



## TRUMP TRIUMPHS, SI REACTS

Lucas Liang '26 and Tai Morganson '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



Photo c/o Reuters/Brian Snyder

Donald Trump takes the stage in Palm Beach, Florida, to deliver his victory speech.

Donald Trump has been returned to power, winning every battleground state in a 312-226 Electoral College victory against Vice President Kamala Harris. The former president is now, once again, the president-elect. Trump's win stirred reactions at SI.

An *Inside SI* online poll of 481 students conducted in October found that 21.8% of SI students supported the former president. Colin Prescott '26 offered to share his reasons for supporting the Republican nominee.

"I'm pretty happy," Prescott told *Inside SI* when asked for his reaction to the election results. "I wanted [Trump] to win, because I think that he will help our economy, help our borders overall, [and] help our people more."

Prescott's comments mirror the views of many Trump voters across the country. These two issues—the economy and immigration—drove millions of Americans to vote for the former president this year.

Meanwhile, for the majority of SI students, the presidential election results were disheartening. The October *Inside SI* poll found that 66.7% of students supported Harris.

"I'm disappointed, really disappointed," Ellie Lee '26 told *Inside SI*. "I think it's interesting how many people wanted to vote for Trump and how it turned out."

Prescott's main issues—the economy and immigration—drove millions of Americans to vote from Trump this year.

Trump has promised to boost the economy by lowering inflation and bringing down costs while simultaneously enacting sweeping new tariffs on imported goods. He also pledged to cut regulations, especially on fossil fuel production. Most economists

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### SPECIAL EDITION: A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

HEY SI! THE ELECTION IS OVER, AND MOST OF THE RESULTS ARE IN. AFTER THIS HISTORIC ELECTION WITH COMPETITIVE RACES UP-AND-DOWN THE BALLOT, WE WANTED TO SHARE THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND INSIGHTS OF THE SI COMMUNITY. DURING THESE DIVISIVE TIMES, WE HOPE INSIDE SI CAN SERVE AS A FORUM FOR CREATING COMMON GROUND, CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE, AND RESPECTFUL DISAGREEMENT. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS SPECIAL EDITION AND HAVE A RESTFUL THANKSGIVING BREAK!

- EVELYN CONBOY '26, LUCAS LIANG '26,  
JORDAN LIU '26, ANNIKA WATKINS '26 -  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

## MAYOR'S RACE SURPRISES SI

Lucas Liang '26 and Annika Watkins '26 Associate Editors-in-Chief

With 55% of the final round votes, Daniel Lurie has won the San Francisco mayoral race. Lurie, a nonprofit founder and multimillionaire Levi Strauss heir, beat a crowded field that included incumbent Mayor London Breed and SI alum Mark Farrell '92. Lurie's win left some SI students surprised and others disappointed.

In an October *Inside SI* poll of 481 students, Lurie received just 10.8% support. Farrell, in contrast, was heavily backed by SI students. He secured 61.5% support in the *Inside SI* poll.

Charlotte Parker '25 wasn't shocked by Lurie's win, but she was "somewhat surprised by the overall

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## AFFINITY X-PERIOD: ELECTION REFLECTION

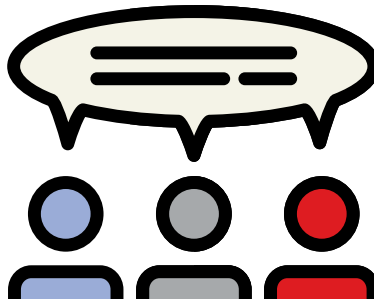
Jordan Liu '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, November 12, students gathered in their respective affinity groups to discuss reactions to the election. Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts, beliefs, and opinions on the matter. Participants upheld the Principles of Constructive Dialogue, creating safety and respect so that students could offer a variety of responses. Students reviewed themes of division between groups, personal growth, and education on the election.

