democratic candidate. Mann challenged Republican candidate Bob Onder for Blaine Luetkemeyer's open seat in Missouri's 3rd congressional district during the 2024 election season. Mann believes that a lack of challenges to Republican candidates in local legislative elections were



Missouri's controversial Amendment 3 ultimately passed.

"one of the reasons Missouri has been so red," but that this discrepancy has begun to change, starting in 2022, when Missouri Democrats initiated an effort to recruit and enlist more people to run as candidates. "In just this election cycle, Missouri Democrats saw that 83% of seats in the Missouri State House and Senate were contested, which means a Democrat ran and is facing a Republican in the General Election. This is an increase of 22%, which is huge." Mann said. Alongside being a bellwether state, Missouri has been seen as an accurate microcosm of the country, with eastern and western urban cities through St. Louis and Kansas City and a red and rural center. Being a microcosm during a time of *Continued on page 4*

Was There Fraud in the 2024 Election?

by Benjamin Yates
Home School Network, 2026

Was there fraud in the 2024 election? This question has remained just as pressing today as it did in the hours directly after polls closed. And this year, it's coming from both sides of the aisle. Democrats cite possible Russian involvement in the election, the recently leaked files about the "precinct strategy", and the fact that Trump won every swing state, while Republicans express concern about malfunctioning voting machines, unlocked vote tabulators, undocumented immigrant voting, and ballot stuffing. Some are even saying that the election results from this year prove that the 2020 election was rigged. *Continued on page 3*

How Trump Won the Votes of Young Men

by Kirill Kondratyuk
Parkway West, 2027

The 2024 presidential election shook up the USA like no election before. Shockingly, Donald Trump, the former president of the United States from 2017 to 2021, won the election with a popular vote of 50.0% and the electoral vote of 312. This victory makes Trump the second president who will serve his two terms non-consecutively, the first being Grover Cleveland. But since Trump was announced as the winner, many have asked a question: How did Trump get those votes?

Soon enough, information came out that in this specific election, the group that allowed Trump to win were not people who voted for third-party candidates like Kennedy, Stein, or Oliver, and not even Muslim voters in Michigan who were disenfranchised with Harris due to her views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. No, the group that helped Trump win were men under 30. But you might ask a question: How did Trump manage to win the votes of such voters? As usual, it isn't an easy question to answer, but the main reasons are related to the economy, job opportunities, and Trump's successful promotion through popular media. First, we need to understand who the group we are talking about are. Recent polls showed that young men under 30 are *Continued on page 4*

Civitas Examiner is a newsmagazine largely written by high school students who participate in Civitas programs. This edition includes content from six students, all of whom were summer interns in the Campaign 2024 program. It includes both news and opinions. The Examiner is available both in printed copy and online, with a direct link on the [Civitas home page](#), which is where the hyperlinks in the printed copy will work.

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THE FLIP OF CAMPAIGN IMAGERY

by **Elliott Schusky**
Collinsville, 2024; Georgetown U., 2028

Regardless of your feelings about them, no one can deny that Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are both incredibly charismatic individuals. Harris' laugh rocked the internet this summer, and Trump has kept Republicans fired up since he announced his candidacy eight long years ago. Yet when it comes to how their supporters depict them, there are many differences. In 2016, when Donald Trump was first running for president, he was quick to capitalize on jokes and humorous depictions of himself. While nearly every campaign poster I saw for Hillary Clinton offered little more than her name, Trump's supporters placed signs depicting his head photoshopped onto a buff, muscled body, or even cartoons with his distinctive hair exaggerated and American-flag sunglasses over his eyes. In 2024, the dynamic seems to have shifted completely. Trump, secure and established in his place as a candidate, had signage that mostly focused on one thing: his name. Supporters of Harris, meanwhile, were the ones with cartoonish signs depicting her face over the "Brat" logo from pop-singer Charli XCX, or the candidate beneath palm trees overflowing with coconuts. I grew up in the small town of Collinsville, in

Southern Illinois, and am now attending Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Both places have offered me great opportunities to see numerous campaign signs for both political parties, while predominantly letting me see support for the more "memeable" candidate in both 2016 and 2024.

