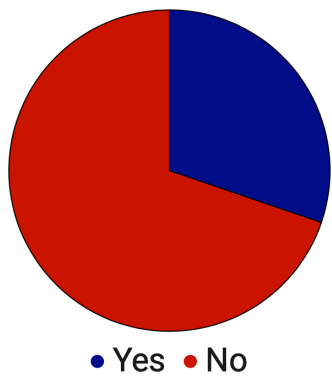


What's Your Opinion?

Are you optimistic about the direction the country is heading after this election?

Out of 44 responses:
 Yes -- 13
 No -- 31



Next Poll:

STRAW ANATOMY
 How many holes does a straw have?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

Donald Trump won, but America lost

ELIJAH TEMPLETON

LIFE EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a senior English major from Jonesboro.

It appears all but confirmed that Donald Trump will be the 47th president of the United States, a real worst-case scenario for millions of Americans who hoped that a Kamala Harris victory would mark an end of the Trump era of politics.

It is difficult to remain optimistic about where we stand as a nation from my perspective. I was not a big fan of Harris and considered her merely the only viable alternative to a man that I truly hold in the lowest possible regard.

This feels like a terribly grim moment in the history of our country and I honestly do not know what to say.

It seems clear that the struggle against climate change is effectively over. With Trump promising to "drill baby drill" and bring our energy efforts

back to fossil fuels and away from renewable energy, the world will soon follow suit and the ticking clock for substantial change to avert disaster will inch ever closer and pass us by and the most vulnerable will suffer the worst consequences.

In what every human rights organization in the world has labeled a genocide of the Palestinian people by Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli government in their war against Hamas, Trump has gone on record saying that Netanyahu should "do what you have to do."

I can only take this to mean that we will continue to fund these atrocities that have left tens of thousands dead, hundreds of thousands injured and millions displaced. The people of Gaza will continue to suffer and we will continue to supply the bombs that decimate their homes, universities and hospitals.

This is not even to mention the plans to end the "migrant invasion" that allegedly plagues our country.

This will involve a proposed mass deportation that will see millions of people rounded up and placed in detention camps, where I am sure the humanitarian conditions will be abysmal as the Republican party's continued rhetoric and official platforms deem

migrants as subhuman trash, worthy only of imprisonment or death.

The only proposed economic policy that Trump has put forward is a flat 20% tariff on all imported goods. This will no doubt cause American companies to raise prices on all imported goods and pass the higher bill off to American citizens who gleefully welcomed the new regime last night in mass.

This is an unequivocal failure by the Democratic party.

Their inability to combat an overtly fascist billionaire who, every chance he gets, tells us the type of man he is and the type of country he wants to lead should have been a slam dunk.

It is an indictment on Joe Biden for not stepping down earlier. It is an indictment on Kamala Harris for her refusal to adopt any meaningful policy solutions that would differentiate her from Biden.

I find it hard to not say that we are screwed. I mean unequivocally and completely and utterly screwed.

I know I will be fine. I am a cisgender, straight, white man and I am a part of the class of people that are deemed acceptable to the new regime.

But, I fear for my minority and LGBTQ+ friends. I fear for those I do not know and I fear for the women in my life who will likely lose control over

their own bodies. I fear for the nation that we will become and I dread the day that orange despot ever rode down that escalator what feels like a lifetime ago.

I still have hope. It is a small hope and even now I feel the crushing weight of apathy and dismay threatening to stamp it out.

I can only stay determined to protect myself and those that I care about from a system that may soon deem them public enemy number one.

I guess that is all anyone can do in these increasingly dark and strange times.

For the full article, visit our website at [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS
 Donald Trump at the Palm Beach Convention Center on election night.

What the US election means for the future of the Middle East

DUA FAOURI

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD



Dua Faouri, a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant from Amman, Jordan.

With the United States going through its presidential election, the future of America's relationship with the Middle East has never been more pressing. As a citizen of Jordan, the closest country to the conflict, I wonder what direction the next president will take to address the region's long-standing conflict for peace and stability.

As an international student living in the U.S. for only nine months, I don't think the changes of the new American president would affect me much. Jordan's government is unlike America, instead of a representative democracy, we have a monarchy—so this is my first experience seeing a presidential election.

However, the U.S. has the most

influential economic and political power in the world, so I'm curious about the changes and foreign policy initiatives the new president will execute regarding the Middle East, especially the Israel-Hamas conflict.

On Aug. 10, I moved to the U.S. as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant and it wasn't until I began taking a public opinion and propaganda course that I was inspired to start learning about U.S. presidential elections.

I found it a bit challenging to fully understand what Republicans and Democrats stand for over a short period of time. So, I began to watch debates to listen to the candidates' plans for the future regarding the ongoing issues in the Middle East.

Donald Trump's presidency shaped his policies, with significant changes such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital instead of Tel Aviv, cutting funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency which impacted Palestinian refugees and creating relations between Israel and four Arab countries: the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Bahrain and Morocco.

On the other hand, Kamala Harris is running for the elections for the first time and we can only wait and see what

she might do as president if she wins. But, as of late, she has taken the stance of President Joe Biden regarding Israel-Hamas, which has created discourse amongst her voters.

Both of these candidates have made promises about how they would handle Israel and Palestine. Trump said if it was under his leadership, the war in Gaza would have never occurred whilst Harris said she would do everything in her power to bring peace to the region with a two-state solution.

Situations have been hostile and I wish the war never happened. I wish the innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives would have been spared. Both sides deserve to live in peace, a century of conflict is long enough.

U.S. presidents continuously promise to make America "great again," whether it's Trump or Harris, but the only promise I want to see fulfilled by the next U.S. president is peace being prioritized and achieved. I don't want to see more bloodshed, wars and political discord in the Middle East.

I hope the next president makes the whole world a better place. True peace could only be achieved if Israeli and Palestinian lives were considered equally valuable and worthy. Voters may not have the authority, but it starts with them.

Whenever voters see the president they elected take a certain stance or make a certain decision they should ask themselves: is this what I stand for?



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NEWSWEEK
 Graphic illustrating Donald Trump, Kamala Harris and voters.

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