Moderators reviewed confidentiality statements, creating a safe environment for students to openly express their thoughts. Student facilitators briefly discussed rules of respect and listening, emphasizing that the event was a place to reflect rather than a place to vent.

ASC member Maya Briones '25 shared, "I liked how they said that it's not a therapy session and it's not a discussion, it's for listening. It's good to have a place to listen and to have your voice be heard."



Students expressed a sentiment of openness that fostered connection and understanding. JAG member Alex Goldberg '26 said, "We were able to express our own opinions. It allows us to bridge any divisions we may have and build a stronger community."

BSU member Pamela Jones '26 added, "It was a productive conversation because it allowed myself and others to reflect on the election, and it provided a safe space to talk about our opinions, especially when it can be hard to find places where our voices are heard and understood."

One common thread these discussions had were SI's role in student support. Participants called for more similar events to reflect on impactful societal shifts. Most of all, students asked for more education on the background of the election and the systems that shape our world. As an educational institution, students said SI must continue its mission of instruction including education on the world's most pressing topics.

## MR. DEVITT'S MOCK PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Jordan Liu '26 & Evelyn Conboy '26

Associate Editors-in-Chief

Mr. Dan Devitt's Constitutional Law and Government class brought the electoral process to room 109. In a dynamic mock election project, Andreas Garcia '25, Nate Landis '25 and Silvio Oberto '25 represented the "Conservative," "Liberal," and "Independent" parties, respectively. Each candidate presented on six pressing issues of this year's election: abortion, immigration, the economy, foreign policy, gun control, and climate change.

Liberal candidate Landis shared his insights as a candidate, emphasizing the importance of "appealing and understanding the audience." Reflecting on the experience, Landis shared, "With our class, I knew I could elaborate on certain topics because we as a class had a better understanding compared to the US population. In a real election, public image and self-marketing would be much more important, but in this class, we could mainly focus on policy."

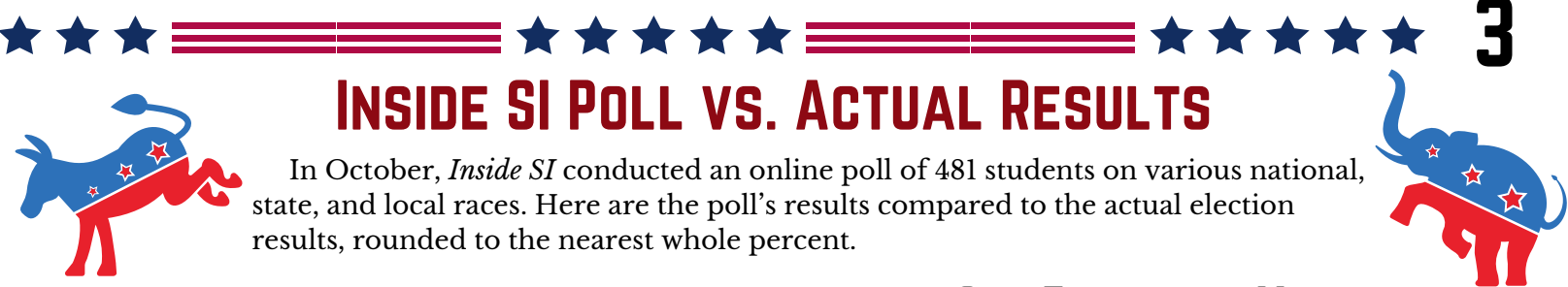
Conservative candidate Garcia and Independent candidate Oberto both did not respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Devitt praised his students' professionalism, saying, "In contrast to the adults they see in the media, our election was run tastefully and seriously with political differences displayed in a manner conducive to what we expect from our SI students."