Appearing as the more interesting candidate in 2016 and the more serious candidate in 2024 both worked out very well for Donald Trump, evidently. There are many possible reasons for this switch, but one that deserves special attention is the mood of the country in each year. In 2016, the country was coming off of two Obama terms, and many people, especially the blue collar workers of American industry, felt like the country had stagnated. There was a sense that nothing was changing here, while countries like China were growing at our expense. This sense of inactivity, of national stagnation, drove many people to prefer the candidate with wild campaign posters which implied novelty and change. In 2024, the national mood was one of much more belligerent discontent and outright anger. Atrocities have been committed in Ukraine and Palestine and grocery prices have risen for many Americans. In light of these issues, many people

wanted the opposite of change. There was a desire to revert to something, even if the concept of what specifically would revert was ambiguous and diverse among Americans. Thus, voters wanted the more serious, older, and established candidate. Trump's position as the established candidate, made so physically evident by the change in his campaign posters, won him the election. ◀

Trump's comments about Haitian migrants eating pets into a popular Tiktok sound, despite most of the KamalaHQ staff being of caucasian descent. [@_anastasiagracia_](#) viewed the action as a mockery to the Haitian community.

Social media will continue to dominate politics, where the Ed Markey's of the world will continue to endorse brat summer, but social media has not gone too far. In fact, social media may not have done enough for Harris or her campaign.

Hanson asserts that Kamala Harris' "campaign is playing into their idea of Gen-Z, but not telling me anything about her actual vision or addressing my problems and fears."

Contrastingly, the KamalaHQ Republican-equivalent, TeamTrump, approached the realm of Tiktok with more of a balance. For example, their comedic jabs at the Harris-Walz ticket were posted alongside a more informative video of Trump speaking to his supporters about his tax policy.

While Gen-Z followed Kamala Harris' campaign through a path of brat and coconut laced rhetoric, her campaign's social media tactics failed to deliver the information that truly mattered: her policies, beliefs, and promises. When "[politics] becomes something you see everywhere," Boschert said, it can dominate the internet in a way that pushes aside the important policies and promises we ultimately elect politicians for.

While brat united the young masses of Tiktok and Instagram, it lacked the accompaniment of Harris' campaign platform that could have powerfully appealed to a larger audience and given the United States its first female president. Social media will continue to be an important tool in future elections, but the results of the 2024 election suggests that we must use it wisely. Brat did not go too far, it did too little. ◀

by **Emily Nguyen**
Liberty, 2026

Did Brat go too far?

The election of 2016 saw the rise of a very important and novel campaign tactic: tweeting. Using the social media platform, Twitter, under [@realDonaldTrump](#), the frequent tweets of the 45th and now 47th president Donald Trump gained widespread notoriety, during and after his 2016 presidential campaign. Former U.S. Press Secretary Sean Spicer, once even stated that his tweets should be taken as "official statements".

The broader world of social media and the internet have found an increasingly important role in another presidential election. In the election year of 2024, podcasts are dominating conservative spheres and a Gen-Z media task force catapulted Vice President Kamala Harris to memedom. This time, tweets guided a spontaneous political movement when English singer-songwriter Charli XCX tweeted a simple three word phrase: "kamala IS brat"

Brat was the sixth studio album released by Charli XCX in June of 2024, branding the warm season as "brat summer". Transforming the meaning of "brat" from a spoiled child, to someone exuding confidence and being unapologetically bold, brat became an internet phenomenon. XCX's tweet linked Harris with the lime green concept of brat and connected the former California senator with the progressive Gen-Z community lingering on Twitter, Tiktok, and Instagram.

