

# **THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES**

**OSUMUN 2024**

**Chair: Tyler Littlejohn**

## **Letter from the Chair**

Dear Delegate,

My name is Tyler Littlejohn, and I am extremely excited to be chairing this committee at OSUMUN 2024. I am a third-year student at Ohio State with a double major in Public Management and Social and Environmental Geography. I am hoping to pursue a career within housing policy, specifically working with the issue of housing stability and affordability. Outside of my academics, I am a Head Delegate for Ohio State's traveling MUN team and intern with Columbus City Council.

As we all know, American politics is anything but stable since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, especially current events (i.e., insurrections, indicted Presidential candidates, a global pandemic, among so much more). For the weekend, my goal for us is to explore a United States that is no longer United. Your mission is to bridge political and ideological divides to draft a guiding document for a new, hopefully more prosperous American Republic. This is certainly easier said than done, and so be prepared for plenty of twists-and-turns. I look forward to the ideas you all bring to committee, and hope we all can all have a fun, cool, and fresh weekend!

Best,

Tyler Littlejohn

## **Committee Procedures**

This committee is geared toward more advanced delegates; however, all students are welcome to participate. Over the course of the conference, this committee will vote to adopt a constitution and address issues resulting from its ratification. So, this will function as a specialized committee. For the first few sessions, the committee will operate according to standard General Assembly procedures. Procedural matters will require a simple majority for passage, and substantive matters will require a super-majority for passage. The amount of time the committee will operate as a General Assembly will be determined by the amount of time it takes you to draft and adopt a constitution. As a note: the background guide remains vague purposefully so as to ensure that Committee and topics discussed are delegate-driven.

After a constitution is adopted, the committee will operate under quasi-Crisis protocols. While there will NOT be crisis notes, delegates should be prepared to work with each other to draft directives that address crisis updates provided. The Dais will work to make these updates as delegate-driven as possible, basing them off the Constitution adopted by the Committee, directives passed by Committee, and joint personal directives submitted.

For the specialized portion of the committee, delegates will be allowed to work with each other on joint personal directives (JPD's) to pass some of their priorities without a vote before the committee, like what is allowed in a crisis committee. Delegates will be allowed to sponsor ONLY ONE JPD each crisis cycle. Procedural and substantive matters will require a simple majority vote to be adopted, unless it is an amendment to the Constitution, which will require a super-majority for passage.

I want to stress that the Dais will look favorably upon creativity, diplomacy, strong public speaking, and honesty. While we understand this is a competition, we want this to remain a constructive and educational experience for all participants, and thus will not tolerate discriminatory or hateful speech and/or behavior.

All that being said, more granular details will be provided during the first session of Committee. However, if you have any questions in the meanwhile, please feel free to contact [littlejohn.69@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:littlejohn.69@buckeyemail.osu.edu) !

## **Introduction**

The 2032 Presidential Election pitted Incumbent President Kamala Harris against her Republican challenger, Kari Lake, Arizona's Junior Senator. The campaign was extraordinarily heated, with both candidates projecting hesitations about accepting the results should their opponent win. Senator Lake contended that she was the voice of America's "Silent Majority," an obvious ode to Former President Ronald Reagan, and argued that were she to lose, it would be due to voter fraud planned by the Democrats. Likewise, President Kamala Harris, having won her previous election by just a handful of votes across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Georgia, frequently stated at her rallies and cable TV appearances, that should she lose, it would be due to voter disenfranchisement within key battleground states controlled by Republicans.

Both candidates were quite controversial, even within their own parties. Senator Lake was viewed widely as the heir to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" Coalition, espousing highly nationalistic and populist sentiments. Her platform centered primarily on social issues, especially immigration and drug enforcement, a problem that exponentially grew as the Presidential Administration did little to address it. Senator Lake's critics, both on the left and right, primarily attacked her for her "dog-whistle" politics, relative lack of political experience, and her close ties to the former President. However, her most controversial stance was her call for the eradication of the civil service system and to impose "Schedule F," a relic of Donald Trump's White House.