*Candidates Andreas Garcia '25 (left), Silvio Oberto '25 (middle), and Nate Landis '25 (right) campaign in class.*



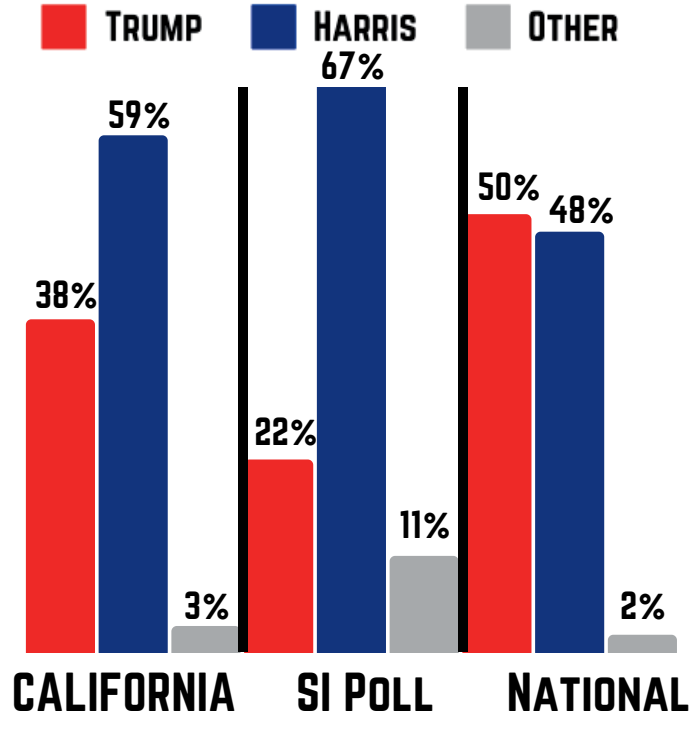
*Photo c/o Mr. Devitt*



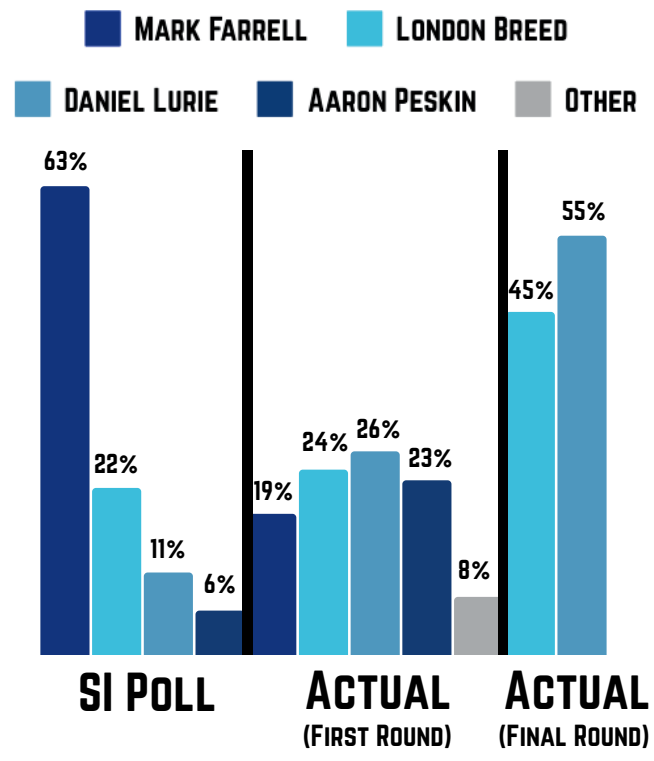
# INSIDE SI POLL VS. ACTUAL RESULTS

In October, *Inside SI* conducted an online poll of 481 students on various national, state, and local races. Here are the poll's results compared to the actual election results, rounded to the nearest whole percent.

