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Trigger Warning!

The West Point One Act had their Public Performance

By Blake Wegner

A victim of abuse, a suicidal person, and a radio host walk into a theatre set. The director then says, "All right, places!"

Right after my friends started talking about the new script that the director, Mrs. Bowland, picked out, I knew I had to see this play.

This play is a complete 180 from what the play was last year for West Point. West Point's play last year was a comedy about old people in a H.O.A. This year, however, the play covers much darker topics.

These topics include: mentions of suicide, self-harm, and parental abuse. While the topics may seem extreme, they all flowed with each other nicely.

This specific script follows many different people's lives at 4 a.m all connected together by a radio host named Frankie. The story starts inside the bedroom of the girl with knives. She is writing a letter to a knife company for lying and being too dull to cut herself. This adds a humorous aspect to a serious topic.

The person who plays this role is senior Ally Wolken. Ally is a 4 time serious prose competitor in speech, and it shows. During the breaking point with Ally's character, Ally made sure to show the emotion. This was through a distressed face while screeching about how life isn't fair.

Right after the outbreak, the story switches to another bedroom with 2 best friends having a sleepover. One of the friends is trying to stay up late while the other is sleeping. This leads to bickering until the cat gets threatened. The 2 people who play those 2 characters are juniors Jadyn Doggett and Emerson Meiergerd.

Jadyn Doggett is a senior one act and speech member. Jadyn did a great job with facial expressions and adding humor right after the dark scene that happened with Ally. Emerson played the relatable role of the person trying to fall asleep. In the end, Jadyn's constant pickering forced Emerson's

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character to wake up and tell a secret.

This then switches to a girl who is watching her neighbor's car be on fire. This girl, who is played by Adde, questions whether or not there will be a reward if they call in. The whole time, Adde is going back and forth debating herself on whether or not she should call the police.

This slightly humorous section then switches back to another sleepover, but this time with different people. In this sleepover, senior dynamic duo Samantha Francis and Molli Miller are just lying down, hanging out. The 2 of them are playing a game and then suddenly start doing a little bickering. Suddenly the lights go red, and Samantha is in the middle of a panic attack, exclaiming about the possible past abuse her father has done. This is then broken up by Molli, who was clueless for a while, and the 2 then go back to playing their game.

The scene then switches back into a more funny area. Two lovestruck teenagers debating if they should call their significant other at that time at night. The 2 lovers are played by junior Austynn Batenhorst and sophomore Jaxon Pierce. When Jaxon spoke for the first time, my thought right away was, "Wow, He can actually speak loudly!?" Jaxon has, as I have seen so far, the greatest improvement out of any actor. He was able to keep the teenage lovestruck story while being loud. Austynn was also able to hold her own and help this comedic love story move forward.

One of the last scenes involves a girl hiding a monster under the bed with 2 cops trying to beat up the monster. The girl hiding the monster is played by Brooklyn Laturno. Brooklyn's character was attempting to convince the police officers, seniors Teagen Berg and Jenna Draper, that the monster wasn't causing any harm. At first, the cops weren't having it, mainly Teagen's. Teagen added an extra spice to a role you wouldn't expect to have spice. Swinging the baton and running around like a lunatic. Jenna's role, on the other hand, was trying to follow the book, but in the end switched and joined Teagen's role. In the end, Brooklyn was able to convince the cops that the monster was not a threat, and they all went on their happy little ways.

The concluding piece goes right back to the character that started it all, Ally's character. Ally's character, instead of writing a letter hating the knife company, is sending them a thank-you letter. She is writing this thank-you letter because of Vivi's character's radio show. The radio host and the kid who didn't want to live ended up connecting without ever seeing each other. This ends the play in a hopeful tone and shows how everything has the chance to get better.

Now, a good play can't run without a crew, and this year the West Point once-acted crew is, like every other year, okay. This crew had to move fewer items, yet it was still taking a while. The set ended up looking nice, but the crew, with some loud noises in the back, distracted from the main story happening up front.

To conclude, the West Point One Act was one of the best our school has ever done. It had emotional scenes and a great conclusion. While some may find the plot confusing or gruesome, these people clearly have not watched any speech meets. This play encompasses many people's strengths and helps everyone in the cast and crew to succeed in their own way. Now, if anyone, on the off chance that they have a one-act meet off, go and watch the West Point One Act's play 4 A.M.

