

DEMYSTIFYING POLITICS

VOTER'S CHOICE

DEFINING THE FUTURE

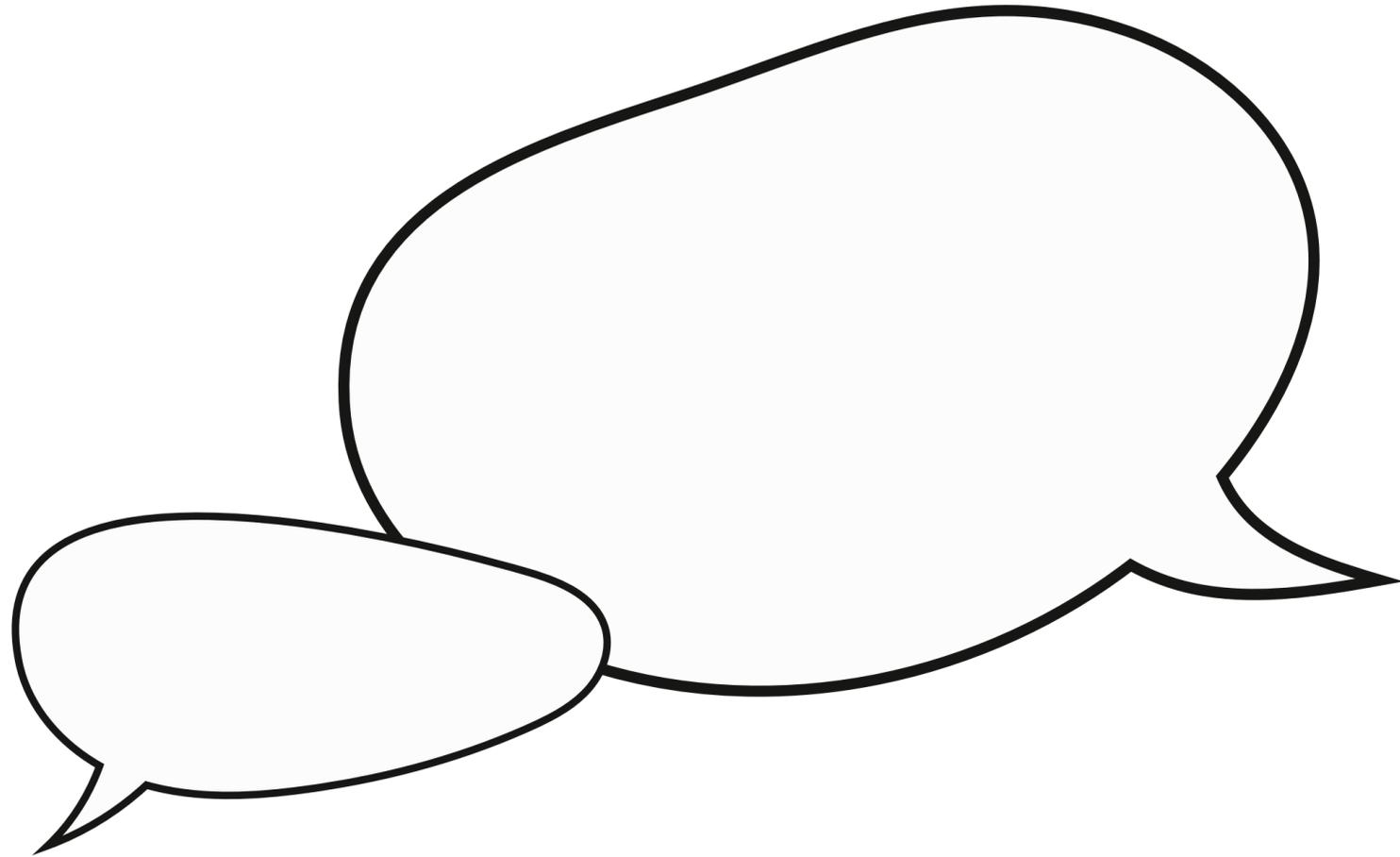


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NOTE TO VIEWERS

This zine was made possible by our dedicated zine team, who thoughtfully selected key topics grounded in community perspectives, conducted thorough research and crafted this design. We want to disclose that this resource is by no means a way to influence individuals this election season. Rather, our goal is to explore the emotions and challenges surrounding this election, offering insights on how its outcomes may affect various aspects of our lives and how we can navigate and respond to these potential impacts.