## PRESIDENT

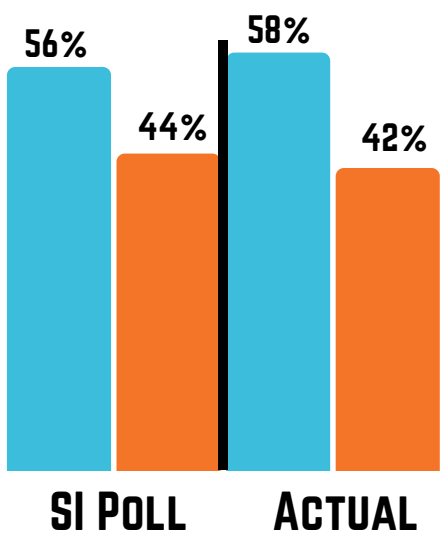


## SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR



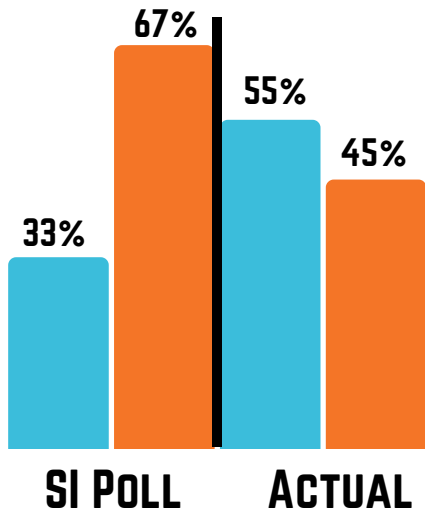
## PROP 2

ISSUING \$10 BILLION IN BONDS TO FUND PUBLIC SCHOOL UPGRADES AND REPAIRS.



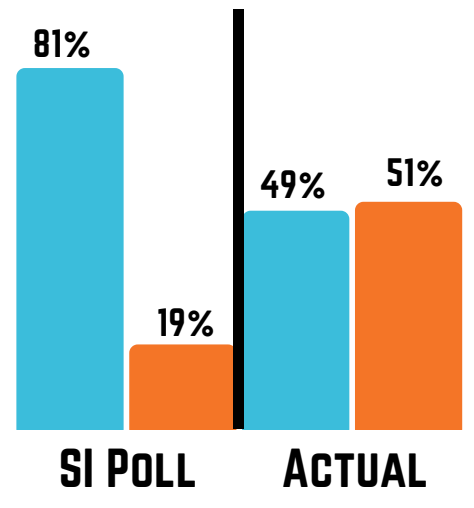
## PROP K (SAN FRANCISCO)

CLOSING THE UPPER GREAT HIGHWAY TO CARS AND TURNING IT INTO AN OPEN RECREATION SPACE.



## PROP 32

RAISING THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$18 AN HOUR.





# TRUMP TRIUMPHS, SI REACTS

Lucas Liang '26 and Tai Morganson '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

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agree that tariffs, in the end, raise costs for consumers. However, Trump believes that foreign countries and companies will foot the bill for these new fees without passing on costs to American buyers.

On immigration, Trump has promised to carry out mass deportations of the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants living and working in the U.S. He has also pledged to curb undocumented entries at the southern border. He has pledged to revive policies from his first administration, such as the Remain in Mexico policy for those seeking asylum.

For other Trump supporters, their vote was a rebuke of Harris and her campaign.

"I'm happy about the election results," Monty Tipton '25 said, "just because I didn't know what Kamala was actually running for, and so I needed to vote for someone who actually had a clear political outcome."

Prescott and Tipton are among the millions of young men who supported Trump this year, many of whom backed the former president for the first time. An NBC News exit poll found that Harris beat Trump among young male voters aged 18-29 by just 2%, down from President Joe Biden's 11% margin with young men in 2020.

For many Democratic voters, especially women, reproductive rights were at the forefront of this year's election. Speaking to *Inside SI*, Lee said her biggest concern was Project 2025 and a potential national abortion ban. "I feel like it's very dystopian," Lee noted.



*Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris debated each other on Sept. 10.*

The specter of gender also hung over the race. Harris, a Black and Asian American native of the Bay Area, was the second woman to run against Trump, and the second woman to lose.