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Let it Linger

Senior Ally Wolken takes the lead in One Act to send a strong message

By Camila Calderon

As the crowd sits silently in the darkness, a single spotlight shines onto the stage. Seated on a bed, senior Ally Wolken looks up and begins delivering her memorized lines. With every word, the audience grows quiet and heavy with emotion the deeper Ally gets into her monologue. In that moment, Ally is no longer a student actress, but the lead role itself, captivating the audience as Jane's story continues to unfold. This performance is the result of months of rehearsals, memorization, and character development. As One Act's lead actor this season, Ally has dedicated countless hours developing the character and helping bring the story to life on stage.



Ally Wolken plays the character Jane in this year's play called 4 A.M., who is a deeply isolated teen girl who spends her morning at 4 A.M. writing a dark-humored complaint letter to a knife company she purchased from a radio show. The scene suggests self harm through an emotional monologue. Despite the heavy subject, Wolken found a common ground with the role explaining, "I feel like no matter how hard we try to hide it, whatever you're going through will shine through, and we are all going through something because we're all human." Towards the end of the play, however, we see a character development where Jane comes to the conclusion that this isn't the way her story is supposed to end. "I think what I understood about Jane is the fact she realizes how she gets into that mindset of 'this is something else I can get through,'" she explains.

As the years go on, extracurricular activities change over the course of the seasons, and One Act is certainly one of them. Samantha Bowland, head coach of One Act for her second consecutive season, has decided to turn a new leaf from comedy to a serious script. When Ally saw Jane's grim and lengthy monologue, she knew the role would be something she would excel at. "Having experience from my serious event in speech, I knew I wanted to play Jane because I'm better at serious than I am at comedy." This conclusion was evident when she earned Best Female Performer Overall at the Howells-Dodge event at the Nielsen Center.

With the variety of sports and extracurricular activities, One Act was previously degraded when it came to prioritizing time and effort into it. However, it is very evident that this year is a different story. Ally voices, "You can really see that they're starting to prioritize a little more than they did before, and I think that's what's going to make a big difference this year." This renewed commitment to One Act not only highlights the team's growth, but will also pave the way for a successful season ahead.

For Ally, it's more than just a role where she has to memorize lines and perform on stage. It is an opportunity to share an important message about perseverance and hope through stark realities, symbolism, and witty

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comebacks. As One Act continues to grow and gain support, she and the rest of the cast, crew, and lights will continue to leave audiences with a performance that lingers long after the final line is delivered.

Setting the Stage

One Act's challenges and successes

By Sebastian Perez

The One Act crew and cast has been hard at work all season long. This past week, they have been hard at work and rushing to prepare for a showing on Thursday. For Coach Bowland, directing high school theater has less to do with memorizing lines, and more to do with time management under pressure. When it comes to coaching One Act, Bowland takes the time to make sure everything is organized and ready.

When One Act season begins, many directors look for scripts that fit what will guarantee a good rating. For Bowland, the process is more personal. She said she selected this year's script because "it had so many different types of characters, each with their own personality." That variety, she explained, gives students room to explore roles that feel authentic to them.

Every production faces hurdles, but this year's biggest challenge arrived unexpectedly. "We got our set late so the crew really had to step up quickly to learn their cues!" she said. Her crew's quick adjustments demonstrate the behind-the-scenes teamwork that often goes unseen.

Bowland's hopes for the audience are simple but meaningful. "I hope the audience can find a character to connect to," she said when asked what she wants the audience to get out of this play. That focus on how the play reaches the audience's emotions, shapes the way she manages how things go. She encourages students to think about how their characters speak, move, and relate to others, guiding them toward a great performance.

For Bowland, coaching One Act is more than an extracurricular. "I love being able to see students in a different setting," she said. "I did One Act in high school and always enjoyed it; I hope our students enjoy it just as much!" her commitment reflects how much she cares about the program. As opening night approaches, Bowland's influence is visible in every corner of the production-from the script's emotional range to the crew's resilience. It is evident that she is a coach who values connection, creativity, and student experience above all else.