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

ELECTION CHALLENGES

Many young voters feel overwhelmed and apprehensive by the complexities and uncertainties of the current election year. They want a candidate who is relatable, authentic and capable of upholding the issues they champion. However, there is a diminished excitement about this year's election due to concerns about addressing human rights violations overseas, attacks on gender and reproductive rights, immigration policies and diminished value and prioritization of our planet. Gen Z's drive for change significantly influences the way they intend to vote this Fall. Many young voters believe that these topics should be a top priority for all candidates.



THE UNCOMMITTED MOVEMENT

The Uncommitted Movement, a pro-Palestinian grassroots organization, remains unaffiliated with either major party. They plan to vote uncommitted to pressure political candidates into advocating for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Stated on their website, "Rather than sitting their primary election out, The Uncommitted Movement got anti-war, pro-peace, & pro-Palestine voters to the ballot box to cast their votes."

Although two parties dominate the political scene in the United States, third party candidates are neither new nor uncommon. Parties like the Green Party and Libertarian party have existed alongside the Democratic and Republican parties for decades, representing diverse issues around taxation, climate change and more. The Uncommitted Movement, similarly adopts a third party approach which takes an anti-war and pro-peace stance on domestic and international conflicts, recently emerging in light of the genocide taking place in Gaza. Third parties allow voters to take a stance on issues by voting for candidates that represent their ideals and political values.



WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS AND RESULTS OF...



NOT VOTING?

Not voting opens Americans up to the projected policies of either candidate without a say. Voting gives citizens a say in how the next four years will look in the United States and the subsequent policies that may affect them and the people in their communities. There are several political agendas that are the focus of this year's Presidential election including: abortion care and reproductive rights, the targeting of federal agencies and the jobs of thousands of government employees and immigration or border policy. These three key items are among the many that are set to impact all Americans, but especially young folks and those from marginalized communities.

*AAOP's work in the past year has brought protections for our young BIPOC voters across the state of Minnesota, achieving pre-registration for 16 & 17 year-olds, as well as access to interpreters at various polling locations. Additionally we helped to pass the Minnesota Voting Rights Act (MNVRA), which establishes legal protections for all voters in the state of Minnesota, that have been gutted at the Federal level. All persons shall be guaranteed equal rights under the laws of this state. The state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive freedom, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Which are crucial to reproductive and gender justice care. We are back for more in 2025 to establish protections for Minnesotans through the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would solidify access to reproductive and gender justice care. **These fundamental rights for all Minnesotans can only come from a strong voter turnout and sustained active engagement in advocacy for policies that matter to you!***



A VACANCY FOR GOVERNOR IN MN?

aka what happens to MN if Tim Walz becomes VP?

CURRENT GOVERNOR OF MN



CURRENT LIEUTENANT (LT.) GOVERNOR



As the current Lieutenant (Lt.) Governor of Minnesota, **Peggy Flanagan**, would defer to the Governor of Minnesota until the next election in 2026.

WHY IS THAT? This is because a governor serves 4 years in a term and the natural succession of power in the event a Governor can no longer serve in their position, defaults to the Lt. Governor.

CURRENT SENATE PRESIDENT

Furthermore, the person to succeed into the position of Lt. Governor will be the current Senate President, who is **Senator Bobby Joe Champion** of District 59, in the heart of Minneapolis.



WILL THERE BE A VACANCY IN THE SENATE PRESIDENT SEAT?