Kamala Harris and her political campaign became synonymous with brat, igniting an excited fanbase of young people in support of Harris for president. Before Harris had even announced Minnesota governor Tim Walz as her running mate or expanded on her policies, homages to brat alongside Harris' "you think you just fell out of a coconut tree" quote were fed to the Tiktok feeds of young voters. The influence of social media on political campaigns rose to a new height in the 2024 presidential election, when the Harris campaign employed an intern-managed Tiktok account, [@KamalaHQ](#), that regularly released content targeted at Gen-Z with heavy emphasis on memes and pop culture incorporated with Harris' image. Accompanying her

meme taskforce were an impressive roster of political activists turned social media sensations including John F. Kennedy's grandson and resident millennial, Jack Schlossberg, who took on the mission of creating countless social media videos supporting Harris in light of "how social media is now central to political campaigns".

Likewise, becoming viral following his dance at a Harris rally, former Georgia High School Democrats Chairman, Parker Short, skyrocketed to Tiktok stardom with content centered around voting for Harris and supporting Georgian Democrats during the 2024 election season.

"I think it's kind of scary the way that pop culture and politics is becoming so fused together," said Keena Boschert, a junior at Liberty High School in Lake St. Louis, MO.

Voters were constantly and consistently rushed political content from Harris and Trump for the duration of their campaigns. To many, the addictive and nonstop algorithm found in social media apps like Instagram and Tiktok makes it so that "every single thing has some sort of political connotation to it," Boschert said. "I think that's why recent politics seem so intense and aggressive."


When politicians are increasingly using social media, there is also an increasingly large rate of misunderstanding and misrepresenting young people, the demographic that uses the internet the most, and whole demographics of people most importantly voters.

"I just feel put off by [Harris] at times," said Olivia Hanson, a junior at Paradise Honors High School in Surprise, Arizona. "She's the candidate who's meant to represent me and my interests," comments Hanson who feels that Kamala Harris' use of social media was "almost as if she's preaching a caricature of [Black women]."


Tiktok user [@_anastasiagracia_](#) felt a similar way, creating a video criticizing how KamalaHQ turned

Upcoming Civitas Events


Sat., Jan. 11, 10 AM, Xrds
[St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) Education Reporter Blythe Bernhard on schools and journalism.



Sat., Jan. 25, 10 AM, Xrds
 Former UN and NATO Peacekeeper Bill Wallace talks about experiences in Bosnia.



Sat., Feb. 1, 10 AM, Xrds
[Civitas Examiner](#) Staff talks about Campaign 2024 and what lies ahead. ... Also, open discussion on topics of students' choice.



312 TO 227

WOKEISM KILLS *CONTINUED*

Charles Giraud

Continued from page 1 healthcare costs, and job insecurity—took a backseat in the party's messaging.

For many voters, particularly those in battleground states, the economic message of the Democratic Party fell short. While progressive social policies are significant, they do not address the day-to-day struggles at the forefront of most Americans' minds. As prices on essential goods continued to rise and job security remained uncertain, voters looked for candidates who would provide practical solutions to their economic problems. The Democratic Party's focus on social issues, while necessary for certain communities, ultimately alienated a large portion of the electorate who felt their economic concerns were not being adequately addressed.

The Democratic Party's defeat was also significantly influenced by Kamala Harris's lack of clear direction and leadership challenges. Throughout the campaign, Harris struggled to present a clear and consistent message, particularly on immigration. The Biden administration faced significant challenges with managing the U.S.-Mexico border, and Harris's failure to offer a definitive stance left many voters uncertain about how she would address this critical issue. A more

Fraud in the 2024 Election *CONTINUED*

Benjamin Yates

Continued from page 1 Both parties seemed concerned about bomb threats centered around swing states.

Generally, the Republicans have the largest social media presence, so we'll discuss their claims first. One of the most oft-cited claims I came across in my research was that there was no fraud in this election, but that the numbers this year are proof of fraud in 2020. A few posts on X will demonstrate.