When asked whether she thought Trump's win was tied to misogyny, Lee responded swiftly. "Obviously," she said.

For other Harris voters, their choice was driven by a desire for stability. "Ultimately, she didn't come across as radical in the sense she isn't unpredictable," Griffin Legg '25, a Harris voter, said.

Other disappointed students are trying to forge a path forward for the next four years. Kate Ozaeta '26 told *Inside SI*, "People are just so lost right now, but at this moment, we need to find people who we know, who really share our same values and also not shut down other people who we disagree with." Kate continued, "Overall, we need community and hope."

Now, as the election results sink in, many students are trying to move on. "I'm a little disappointed," Trevor Foss '26 said. "But you can't get too hung up on it. It's a democratic process, after all."

## CALIFORNIA REJECTS MINIMUM WAGE HIKE

Lucas Liang '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

By less than 2% of the vote, Californians narrowly rejected Prop 32, which would've increased the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour from \$16 an hour.

Among the dozens of races on this year's ballot, Prop 32 was especially salient for SI students. Most student workers in Marin and on the peninsula earn the \$16 an hour current minimum wage. The minimum wage in San Francisco is already \$18.67 an hour.

The vast majority of SI students supported Prop 32. 81% of respondents in an *Inside SI* October poll said they would have voted "yes" on the measure.

Among them was Chance White '25, a lifeguard making minimum wage in Marin, who said, "I'm disappointed in Californians." White added, "I'm going

to still be paid \$16 an hour, which is less than San Francisco's minimum wage and frustrating overall."

When asked whether Prop 32 would've affected him, Aiden Gray '26, a restaurant worker who makes minimum wage in Marin, said, "I still make plenty of money, so it's not a huge deal for me. But I think if I was a working class person, that I would want [an \$18 hour minimum wage] to be put in place." Gray also said that "there's definitely a livable wage problem."

Prop 32 was mostly opposed by business groups. They argued that a minimum wage increase would force some small businesses to close and raise costs for consumers. In an election heavily influenced by inflation, these arguments were convincing for a small majority of California voters.



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Lucas Liang '26 and Annika Watkins '26

Associate Editors-in-Chief

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margins." Parker, a San Francisco resident, told *Inside SI*, "I thought Mark Farrell would have received a larger percentage of the vote than he did."

In the end, Lurie received 26.4% of the first choice votes and 55% support in the final round, beating Breed's 45% in the last round. Meanwhile, Farrell placed fourth with 18.5% in the first round.

For local elections, San Francisco uses ranked-choice voting, a system that asks voters to rank up to ten candidates. When the votes are counted, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their voters' votes are distributed to the remaining candidates based on the voter's ranked choices. This process continues until someone has over 50% of the vote.

Throughout the year, several SI students volunteered or interned with the Farrell campaign. Among them was Alexander Salentine '26, who said, "I was obviously disappointed when Mark Farrell unfortunately lost the mayoral election."

Salentine offered an explanation for Farrell's loss, telling *Inside SI*, "Both Farrell and Lurie ran on similar platforms and split the electorate of voters who wanted moderate and common sense change...Lurie just happened to get a bigger share of these people."

Lurie and Farrell were both challenging Breed, a fellow political moderate who was first elected mayor in 2018. As mayor, Breed steered the city through multiple crises. She was lauded for her handling of the pandemic, with fewer San Franciscans dying from COVID-19 relative to other major American cities. However, a spike in property crime, a rise in drug overdoses on city streets, a slow downtown pandemic recovery, and several corruption scandals made many San Franciscans angry and left room for political challengers.

Farrell, a former member of the Board of Supervisors and the interim mayor following Mayor Ed Lee's sudden death, ran on a law and order platform that focused on increasing police staffing and cleaning up city streets. In a pre-election interview with *Inside SI*, Farrell criticized Breed, saying she had "failed our city." Farrell also called for change and said that the "opportunity to...write a new chapter in San Francisco is incredibly exciting." That change, however, wouldn't end up coming from Farrell. His support peaked early in the campaign, with some polls finding him in second place. However, he gradually lost support to Lurie over the course of the campaign.