The announcement of Tim Walz as the democratic Vice President nominee has created a stir of questions about what might happen to Minnesota politics after November. First, some context: **As of August 6th, 2024, Minnesota's governor Tim Walz was officially named as the Vice Presidential candidate for the Democratic Presidential ticket.** This vote will take place on Tuesday, November 5th 2024. If elected, Tim Walz will become the Vice President of the United States and some of the local seats in Minnesota will undergo change.



SO WHAT DO ALL THESE CHANGES MEAN FOR MINNESOTA?

This would effectively leave a vacancy in the Senate President position, which is where the most change in the Minnesota Legislature would take place. This Fall, a number of seats are on the ballot, not just the presidential seat. While the ballot does not feature an election for the Minnesota state Senate, other important local and national seats play a part in determining how the different portions of the legislatures will function. ***If the current Senate President becomes Lt. Governor, in this case, a special election will likely take place in the Senate District 59 to elect a new Senator and fill that vacancy.*** After the outcome of this election, all State Senators would then vote internally for their new Senate President. A lot could potentially shift at the local level in Minnesota as the current proportion of Democratic Senators to Republican Senators is 51% to 49% with a DFL (Democratic Farmer Labor Party majority), or 34 to 33 seats.

Furthermore, whether Minnesota's Governor changes or not, the Minnesota House of Representatives are also on the ballot this November. The candidates to appear on the ballot were already selected as a result of the August primary election and the official sample ballots will be available to view on the Secretary of State's website on September 20th, 2024. ***This election could further alter the current structure of the legislature and cause several changes at the local government level.*** A great resource to see what elections are taking place and what offices are on the ballot can be found [here](#).

Be sure to follow us on our [social media](#) and [subscribe to our mailing list](#) for future updates from us about the special election, especially if you are a Minneapolis resident!

SO HOW CAN WE TAKE ACTION?



You can vote in the general election **(1)** by mail with an absentee ballot, **(2)** early in-person voting starting *Friday, 9/20*, or **(3)** on Election Day, *Tuesday 11/5*.

When it comes to electing local and national leaders, rather than choosing a candidate because of the political party they are associated with, **it's important to remember that your values should be at the core of your decisions.** Identifying your values will make it a lot easier when looking into different candidates to ensure your values align and that the issues you care about are being addressed. *Local politicians and lawmakers are often far more accessible to voters as they are out in the community at events and appreciate talking to their voters to hear their concerns and interests.* It's important to take these opportunities to put pressure and to express to them what your communities values and needs are and what initiatives they should be taking to address those.



BUT WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

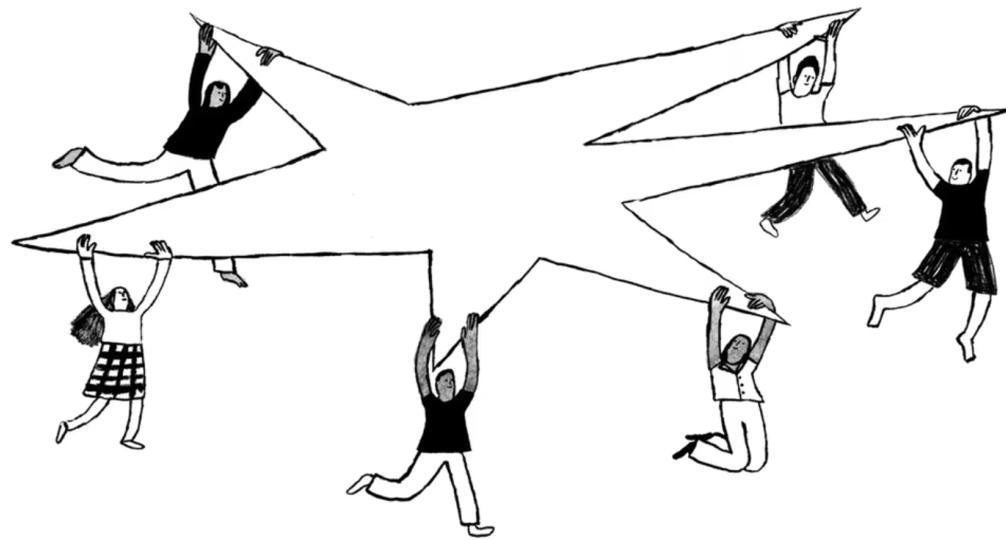
Spoiler alert! It's not just the presidential candidates! Depending on your district, you could have up to 9 different elections or questions on your ballot. The Minnesota Secretary of State (SOS) has outlined what a sample ballot specific to your home address might look like, but *note that depending on your district you will have different candidates and positions up for election or special ballot questions specific to your district and community.* Consider [this webpage](#) as your home base to find all the information you will need to be prepared at the polls including your poll location, voter registration, candidates, seats up for election and any special ballot questions. We also compiled a [voter guide](#) back in March for the Presidential Primaries that you can still reference to find out other general voting information.