11/6/2024 3:21 PM @therealrosanne; reposted 14,771 times: The funniest thing I'm seeing is Dems saying the election was rigged because there was huge turnout last night and there are 20 million less votes for Kamala. lol.

11/6/2024 12:57 PM @DineshDSouza; reposted 33,774 times: Kamala got 60 million votes in 2024. Does anyone really believe Biden got 80 million in 2020? Where did those 20 million Democratic votes go? The truth is, they never existed. I think we can put the lie about Biden's 80 million votes to rest once and for all. Another user, @zerohedge, posted a graph showing popular votes in millions in 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024, the 2020 bar being almost twice as big as the others, proving that 20 million.

However, these arguments are false. The graph, which all the rest of the posts are basing their statistics on, is intentionally misleading. It was published at a time during the election night when the popular vote counted thus far was relatively similar to the 2012 and 2016 results, causing 2020 to look like the odd one out, but if it had been published later, it would have shown that the 2024 turnout was similar to the 2020 one, which means that nothing fraudulent took place: it's just that people had more motivation to vote those two years.

@zerohedge has a history of posting misleading or false graphs, one of these showing an overall downward trend in atmospheric CO2 levels.

Some particularly viral posts described the idea of "mules" being used to sway the election results by ballot

precise position on immigration could have helped her appeal to undecided voters concerned about border security.

Moreover, many Democrats felt that the nomination process was too centralized around Harris. The perception that her candidacy was handed to her without an open primary race left little room for other candidates to offer different perspectives or generate excitement. This lack of competition within the party likely led to diminished enthusiasm among voters, further impacting turnout. Without a broader and more transparent discussion about the party's direction, the Democratic Party struggled to rally its base. Moving forward for the Democratic Party should look at the 2024 election as a wake-up call for change. ←

stuffing, which is an idea that first gained popularity after the 2020 election. Dinesh D'Souza, the poster of the latter tweet above, made the idea famous with his book and film "2000 Mules" and other, later publications. The concept is as follows: A worker, known as a mule, picks up a large quantity of ballots from a nonprofit, drops them off at a ballot drop box in the dead of night, and repeats as many times as is necessary to flip the election. However, the movie makers hired actors to pretend to stuff ballots as they had no actual footage of mules, hiding their credits at the tail end of the movie. They also based their conclusions on inaccurate cell phone tracking data, which would give a positive result if the person in question so much as drove by a polling location. And let's not forget that the film was funded by and filmed partially in Russia.

Other allegations of voter fraud had to do with undocumented immigrants voting, which has been proven to be unfounded, and malfunctions in voting machines and vote tabulators, in which the situations were resolved with no fraudulent activity taking place. Inaccurate cell phone tracking data, which would give a positive result if the person in question so much as drove by a polling location. And let's not forget that the film was funded by and filmed partially in Russia.

However, there were also concerns raised by Democrats, saying that the election was rigged against them in two ways: one, that the media about the candidates had been tampered with before the election, using deep-faking technologies or Russia altering the text of legitimate articles, and two, that Trump won every swing state.

There is nothing I can do to allay the first of these concerns, as it is a fact that this is happening: AI models