Following One Act's second showing of the season on Thursday, members were relieved and excited. The showing was very successful with multiple actors getting praise for their performances. The season continues to progress and both the crew and cast proceed to work hard to perfect their performances. The cast and crew carried the lessons learned from early rehearsals to their show on Thursday - especially the late-arriving set that forced everyone to adapt quickly. The crew, too, demonstrated the lessons they have learned under Bowland's coaching. Thursday's show proved that even early-season challenges can turn into amazing performances in the end.

We look forward to seeing how the One Act season goes as we get deeper into the season!

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New and Old NHS

National Honor Society is more than just academics

By Roberto Perez

National honors society Is an academics that recognizes students that excel in academics and community involvement. It's an accomplishment that represents hard work, dedication, leadership, and community involvement. For many students becoming a member takes more than just good grades. It also requires volunteering, participating in leadership activities, and showing responsibility throughout high school.

Blake Wagner had big challenges He faced while trying to earn a place in the NHS it was finding enough volunteer hours and leadership opportunities. Sometimes people recognize and appreciate the things students do, another challenge is making sure the activities were completed during high school. Students have to keep track of their involvement, and make sure they meet the expectations. Although the process can be difficult. Blake explained "One of the most rewarding parts of being accepted is knowing that the organization recognizes students who are academically successful and involved in their communities.

"Staying in the National Honors Society requires continued dedicated members who consistently show up, volunteer, and follow the organization's expectations." "It's not about getting accepted, it's also about maintaining the qualities they have." Blake admitted to feeling a little worried about whether some of the activities completed would qualify, But being accepted brought relief and pride because it showed hard work and involvement. Blake described it as being able to take control of the situation without making others feel left out. A good leader should be able to find the best possible solution while making sure everyone feels included.



The NHS is giving opportunities to new people as well matching all the expectations. A new member that recently got added was Austynn. She showed a lot of Leadership and academic skillsShe explained that "People view her as a leader because she enjoys helping others and supporting them as they work towards their goals. She especially enjoys being there for people through both their success and challenges. Her leadership includes being a FFA Officer and serving as a class officer for 2 years. Both students demonstrate that Leadership can take many different forms, whether that is helping someone reach a goal or volunteering in the community and taking responsibility in a school organization. Being a leader

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means making a positive difference.

Becoming a National Honors Society member is more about academic achievement. It represents the time, effort and commitment students put into their school and community. They showed leadership service and dedication in important qualities that help students grow and make a difference in their lives.



West Point Hosts First JH Girls Wrestling Tournament

Mr. Ray Maxwell accomplishes tournament feat for West Point-Beemer Cadets Wrestling Team

By Javier Berganza

Wrestling is one of those sports that takes major dedication and time to be willing to learn. To do this you're going to need to put in blood, sweat, and tears. Ray Maxwell teaches these girls to show this type of dedication in the West Point Beemer Wrestling room.

West Point Beemer is hosting the first ever JH tournament in all of the school's history; this is a major accomplishment. " This is a major opportunity, mainly because of the fact that these girls have never had this type of opportunity and I want them to have the opportunity in their years before high school."

Additionally West Point sports administration feels happy about the decision. " I feel happy about accepting this offer because previously we didn't have a JH girls team and the fact that the opportunity comes and we get to do it it's just amazing to see what we are doing with these teams."

West Point's girls wrestling team has needed a tournament to help them get better, but a question rings "how do you ask for a tournament". " I went about asking mainly because I really want these girls to have as many opportunities as the boys wrestling team has, so I went to the administrative director and asked him, and with some planning we finally got a JH girls wrestling tournament." West Point Beemer schools are excited and they are excited to see what goes on next. Since this is an approach to administration the question still rings "what made you decide to actually host this tournament". "I wanted to host our first ever JH girls tournament because I want our girls to be able to shine, especially because we had them with the boys but now they are a separate team." This is what goes through the mind of a sports administrator when thinking about a new addition.

Since this is West Point Beemer's Public Schools first ever JH girls wrestling

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tournament no one really knows what to expect, but this a great opportunity for these JH girls to be in their own team rather than with the boys. " I wanted this opportunity to have these girls be in front of their parents wrestling, and having just a great opportunity." This is what West Point Beemer thinks about the first JH girls tournament.

