

# Girl, so Confusing: A Breakdown of the 2024 Election

A survey conducted by Grant Magazine asked 122 students from various Oregon high schools for their opinions on the 2024 election cycle.

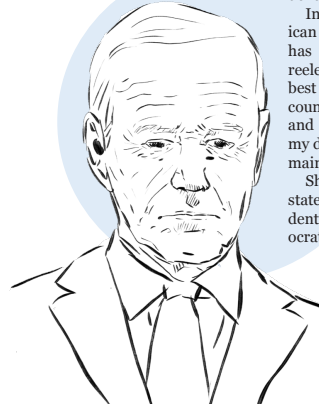
Story by June Baeck and Claire Coffey | Illustrations by Lucy Brewster

*"I think the Harris campaign looks more like the campaigns of the past. They are reaching out across the aisle and trying to run for everyone's president. They seem to be bringing a dignity back to presidential campaigns."* — Lisa Ostrowski, Clackamas High School junior.

*"I think that Trump's campaign has been very lackluster. His rallies have been too long, too dull, and he has been attacking everything that moves in order to shift the focus away from his declining mental state and onto the flaws of others. Honestly, there is not a single quality about his campaign that I like or even tolerate. He is just a detestable person and he is a serious threat to democracy if he were to be elected."* — Anonymous Grant High School senior

Joe Biden's debate performance amplified fears from both parties that, because of his age, he would be unfit for another term. Worried continual blunders would jeopardize their chances of being reelected, Democratic politicians began calling on Biden to "pass the torch" and drop out of the race, including representatives Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington.

## JULY 21 — BIDEN DROPS OUT

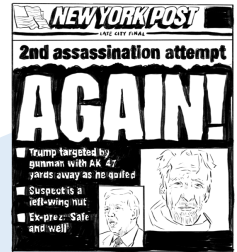


Following discourse over his age and competency after the June 27 debate, Biden officially dropped out of the 2024 presidential race.

In a statement to the American people he wrote, "While it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

Shortly after, Biden released a statement endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic party nominee.

*"I don't like (Trump), I dislike everything about him."* — Anonymous Lincoln High School sophomore



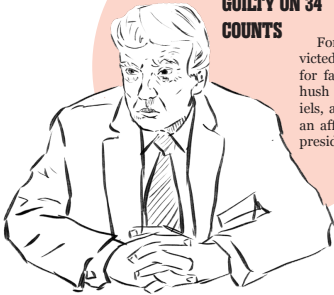
## SEPT. 15 — SECOND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON TRUMP

A man was spotted hidden in the bushes of Trump International Golf Club, aiming a rifle at a Secret Service Agent. The agent shot at the man, who was apprehended shortly after fleeing the scene. Though the man, Ryan Wesley Routh, never fired at Trump, he admitted to an assassination plan in a letter addressed to "The World."

Routh claimed that he used to support Trump, but no longer does. "Trump is unfit to be anything, much less a U.S. president," he writes in the letter.

## JUNE 27 — BIDEN-TRUMP DEBATE

## MAY 30 — TRUMP FOUND GUILTY ON 34 COUNTS



Former President Donald Trump was convicted by a New York jury on 34 felony counts for falsifying business records to conceal a hush money payment made to Stormy Daniels, an adult film star whom he was having an affair with. Trump became the first U.S. president to be convicted of a felony.

*"Idk Harris slaps she seems coolio."* — Finn Peter, Clackamas High School freshman

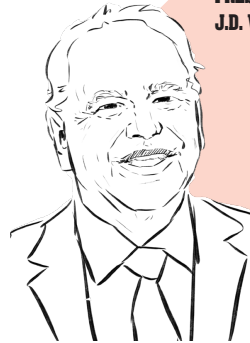
A gunman opened fire at a Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, grazing Trump's ear, injuring two spectators and killing one. The shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was shot by a Secret Service sniper moments later. An FBI investigation is currently pending over the attempted assassination. The Secret Service has since identified procedural failures that led to agents' delayed response to the threat.



## JULY 13 — ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON TRUMP

*"I value Kamala's pro-choice campaign because as a woman it is terrifying to imagine not having control over my own body."* — Avery Baz, Lincoln High School sophomore

## JULY 15 & AUG. 6 — VICE PRESIDENT SELECTIONS: J.D. VANCE AND TIM WALZ



A fresh face for the Republican party, Ohio Senator J.D. Vance was picked as Trump's running mate in an effort to turn crucial midwestern swing states red. While Vance has shown unwavering and effusive support for the former president as of late, Democrats have been quick to question his loyalty. Prior to his Trump-backed 2021 Senate campaign, he publicly criticized the former president on multiple occasions, calling himself a "never-Trump guy" in a 2016 interview. Politico writes, "Vance says he's had a genuine change of heart about Trump; his critics say he's cynically molded himself to the times."

Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate, a departure from the potential candidates analysts had been expecting. While the pair's overlapping stances on reproductive healthcare, in vitro fertilization and child tax credit policies made Walz an ideal pick, his charisma is what has won over the Democratic party. Political analysts also suspect that Harris, a woman of color, needed a more conservative white male to "balance the ticket demographically."

*"W campaign. (Trump) stopped like 3 wars\* and has crazy aura."* — Anonymous Lincoln High School sophomore

*"Trump did not end any wars during his presidency."*

## SEPT. 10 — HARRIS-TRUMP DEBATE

Just over 67 million Americans tuned in to watch the 90-minute presidential debate between Harris and Trump.

One of the most memorable moments was when Trump said, "In Springfield, they're eating the dogs," repeating false claims of Haitian immigrants kidnapping and eating residents' pets in one Ohioan city.

The majority of students and teachers surveyed believed that Harris "won." Clackamas High School freshman Finn Peter says, "She easily ate him up bro. Trump is cooked." Many respondents noted, however, that neither candidate answered the prompts particularly well, nor did they go into depth about their own policies. +