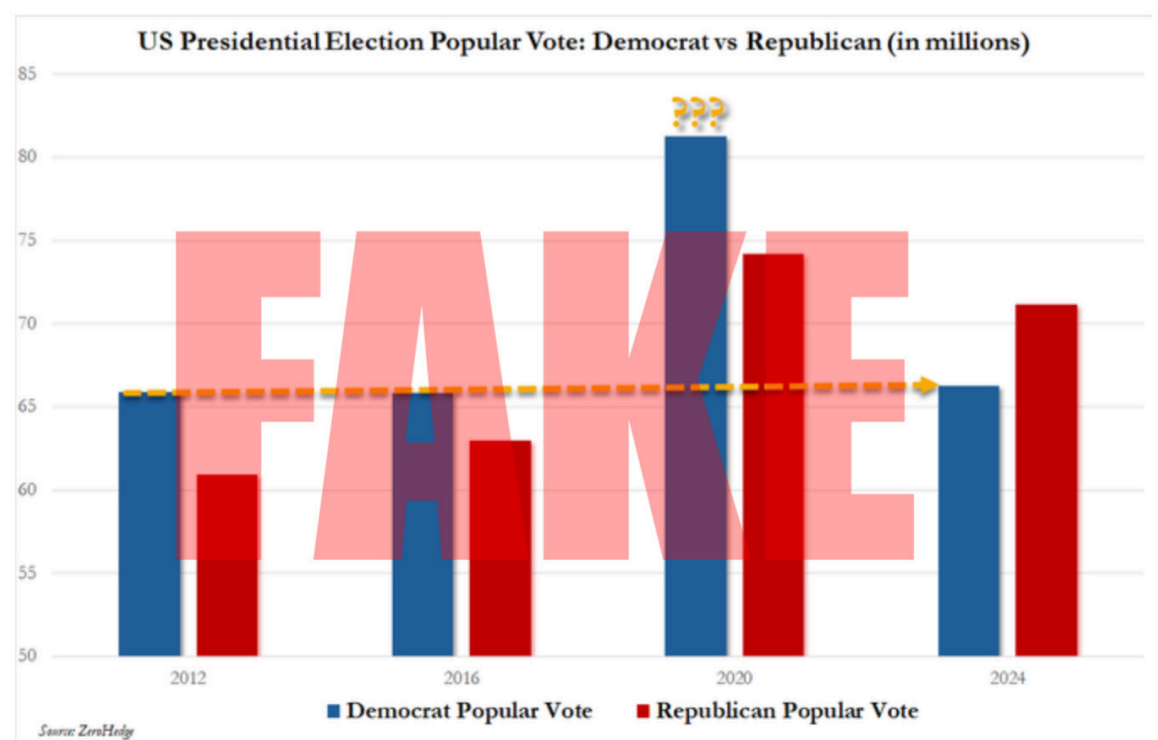


In 2025, the U.S. will see a unified Republican government.

are improving and creating increasingly more realistic results, and it may have skewed the results of the election. For the second of these, I will turn to a set of leaked documents known as the "precinct strategy". These detail how the Republican party intends to challenge every submitted ballot in order to stall voting, and could have been used in Democrat-leaning precincts to ensure that by the end of Election Day, lines would still be long and filled with people who were not able to vote. It is hard to pinpoint exactly if and when this happened, as it would masquerade as functioning, unbiased election protocol, but there is a good chance it did.

There is one more important allegation to discuss: the bomb threats. As Election Night wore on, dozens of bomb threats were issued to polling places along the east coast and in other swing states. As the threats were all issued from Russian email domains, this raised obvious concerns about foreign interference. It could not exactly be considered election fraud, as it was not an internal, malevolent effort to alter results, but it most definitely put on pause the workings of a free and fair election until the issue could be resolved and polling hours in the affected areas were extended. I would suggest that the FBI conduct a thorough investigation into the sources of the threats and how they can be prevented in the future.

So, was there fraud in the 2024 election? Possibly, but there are numerous safeguards in place to ensure it does not happen, and the answer may also be very subjective (although people are generally in agreement that there was some outside tampering). Just remember to get news from a trusted, unbiased source, and come to your own conclusions about current events. Because, after voting, that really is the most important part of being an informed citizen. ←



Twitter arguments regarding the possibility of fraud in the 2024 election were fueled by one graph.