As the tournament ended parents going home the JH girls wrestling tournament had ended with some matches on the mat, and new additions to the team showing their hard work from practices with their coach. This meet bursted with new opportunities for West Point Beemer to possibly host more tournaments later on in their years. This shows us how rapidly wrestling is growing not just in a small town like West Point to major cities that are starting to implement more opportunities for their students. This shows the dedication that it takes.

Half Marathon, Full Mistake!

Three West Point students and their Teacher take on the Good Life Halfsy.

By Joshua Gonzalez

This past Sunday, over 9,500 people took to the streets of Lincoln to take on the ultimate challenge; The Good Life Halfsy, spanning 13.1 miles, is a serious undertaking for anyone brave enough to take it on. This year, West Point-Beemer had three students and a teacher who took on the challenge and left Lincoln with their hardware.

One such competitor was Sophomore Nolan Hasenkamp. Having already run the Lincoln Marathon in the spring, Hasenkamp signed up looking for another tough challenge. Compared to his usual cross country jitters, he felt only slightly nervous heading into race day, focusing on setting a personal best and beating his teacher, Mr. Ossian.

The toughest part of the race hit Hasenkamp during miles 11 and 12, when fatigue set in with the finish line still out of reach. Despite being tired and sore afterward, he didn't feel completely wiped out. Instead, he felt accomplished. Looking back on the experience, Hasenkamp said his biggest takeaway was feeling "like you work hard for something, and you achieve it."

Alongside Hasenkamp on the course was Emerson Meiergerd, who returned for her second Good Life Halfsy after enjoying the energetic environment and running with teammates the year before. She explained that the feeling of excitement had kept her awake the night before the race, and she entered the morning aiming to beat her previous personal best record, sharing the same goal Nolan wanted to reach. In order to do that, Emerson was going to have to endure pain and not walk one bit of the tough long race.

The test of endurance arrived early for Meiergerd, whose ankles began hurting just two miles in. Although that pain eventually faded, heavy fatigue set in around miles nine and ten. By the time she crossed the finish line, she had

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shaved three minutes off her time from last year, though her legs, hips, and knees were aching-a soreness she described as worse than cross country. Still, she walked away with a meaningful reflection, sharing, “I personally think I start to become my best self when I run.”

Fellow runner Evelyn Sanchez also returned for her second half marathon, though her motivation was centered around family. Because she had already experienced the 13.1 mile race before, she signed up to support her younger sister, who was taking the distance for the first time, and help her know what to expect throughout the process.

Unlike her teammates who were chasing personal records, Evelyn entered the race with a much more cautious mindset. After dealing with an injury during the fall cross country season, her main goal was simply to start, finish, and stay healthy. The miles made it easier as her family cheered her on, especially knowing she would get “to spend time with people I care about” once she crossed the end. Although her knees were aching and she felt exhausted right after the race, grabbing a meal with loved ones afterward helped her settle down and enjoy the accomplishment.

Of course, the students weren’t the only ones suffering for their hardware. Teacher Mr. Ossian, the very man Nolan was trying to beat, was right there in the mix. Having taken a running hiatus to focus on parenting, Ossian jumped at the chance to join a friends’ team as an excuse to get back in shape. Since this was his fifth or sixth half marathon overall, he skipped the pre-race jitters and set two goals which was to finish in under two hours without stopping.

Even for someone who’s familiar with this type of atmosphere, the course didn’t go easy on him. Around mile eight, “physical dread” set in as he wondered if he could hold his pace for the final five miles. To make matters worse, he learned a tough lesson about trying new things on race day after taking an energy gel he hadn’t trained with, which quickly upset his stomach. Ultimately, Ossian spent the rest of the race dreaming about his post-run meal, crossing the finish line proud of taking on the challenge and thrilled that it was finally over so he could eat.

From sore ankles and upset stomachs to new personal records and family milestones, the Good Life Halfsy tested every West Point-beamer runner who stepped up to the starting line. Still, all four returned home with their medals, proving that sometimes a "full mistake" is completely worth the run.

Do My Tabs Offend You?

The West Point school-issued Chromebooks had a limit on the number of allowed open tabs

A student has an English essay, a P2T assignment, a Journalism article, and a college class assignment all due. Instead of closing their tabs, the student keeps the tabs open because it is easier to keep track of.