REMEMBER DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES THAT IT'S OKAY TO PRIORITIZE YOURSELF AND YOUR MENTAL & PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Nakita Valerio once said, *“shouting ‘self-care’ at people who actually need ‘community care’ is how we fail people.”* It’s essential for us to understand the necessity for community care when we are talking about self-care. **So what exactly is community care?** *This is a space that allows individuals to find belonging, connection and collective support in a welcoming community.* For generations, BIPOC communities have embraced community care believing that individual wellbeing is intrinsically tied to the wellbeing of others. When it comes to mental health, it’s crucial that we minimize social isolation (as this can cause mental health to decline even further) and rather turn to our communities for support. There is power in community-based systems of care and it’s important to recognize that when trying to take care of ourselves.

Though there are simple ways for you to prioritize your own self-care by taking a walk outside, journaling or meditating, don’t forget the community you have that is there to support you. So next time you think about going out in nature consider texting that friend to come along with you!





despite how you might be feeling...

YOU CAN EXPLORE MEANINGFUL WAYS TO CONNECT & TAKE ACTION WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE!

There are so many meaningful ways to stay connected with your community, even in these uncertain times, while staying true to what you believe in.

if you care about CLIMATE, consider checking out....

URBAN ROOTS

A non-profit located on the East Side of Saint Paul. Their programming engages and empowers youth interns through learning to grow produce for their community, restoring public green spaces, and building confidence in the kitchen around preparing fresh and healthy meals.

CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

They are a grassroots activist group organizing against environmental racism in MN!

COMO COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARY

Their mission is to give the St. Paul, Como community access to free, organic seed, and education on seed saving and gardening practices. With that they're able to spread the seeds of community resilience, diverse cultural food ways and the benefits and great flavors of garden grown crops.

PLANT GROW SHARE

They are a group of neighbors who believe that all people deserve the right to access and ownership of healthy and culturally appropriate food. They ground their work in antiracism, decentralized power, deep relationships and personal growth.

PARKS & POWER

They are a group of neighbors who believe that all people deserve the right to access and ownership of healthy and culturally appropriate food. They ground their work in antiracism, decentralized power, deep relationships and personal growth.

if you care about **ENDING THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA,** consider checking out....

[MINNESOTA FOR PALESTINE COALITION](#)

Minnesota for Palestine Coalition is a group of Palestine solidarity organizations in Minnesota. The coalition represents organizations and activists from a diverse set of ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds with a shared belief in justice for the people of Palestine.

[ASIANS4PALESTINETC](#)

Asian Minnesotans campaigning against US imperialism.

[ANTIWARMN](#)

The AWC organizes in the streets against imperialism, political repression, and US aid to Israel.

[UMNDIVEST](#)

Collective of undergrad and grad students and organizations fighting against state violence, colonialism, and imperialism and their connection to UMN.

[EJPUMN](#)

The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Chapter of the National Network of Faculty for Justice in Palestine.





if you care about **GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**, consider checking out....