Executive Order 9066... Will History Repeat Itself?

by Leanna J.D. Haynes
Home School Network, 2027

Executive Order 9066 – the executive order that Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) issued on February 19, 1942, which “authorized the forced removal of all persons deemed a threat to national security from the West Coast to ‘relocation centers’ further inland—resulting in the incarceration of Japanese Americans.” (National Archives, January 24, 2022.) These “relocation centers” quickly became known by their correct names: internment camps. Over 122,000 Japanese Americans, over 60% of which were American citizens, were placed in these camps to live for almost four years. Because of how fast this order was issued after the bombing and the follow-up Public Proclamation No. 4 (March 29, 1942) issued by Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt of the Western Defense Command, Japanese American home and

business owners had to sell their properties and businesses for pennies on the dollar, sometimes for nothing, and this resulted in over \$2.7 billion in losses plus loss of all their personal liberties. In wake of the upcoming 2024 election and Project 2025, let us revisit Executive Order 9066 and see how history can easily repeat itself.

Who were Japanese Americans in 1942? They were men, women, children, parents, husbands, wives, siblings, relatives, friends, and communities. They were productive members of society who brought their skills from working in the Hawaiian fields to the west coast of mainland USA and cultivated farmlands. They were enterprising business owners. They were good workers. They were people building lives for themselves and their families. They were peaceful people. They were American citizens.

So, why did they become a target? After Japan attacked the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii, lobbyists feared

that the Japanese Americans in the US were ‘alien’ enemies, traitors, and potential spies for the Japanese government. There was no proof of this being true and no plots uncovered to support it. This was simply a fear that caused lobbyists to insist that the President and Congress make and enforce this order. It's worth noting that Francis Biddle, the 58th US Attorney General, who was serving in office at the time, opposed Executive Order 9066, along with some of FDR's other advisors. However, their opposition to the order was not enough to stop its implementation.

Because most of the Asian communities were on the west coast, the entire west coast was declared a military zone. They started calling the Japanese Americans ‘Japs’ which was a derogatory term with the stigma similar to that of African Americans being called the N-Word. The Japanese Americans were then confined to barb-wired internment camps for up to four years in ten areas within Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. *Continued on page 4*

FRANKLIN COUNTY *CONTINUED*

Augustus Farrell



Continued from page 1 the process it takes to get them to point A to point B. Sex change isn't even on the table. It wasn't even discussed...It's not a thing [on the ballot]."

Only in Pacific's 3rd district did "Yes" on Amendment 3 gain over 50% of the vote. The margin?

Twelve votes. Supposedly, there was a man holding a huge cardboard cutout resembling a human fetus at a Union polling place. Witnesses report the man was continuously snacking on chips while waving the sign.

Another main divide was the hopeful Democratic candidates, primarily: Ray Hartmann, Lucas Kunc, Crystal Quade, and Kamala Harris. Ray Hartmann's best performance (33.53%) was a tie between Washington 4 and Pacific 3. In total, he received 26.36% of Franklin County's votes. Lucas Kunc performed the best out of the Democrats, having received 30.23% of all votes. He received the best performances in Pacific 3 (37.81%) and Washington 4 (37.25%). Crystal Quade got 25.28% of the total vote and did best in the same two districts (around 32%). Interestingly, some high schoolers mentioned they thought Kamala Harris would win the national election. While they overwhelmingly voted for (or supported) Donald Trump, they "were sure she "would win." In



Franklin County, Kamala Harris got 26.50% of the total vote. Her best performances were in Washington, Pacific, and Union, where she had around 30% of the vote. I interviewed people at 3 polling places: Washington 1, Washington 4, and Gildehaus. At Washington 4, a notable amount of people emphasized having a moral and empathetic conscience as being necessary in their interviews, most likely as a dig at Donald Trump. Is it a coincidence that the only polling place that is a public library is the most Democratic-leaning district (or one of them)? There was a noticeable difference between Washington and Gildehaus. I picked Gildehaus because it aligned most similarly with the rest of Franklin County's voting (high 70% for Trump). There, no one wanted to go in-depth and mainly said Conservative talking points. Many of those interviewed appeared to have their mind made up on candidates but not necessarily issues.