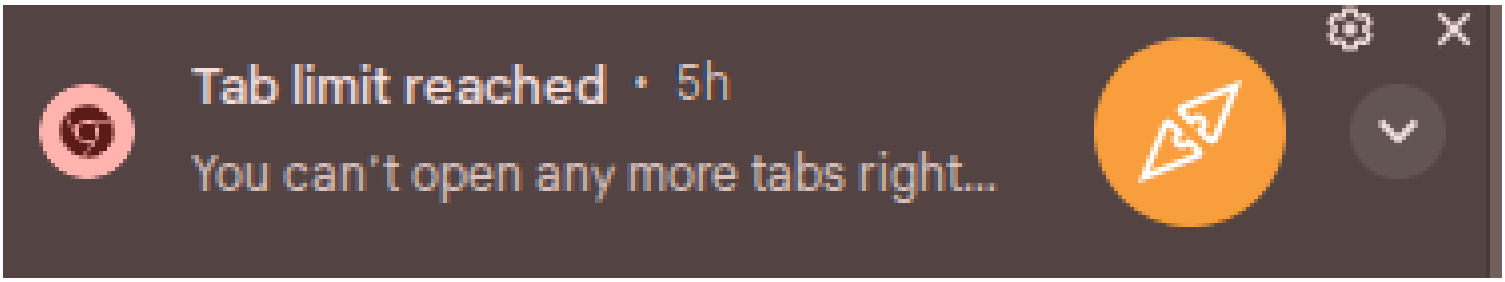
Well, that is not possible anymore. On November 12th, out of nowhere, the West Point student body was hit by a warning saying, "You reached the tab limit."

This came out of the blue and made no sense. Of all options of control in a school, what does controlling the number of open tabs do to help the school? Many students have so many tabs open to keep track of school items, and it is how they stay organized.

Furthermore, the students who already had more than 15 tabs open saw many of

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their tabs close. These students now have to figure out where and what went missing.

One student had a tab close to the student's online class, and he couldn't find it anywhere because the student had to download it weirdly for his class. Luckily, the student was able to find it in his downloads after 30 minutes of panicking, wondering how he would get the assignment done in time, but what if he didn't find the assignment? Would the school refund the 2 hours of hard work the student did on that assignment and explain to the student's online class teacher why their assignment was late? Probably not; the ban came out of nowhere, and no student, teacher, or even high school principal knew this limit was coming.

Students across the school lost many of their tabs and organizational skills. This new "requirement" is just adding steps for no reason. Most students who have a lot of tabs open use these tabs almost every day in class.

If a student is in an online class, why would the student delete the Northeast Canvas app if they are going to use it every day? The same goes for assignments. The students now have to pinpoint exactly which assignments and tabs are needed and have to close tabs and hope and pray they don't forget about the other assignments.

Many students express that having that many tabs open may seem unorganized, but it is how they see that they have an assignment to do. A student on an average day needs many tabs open, and they get a majority of their assignments now online. This new rule just limits and controls the students for a dumb reason.

Furthermore, this won't just affect school assignments; it will affect using the Chromebook at school events. Many events, like extemporaneous speaking, require the student to do research on a question. How will a student answer and do the research on the question without closing a necessary tab?

Speaking of research, a research essay requires a lot of tabs. How will a student be able to have all those tabs open and be able to write his or her essay now without having to fear running out of allowed open tabs? This just added another difficulty to a research paper no one expected. This tab restriction only adds more difficulties and will weaken learning ability and organizational skills because we can't see what we need to do.

Now some people may say that this new tab option is to control how many games are open and to make sure all the tabs open are necessary. Many also say that having that many tabs isn't being organized, but messy.

That isn't true. The school has 2 extreme ways to handle games. 1. Every week a new website is blocked, whether it is a game or video. Many students, while trying to do a homework assignment for

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their P2T class that requires a video, get hit with a ban warning saying, "this website is blocked: educational video." So clearly, this system is already faulty.

On top of that, teachers have an extension on their computer to see the tabs the students are on. If the teacher sees a student is on a game, the teacher can just delete it. The teachers are already able to control what goes on the computer screen, so why do we need control over the number of tabs we have?