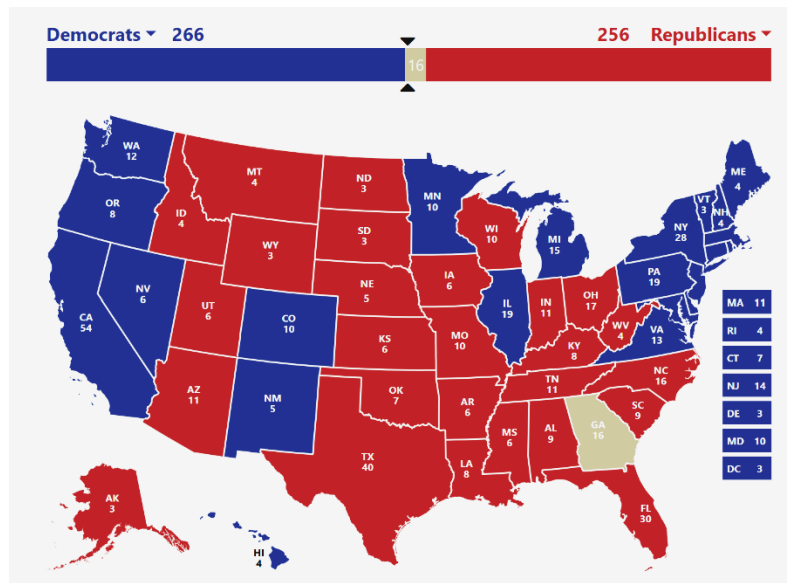
Since her election in 2028, President Harris has pushed three key issues: voting rights, expanded healthcare access, and universal pre-K education. While the first two years of her term were quite productive-she managed to sign into law a public-option for healthcare and codified numerous labor rights, including the PRO Act-she faced stiff opposition from Congressional Republicans, especially when they retook a majority in the Senate following the 2030 Midterm Elections. Since then, President Harris has been met with tepid support from her own party for her tendencies toward interventionist foreign policy and inability to pass voting rights reforms while Democrats controlled Capitol Hill.

As November 2032 drew closer, it became abundantly clear to the nation that the election would be close. Sen. Kari Lake and her running mate, Speaker of the House Elise Stefanik, barnstormed the battleground states of Georgia, Arizona, and Wisconsin, hoping to use those electoral votes to propel them to the White House. Meanwhile, President Harris and Vice President Gretchen Whitmer focused their efforts on flipping Texas to the Democrats for the first time within the 21<sup>st</sup> century keeping Pennsylvania and Georgia in their column come election night. However, despite efforts on both sides, the election remained inconclusive on election night; no candidate had a majority of electoral votes, and the State of Georgia was close enough to require a recount though Sen. Lake maintained an ever-so-slight lead.

### The Not-so-great Schism

The Georgia recount became mired in legal battles, with President Harris’s campaign arguing that the results were tarred by voter intimidation; these charges were not unfounded though it was debatable if they changed the course of the race. Thus, two different slates of electors were convened, one for each candidate. This put the nation in an ultimatum: certify Georgia’s electoral votes for either President Harris or Senator Lake. Though Republicans controlled the House and Senate, it was by a meager margin, one small enough to create chaos as to how to proceed with the certification process. Eventually, a compromise was made, the election would be put to a vote on the House and Senate floors for President and Vice President, respectively.

This decision proved to be quite ill-planned as neither house could reach a majority vote for any candidate. Voting continued ballot after ballot until a fateful time arrived: January 20<sup>th</sup>. With President Harris’s term Constitutionally required to conclude, and no President or Vice President elected, the country has entered a political no-man’s land. This precarious situation led



House Speaker Elise Stefanik (and Vice-Presidential nominee) to take the reins as acting President. Political tensions were high, and the stakes even higher for both sides. Republicans feared that President Harris would trample on their individual liberties, including their right to bear arms and religious freedom, if given a second term, and Democrats were worried about the fabric of democracy should Sen. Lake take the Oval Office. Polling showed a stark divide amongst political factions, with threats of riots and insurrections rising as the precarious election situation continued.

The voting within Congress drew on for months, lasting until March until a coalition of Democrats and Republicans called for a Constitutional Convention to rewrite the nation's framing document.

### **Constitutional Convention**

Gathering in Columbus, Ohio, the delegates to the Convention had several hot-button issues on their mind with the goal of alleviating current political stressors, including the question of how to elect the President, or if there should be a President for that matter. As delegates to the Constitutional Convention, you will have an outsized impact on what will characterize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic of America. Many of the issues of the election were ones that have been fought over for the better part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with each party becoming less apt to compromise on solutions. Given this context, any resulting Constitution should consider the following questions/topics:

- What should the Government of the United States look like? Should it remain a federation or return to its Confederate roots?
- What role should the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches play? How should they operate?
- What rights ought to be guaranteed to citizens?
- How can the Constitution address some of the tensions the United States is facing, including intense partisanship, the rural/urban divide, and racial disparities?