I asked one man a question asking what he thought about the Electoral College. He responded, "I don't know much about that whole politics side. I'm more about God and Jesus, that's the only thing we need in this world." Support for absentee voting appeared to be about half-and-half.

Above all, Franklin County voters prioritized responsibility, compassion, dedication to the American people, and practicing what they preach. They talked about dignity. ◀

Executive Order 9066 *CONTINUED*

Leanna J.D. Haynes

Continued from page 3 Inside these camps they were treated like prisoners, left to sleep in horse stables, not fed sufficiently, and forced to live in unsanitary conditions. As if the poor living conditions were not enough, while in internment camps, they were put into circumstances where those with American citizenship had hardly any other choice than to give it up, forcefully and without due process. The government used a loyalty questionnaire with two very problematic questions: #27 and #28. "27. Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?"

"28. Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?" Those who answered "no" and "no" to these questions were forced to move away from what had become their "homes" to the biggest internment camp with the highest security of all of them: Tule Lake in California. Once there, they were put on trial and had to go through a long legal process for many years in order to regain their citizenship. A lawyer by the name of Wayne Collins made it his call of duty to help as many Japanese Americans as he could to regain their citizenship on the basis that their 5th amendment was violated: "No person shall be...deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." He fought Executive Order 9066 all the way to the Supreme Court. Some Japanese Americans regained their citizenship and were not deported. Some were not as fortunate. Therefore, many had to go to Japan, a country which they did not know but had no choice other than to familiarize themselves with it. After many, many years, the American government apologized to the Japanese Americans. On February 19, 1976, (its 34th anniversary) President Gerald Ford signed a document saying that Executive Order 9066 was officially terminated. He said, "We now know what we should have known then — not only was that evacuation wrong but Japanese Americans were and are loyal Americans." This formal and legal confession, along with \$20,000 to each person who was incarcerated, was what was given as an apology. The Executive Order 9066 was brutal, inhumane, and unconstitutional. It cost tens of thousands of Americans their livelihoods, their families, and their feeling of belonging. It was cruel and unforgivable to put them there, let them build communities, and then uproot them because of their answers on a test. It was evil and unacceptable to take them from their original homes in the first place. The compensation was a good thing to do, but what the

American government did to people of Japanese descent will never be forgotten. The apology is still appreciated today. It was a start to the healing process, but it can never make up for the damage that the order caused. Now here we are with the 2024 Presidential election in just over 100 days. The effects of one of the parties' agenda looks heavily like the effects of Executive Order 9066, but with even more events. Have we, as a nation, learned from our mistakes? In 2018 we saw the Supreme Court ruling in Trump v. Hawaii where in her dissent Justice Sotomayer says that this decision "redeploys the same dangerous logic underlying Korematsu and merely replaces one gravely wrong decision with another." Again, I ask have we, as a nation, learned from our mistakes? Will history repeat itself with Project 2025? ◀

Lost Stakes *CONTINUED*

Emily Nguyen

Continued from page 1 political polarization that is alienating American voters, Missouri may provide hints about the current and future political state of the nation.

Extremist politicians who have far-right stances contribute to Missouri's political polarization and they continue to win despite controversy. Comparatively, the American people have chosen an objectively polarizing figure as their president-elect in Donald Trump, who virtually had nothing in common policy-wise with opponent Kamala Harris, and who has had his own share of controversy and scandals. The American people also helped to elect politicians lending to the Republican majority in the U.S House and Senate. Harris in contrast, actively tried to appeal to the opposing side, even receiving endorsements from Republican Liz Cheney, to no significant sign of voter realignment from moderate conservatives.