This new tab limit doesn't help anyone. This tab limit hurts the students' education and focuses on assignments. A student isn't able to do all of their homework assignments anymore on their Chromebook. What is the point of a Chromebook if we can't even do our online homework on it? Why are we limiting the students in a way that makes zero sense when teachers can already close and watch tabs themselves?

Fall Out Boy Is Moving Again..

If You Can't Name A Song off MANIA I Don't Wanna See You In the Ticket Queue

By Viviana Morales

Fall Out Boy has returned with a new tour, new songs, and a whole new era. It began when Fall Out Boy's official account went live with frontman, Patrick Stump, sorting through old vinyl records for 18 minutes. After his odd livestream came Joe Trohman's. Joe, the guitarist of the band was seen sat messing around with a camera. Then came Andy Hurley , the beloved drummer, who played with a claw machine in a mysterious mall. Finally came lyricist and famed bassist of the band, Pete Wentz. He was seen building what fans speculated to be a coffin. The floor tiles of this stream seemed to appear similar to the tiles spotted in Hurley's video.



All these livestream videos left fans online confused about what Fall Out Boy was planning. Many began to speculate that the band was finally pushing out content regarding the highly expected ninth album. Many fans had hoped that the band would surely make "FOB9" as some labeled it. Some even had put together thoughts of what the album cover would look like, some thinking green, others hoping pink. Fall Out Boy answered all the questions through the creation of "Twilight Town Mall"

As fans flocked to the Fall Out Boy website, they were greeted with a page that looked like a businesses website, or more accurately, a mall's directory. There were stores named after past songs, security camera footage of the members meandering inside of an actual mall, and many other subtle hints that lead to a string of so much more than anyone could have guessed.

A snippet of a song was sent to fans through text messages from the "mall". On November 9th Fall Out Boy officially released their newest

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(Not anymore) single, “ACES”. Many fans noted how it reminded them of the band’s past songs more pop punk sound. Some said it was similar to the band's opening track, “Thriller”, from their 2007 album - Infinity On High, and had a deeper, heavier bassline like so many fans had missed.

Following the release of the song, the band announced their newest tour, “Twilight of the Punks.” Fans online freaked out completely. This is the band’s biggest global tour, including 36 arena and stadium dates across both the United States, and the United Kingdom as well as Europe. Special guests tagging along with the band that were hinted at through the Twilight Town Mall website’s Lost and Found included: The Offspring, The Story So Far, and Good Charlotte.

Most recently, the band performed at the said Twilight Town Mall in L.A. This was a pop-up event for fans that RSVPed quick enough. At said event the band played a setlist of both old songs, but also their recent single. The most notable thing to happen at the event was the VHS tapes fans were sent home with labeled, “Doomsday Generation.” When fans who attended posted about the tapes, it was revealed that it was another new song. On November 13th, the band finally, officially put out the song that was seen on those tapes. Despite all this recent music and art being put out by the band, the album speculations have not been confirmed but rather denied by both Pete and Patrick.

Whatever this may all be leading up to, it’s incredibly exciting to see the new era of Fall Out Boy. They’re saying goodbye to the old of So Much (For) Stardust, but starting new with “Twilight of the Punks.” Many will be following along to see where the twilight takes them.



Midterm Election Results

Democrats take back the House and Senate

By Ally Wolken

The midterm elections concluded this week, with the exception of Alaska and Mississippi (as of now leaning blue), with historic results. Those watching NBC’s Kornacki Cam, which was a 10 hour live stream of Steve Kornacki talking about the election results as they came in, could see the shock and surprise on his face as the numbers began to roll in.

The election sparked much surprise with key battleground states like Georgia, North Carolina, and Michigan turning blue. In an even more surprising event, long time Republican states like Texas (where Trump won by

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nearly 2 million votes in 2024) elected Democratic Senator James Talarico, and Democratic Governor Gina Hinojosa.

This election was one of many firsts, including but not limited to: the first female Black governor, first Muslim senator, first openly gay man in the Senate, first Native American female senator and more. Now, a record breaking number of 159 women from both parties will serve both House and Senate seats.