## Character Dossier

Note: These are all real people, each of whom are known quantities in modern politics. It would be HIGHLY encouraged to research their current policy positions and use those as a starting point for further research.

Hillary Clinton – New York: A former Secretary of State, Presidential Nominee, Senator, and First Lady, she was trusted by the State of New York to craft a new Constitution- one that is favorable to their political positions.

Gavin Newsom – California: Former Governor of California whose administration pushed the boundaries of progressive policies during the 2020's.\*

Gretchen Whitmer – Michigan: First elected Governor of Michigan in 2018, her administration pushed the swing-state back to its traditionally blue status, earning herself a spot in President Kamala Harris's Presidential Administration as Vice President.

Tammy Baldwin – Wisconsin: A political legend in Wisconsin having served in elected office since 1993. She is a progressive icon and first LGBTQ+ identifying Senator. She was first elected to the Senate in 2013 and is serving her 4th term.

Raphael Warnock – Georgia: One of the harbingers of Georgia's swing-state status, Senator Warnock, a former minister, has served in the Senate since 2020. He is known for his progressive values and his bipartisan policy making efforts.

Cindy McCain – Arizona: Widow of Arizona political icon, John McCain. Though a registered Republican, she is much more pragmatic than the rightwing of the party. During the Biden Administration, she served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture before being named the Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

Donald Trump – Florida: Need we say more? This former President has been called a lot, including both an insurrectionist and America’s Savior, but today he is bestowed the title of delegate. Will his art of the deal yield “MAGA” tenants are preserved in the new constitution?

Kristi Noem – South Dakota: A conservative stalwart and former Governor of South Dakota. During her tenure as Governor, she supported abortion restrictions, regulations on protests within the state, and was hesitant to restrict businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jon Husted – Ohio: Having just finished his second term as the Buckeye State’s Governor, he is riding high amongst the conservative movement. During his time in office, he signed bills to expand 2nd Amendment rights, school choice laws, even repealed the state’s income tax.

Maggie Hassan – New Hampshire: New Hampshire’s Governor-turned-Senator, she is known for her stance on gun safety legislation and reproductive rights.

Andy Kim – New Jersey: First serving in the House of Representatives between 2019 and 2024, he was elected to represent New Jersey in the Senate in 2024. Though possessing a quieter demeanor, he a progressive through-in-through, especially in his crusade against corruption.



Amy Klobuchar – Minnesota: She serves as Minnesota’s senior Senator and is well-known across the Democratic Party for her ability to work across the aisle for issues that her state cares about.

Barack Obama – Washington D.C.: The former President still maintains legendary status within the Democratic Party having helped usher in a more progressive politics within the Democratic Party. Though retired for some time, the residents of D.C. entrusted the elder Statesman to advocate for their views at the convention.

Ayanna Pressley – Massachusetts: Bursting into the political scene in 2018 following her defeat of a long-time Congressman, now-Senator Pressley is known as one of the leaders of the modern progressive movement within the United States.

Joni Ernst – Iowa: Iowa’s Senior Senator and the first woman to lead the Senate Republican’s Conference. She is known to be quite conservative though is open to compromise and bipartisan efforts, so long as they do not conflict with her personal values.

Mike Braun – Indiana: A businessman turned politician, he was elected to the Senate in 2018 and became the Hoosier State’s Governor in 2024. He is much more libertarian in ideology, focusing on the needs to preserve states’ rights.

Mitt Romney – Utah: What hasn’t he done? A former Governor, Senator, and Presidential nominee, he remains popular with Utahans for his pragmatic view of politics. One his more notable accomplishments is bringing universal healthcare to residents of Massachusetts during his time as Governor, despite his conservative leanings.

Don Bacon – Nebraska: A self-described moderate member of the House of Representatives, representing Nebraska's 2nd District. He has worked across the aisle before to achieve policy outcomes and frequently lambasts political polarization.

Sarah Huckabee-Sanders – Arkansas: Former Governor of Arkansas and Press Secretary during the Trump Administration. She is rather conservative and used her tenure in the Governor's Mansion to push very rightwing legislation into law.