PAPER LANTERN PROJECT

They are a new AAPI movement in MN for gender and reproductive justice. Their goals are to expand narratives around gender and reproductive justice to reduce barriers, stigmas and increase the kinds of care we have access to. They also support their communities through direct action with an AAPI gender and reproductive justice fund which offers micro grants to those in need!

UNRESTRICTMN

They work to protect, expand, and destigmatize access to abortion care – and all reproductive healthcare – in MN through public education, advocacy, and the law.

TIGERSMPLS

A nonhierarchical collective delivering programs and resources that build solidarity and safety among trans, intersex and gender-expansive Minnesotans.

QUEER SKATERS MN

They are a queer inclusive skating community where all wheels and skills are welcome! All events are sober!

QUEERSPACE COLLECTIVE

They are a collective that creates space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves. They are committed to being authentic in who they are, what they do and how they show up for LGBTQ+ youth.

TRANSFORMING GENERATIONS

Their mission is to organize, educate and transform cultural and power dynamics to end gender-based violence. They want to create a world where gender equity is the norm and violence is not accepted.

[REFERENCES]

[COMMUNITY CARE](#)

[SELF CARE IS COLLECTIVE CARE IS COMMUNITY CARE](#)

[SELF-CARE ISN'T ENOUGH. WE NEED COMMUNITY CARE TO THRIVE.](#)

[IGNITE FINAL REPORT](#)

[WHAT'S NEXT FOR UNCOMMITTED MOVEMENT?](#)

[POLITICO](#)

[THE UNCOMMITTED NATIONAL MOVEMENT](#)

[WHO IS PEGGY FLANAGAN?](#)

[2024 LIVE ELECTION UPDATES](#)

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[PROTEST PHOTOGRAPHY 101](#)

[ERA](#)

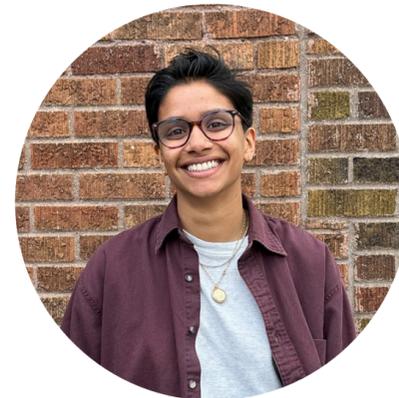
MEET THE ZINE TEAM!



SUMMER VUE

Communications & Digital Coordinator

As a second-generation Hmong, Lao, and Chinese American, Summer continuously explores her identity within the broader context of how it relates to the deep political histories of this country. Her studies in fashion sparked a deep interest in environmental sustainability and ethical practices surrounding human and environmental rights. With a passion for amplifying the voices of underrepresented and marginalized communities, Summer uses creative storytelling to shed light on critical issues. She wants to explore innovative ways that cultures can both be preserved and shared through art and design. When not immersed in her work, she finds joy in soccer, photography, cooking, art museums, and dancing at local DJ sets.



ARUSHI NAIR

Policy & Community Coordinator

Arushi recently graduated from Macalester College, where she finished a B.A. in German Studies and International Studies with a minor in Political Science. Arushi grew up in an Indian/Polish mixed-race household and is a proud second generation immigrant. They are passionate about exploring how marginalized identities that sit at intersections of our social networks can be boosted through policy and education reform. Outside of work Arushi enjoys cooking, going on walks, playing soccer, exploring the many bars and restaurants in the Twin Cities and scouring Facebook marketplace.



SULIN VANG

Organizing Intern

Sulin, a first-generation Hmong American, channels her passion into shedding light on the nuances of mental health and dismantling intergenerational trauma. She envisions a more equitable future for youths, providing them the opportunities to become successful leaders through AAOP. Beyond her advocacy, Sulin wears many hats: she's a lover, a soulful poet, and an auntie to seven. In her free time, she enjoys experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen, grooving to her favorite tunes, and strolling with her dogs!