Perhaps the most watched race was Michigan. The race between Mike Rogers and Abdul El-Sayed kept Americans on the edge of their seats. The highly publicized debates and campaigns that reached the whole nation, shook the battleground state in favor of Abdul El-Sayed. El-Sayed faced mounds of prejudice because of his Muslim religion, with accusations that he would enact Sharia law and support terrorist groups. However, El-Sayed proved himself worthy to Michigan voters, showing that his religion does not define his policies. El-Sayed ran on a progressive campaign, advocating for Medicare for all. Being in a swing state, El-Sayed considerably broke through to all Michigan voters, and won by over 400,000 votes.

Texas, a predominantly Republican state, who hasn't voted for a Democratic candidate in the general election in well over 40 years, elected Democratic state officials. James Talarico defeated Ken Paxton by nearly 500,000 votes. Gina Hinojosa beat Republican Greg Abbott by nearly 700,000 votes. Both progressive candidates won in the conservative state, sparking many to wonder what marked the turning point that made voters change their minds.

Democrats won control of the house and the Senate, with over seven seats gained, bringing Democrats up to 54 seats. President Trump, in a recent interview for 60 Minutes, accepted the results of the election and pledged to work with Democrats, saying he'll "figure something out". This was in sharp contrast to his Truth Social post a few days earlier, citing that if Democrats take over the legislature, he would call himself "Mr. Veto".

As of November 9th, Donald Trump has begun to cast doubt across the results of the 2026 midterms. Writing on Truth Social, Trump wrote "Does anybody really believe this 'Election' was honest???" Senate Democratic Leader Hakeem Jefferies said that they "underestimated Democrats". On both sides, change is imminent. The division between parties seemingly must compromise to continue to pass legislation. The future outlook of this election isn't certain, however this historic election will definitely be one to look at for years to come.

Meet Your Contestants

Who is going to be Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader?

By Ally Wolken

After a landslide victory for Senate and House Democrats, critical changes are to be done. The shoes for Speaker of The House and Senate Majority Leader will be filled by someone new. However, it's not clear who these roles might go to, and the topic has been part of heated discourse online.

Currently, during the lame-duck session, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson is finishing up his fiscal term until a new Speaker of the House is chosen by vote. A week after the election, it seems that only one person has formally declared their campaign for Speaker of the House: Hakeem Jefferies. Jefferies has been the Leader of the Democratic Caucus and

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Senate Minority Leader since 2023. Jefferies has been the endorsed pick by many other Democratic representatives; however, the public has a different opinion.

Progressives have been sharply critical of Jefferies's support for Israel and foreign aid to Israel. With over $1.5 million in AIPAC money and other pro-Israel lobbyists his acceptance of corporate PAC money has been subject of much discourse. Leftists, anti-war activists, anti-Zionist activists and Palestinian rights activists have increasingly begun to voice their opinions against his leadership.

Representatives have reportedly been overwhelmed by the substantial number of calls that have urged them to not elect Hakeem Jefferies as Speaker of the House. A recent petition has begun to make rounds online calling to elect the current United States Representative for Massachusetts's 7th congressional district, Ayanna Pressley. Pressley's views are what anti-Zionist progressives want to see. The petition on Petition.org has garnered nearly 90,000 signatures, as of this Friday morning. Yet, Pressley has not officially announced or suggested her run for Speaker of the House. Some say that this grassroots push for new Democratic party leadership directly reflects the current in-fighting within the party.

Current Senate Minority leader, now running for Senate Majority leader is Chuck Schumer, who has filled the role in the past; however, has run unopposed, until last night. Chris Van Hollen, Senator for Maryland, has announced his run for Senate Majority leader, and already gained support from Bernie Sanders, winning the hearts of Democratic Socialists and progressives alike.

Schumer has also been torn open by his support for Israel and his money gained by Pro-Israel PACs. Similar to Pressley, Van Hollen has also been the candidate for anti-Zionism citizens and elected officials alike.

Van Hollen centers his campaign on economic populism, civil rights, equal pay and other people-centered issues. He rejects AIPAC and Pro-Israel money, which seems to be a key action to winning the hearts of progressive Democrats. Van Hollen quickly gained the endorsements from political advocacy groups like the Working Families Party and newly elected progressive politicians like Abdul El-Sayed, Zohran Mamdani, and Peggy Flanagan. It seems the people are tired of Chuck Schumer's laissez-faire strategies in the House. Those who oppose Schumer note that he didn't push back enough against Trump's policies during the last Trump Administration.