London Breed

Daniel Lurie

Mark Farrell '92

Lurie ran on a promise of change similar to Farrell's. In a pre-election email reply to *Inside SI*, Lurie wrote, "My vision for San Francisco is a place where everyone can feel safe and have opportunities to succeed." Throughout his campaign, Lurie stressed public safety and the need for more police. He also pledged to shut down open-air drug markets, build more housing, and root out corruption.

As someone who has never served in elected office, Lurie differentiated himself through his outsider image and by painting his opponents as corrupt City Hall insiders. He introduced himself to voters by pouring \$8 million of his own money into a massive campaign that inundated San Francisco households with mailers and dominated the airwaves. There is no limit for a candidate donating to their own campaign. Lurie had, by far, the most well-funded campaign.

As Princewill Onyebuchi '26 noted, "Lurie had a huge campaign that seemed to resonate with San Franciscans."

The other major candidate in the race, Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, finished third with 23% in the first round. Peskin, a progressive stalwart, has served on-and-off on the city's legislature since 2001. During an election in which public safety and street conditions overshadowed rent control and tenant protections, Peskin struggled to build support outside his left-wing base. He got only 5.8% support in the *Inside SI* poll.

In a year when many San Franciscans were frustrated with their current political leadership, voters opted for Lurie, someone with no experience in elected office, over other candidates with a combined 43 years in City Hall. Lurie will be the first San Francisco mayor since 1911 to have never held prior public office.

# HOW OUR ELECTIONS WORK

Jordan Liu '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

*Inside SI* sat down with US History and Government: Race, Gender, Power teacher Ms. Medina Zevas for an interview about our nation's political system. As a member of the teacher advisory board for the National Constitution Center, she provided insight on the relationship between the Constitution and the presidential election system.



## How was our election system created as part of The Constitution?

"The Constitution sets up a representative democracy. The elections that impact people greatly are the local and state elections. For those, the Constitution provides power to the states; states have control over everything about elections and how they are run. The other half of the Election Clause says that Congress can pass legislation that overrides that of the states. They give a framework put into effect by the states. Everything about the election goes back to the Constitution and the flexibility that it gives."

## What are swing states, and what role do they play in determining the outcome of the election?

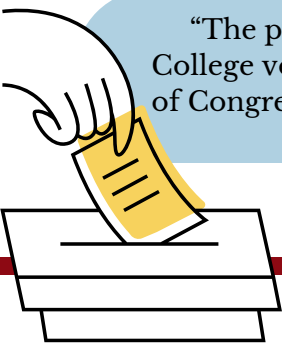
"The Electoral College votes are related to the size of population and numbers in Congress. It's not a ratio; it's a formula. It is not a direct reflection of population, and even states with a really small population have a minimum of three electoral votes. If you have a state that voted for Obama in 2012, Trump in 2016, and then Biden, they are called Swing States or Purple-ish states. Candidates target states that have a propensity to be swing-voters because they have a chance to go either way."

## What is the significance of the Electoral College, and why was it created?

"It was a compromise. As the first modern democracy, everywhere else was a monarchy; the founders were skeptical of the idea to give that amount of power to just people to elect their leaders. You had people who thought the House should pick the president, and you had some people who thought there should be a popular vote. The compromise is a representative democracy where people are still voting, yet they are voting for representatives to vote for them. The founders believed if you were uneducated or you didn't have a stake in society, then you weren't informed or powerful enough to cast a meaningful vote."

## How are electoral votes allocated to each state, and how does this impact presidential campaign strategies?

"The popular vote is the number of votes that individuals give to a candidate. The Electoral College vote is the number of representatives that are allotted to each state based on their members of Congress and the US Census."