Similar to the current nation as a whole, Missouri is largely aligned with the Republican party. There is no doubt that Missouri and the United States are politically polarized, but the answer to fixing a divided state and nation may be much simpler than what you think. "People want to shift away from more of the toxic, vitriolic animosity that happened between parties." Mann commented. One of Mann's own campaign strategies was to "meet people where they're at" by discussing everyday issues that impact them and their families, including infrastructure issues, healthcare access, public education, and inflation. While both liberals and conservatives will isolate and defame the other side's policies,

The Votes of Young Men *CONTINUED*

Kirill Kondratyuk

Continued from page 1 some of the most undecided voters in America, and to win an election in a swing state, the candidate must somehow have this specific group to vote for him. One such issue facing these men was the economy and job opportunities. Many of them saw Trump as a better choice, as he made huge promises regarding new jobs, which especially drew in Latino and Black men, as both communities have had historical problems with lacking employment and living in poverty.

Additionally, his promises of price cuts and tax relief provided him extra support from these communities. Most importantly, the reason Trump won the hearts and votes of these men was simple: he was successful in marketing his campaign. For example, Trump purposefully served fries at McDonald's to appeal to the working class. In another infamous example, after Biden called Trump supporters "garbage," Trump drove in a garbage truck with his campaign on the truck side. We must admit that Trump knows how to use a specific situation in his favor, which is why Trump did these two weird stunts.

Finally, the action that helped Trump win young men's votes was brilliant and simple: Trump went to some popular talk shows. He understood that many young men watch these programs, so his campaign decided that the best way to win was to have Trump appear on these shows. The best example was when he went to Joe Rogan for an interview. Now, the interview contained a bunch of conspiracy theories, including the classical promotion of a false claim that the Democrats stole the 2020 election from him. However, Trump still managed to attract these young voters for a simple reason: many people watch Joe Rogan; it is simply one of the most popular podcasts. By going to the podcast, former president Trump successfully promoted himself by getting interviewed by a famous podcaster and successfully spreading his campaign proposals to the audience, most of whom are young men.



Charlie Kirk, pro-Trump, conservative political commentator, has amassed 2.75 million Youtube subscribers, with content reacting to "Lib Meltdowns" and debating "Socialist Hippies" that appeals to an audience of young men.

In conclusion, the way Trump won the votes of 30-year-old men, the most undecided voters in this election, is quite simple: he exploited cases like that of McDonald's and the garbage truck in his favor, as well as Trump being able to promote himself by going onto popular podcasts and having his campaigns economic policies appeal more to Hispanics and African-Americans, both groups who have had problems with poverty. Honestly, the way Trump won the votes was simple and genius. ◀

specifically regarding social issues, there are always problems that plague nearly every American. "Our beliefs are really straight down the middle most of the time," Mann said.

At the same time, Missourians helped to pass Amendment 3, overturning Missouri's complete abortion ban with no exceptions, both a healthcare issue and a social justice issue. A topic that has plagued and divided conservatives and liberals, found success in an overtly polarized state, showing some semblance of common ground between Missourians. Some voters will use the "R" or "D" next to a candidate's name as a "cheat code" for voting which makes it easier for a candidate's only presence in the given community to be campaign signage or easy to skip political ads.

Mann attributed some of her campaign successes to the fact that voters are "not used to Democrats showing up at the ice cream social over at the farm or other at Potosi, but I'll show up and talk to people anyway." Voters need to cast votes for politicians who have shown up in their community and who will better understand the ailments of their constituents. "People are going to fall one side or the other," said St. Charles Democratic Central Committee



Compared to her opponent and Representative-Elect Bob Onder, who was endorsed by both Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, Bethany Mann emphasized a unified Missouri.

Chairman, Don Looney, but without emphasis on these common issues and voting for the candidates who will represent the people best regardless of political party, the "one-party" systems seen in Missouri's political color will only alienate voters further. "I believe that when the American people put their minds together to do something, anything can be accomplished, including bridging across political divides and building up our nation." Mann said. Like in Mann's campaign literature, it is time we focus on "bringing Missourians together, so that perhaps then, Americans can come together as well. ◀