# A DEALBREAKER

Hunter Cristo '26

Contributing Editor

In all its glory, caked into the foundation of our nation  
In all its glory, caked into the rights of all American citizens  
In all its glory, caked into the fast approaching November deadline

From their respective corners of the colorful electoral map come...

The brave, sacrificial soldiers,

The revolutionary engineers,

The debt-driven doctors,

The Wall Street practitioners and many more

The multifaceted American citizens, those driving the great and eternal Reds, Whites, and Blues

These diverse, well-deserving diplomats of our nation reserve the beautiful RIGHT TO VOTE

They pull the strings of a dancing puppet, designed intricately with every color imaginable,  
reaching from a democracy once thought unreachable

Benefiting from the shade of a constitutionally rooted oak tree

that blocks the piercing, fiery rays of monarchy and absolutism

that protects innocent, yearning infants that stem from a hard-earned history

that stares down the barrel of a British musket so that this beautiful right may soon and still exist today

The ballot filled with a deep sea of drastically different directions our great nation can take

The ballot that allows a choir of voices to be heard

The ballot that we celebrate this week every four years

Is in fact a blessing, possibly the greatest right that even the most righteous must hope and work for, the deal breaking RIGHT TO VOTE separates good from evil and surrounds us with the paradise of today.





# FINDING GRATITUDE AMIDST A POLARIZED THANKSGIVING

Evelyn Conboy '26

Associate Editor-In-Chief

As Thanksgiving approaches, Americans look forward not only to turkey and pumpkin pie, but also to a reprieve from the recent election drama. Plagued by unrelenting polls, debates and news blasts, the 2024 election cycle, for many, sowed rifts between friends and family.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln cemented Thanksgiving as an official American holiday and described its purpose as a day to praise God and serve as penitence for the Nation's sins. While its original purpose was rooted in religion, Thanksgiving is now recognized as a time to reflect and share gratitude. The biggest question today is whether we can achieve Thanksgiving's intended purpose.

Thanksgiving is a holiday deeply rooted in resilience, reflection, and hope. In 1621, European Pilgrims felt hopeless as they struggled to survive a harrowing winter when they arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. With the help of their surrounding community, many Pilgrims survived through the winter. They held a feast now widely recognized as the First Thanksgiving to commemorate their unlikely survival through precarious times. However, this meal has often overshadowed the stories of Indigenous communities, their exploitation, and their pain. When honoring this time, we must remember to respect not only our nation's founders, but this land's predecessors.

While modern-day Americans may not be experiencing the same obstacles as early Pilgrims or Indigenous communities, many of them feel that their current political climate raises challenges that rival that of their ancestors. Today, some Americans feel hopeless about the recent election results, while others feel triumphant. It may be difficult for many



to avoid the awkward political conversations at the dinner table. However, Thanksgiving's history reminds us that the holidays are a time of gratitude. Two SI junior students Alva Fahlgren '26 and Alessandra Isola '26

shared their outlook on gratitude and echoed its significance during the holiday season. "The holiday of Thanksgiving is a lot about community. Being thankful for my family is the most important thing," Alva told *InsideSI*. Alessandra conveyed similar sentiments, sharing, "During the Thanksgiving season, gratitude means appreciating all I have, including my family and friends."

This year, Thanksgiving offers a unique opportunity to practice gratitude. Regardless if your family or friend voted for Mr. Trump or Ms. Harris, Thanksgiving invites us to set aside our differences and perhaps engage in open political conversation. This unique American holiday, which is centered around gratitude, challenges us to see humanity and common ground, even among companions with differing viewpoints.

Alessandra Isola encapsulates Thanksgiving's spirit of gratitude by saying, "[I feel] lucky enough to be surrounded by community."

As we gather for Thanksgiving with our families, may we be reminded to set aside our differences, if only for a day, to celebrate shared gratitude.

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