

Midterm elections 2022: Key Congressional races to watch

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • Voters nationwide will have the first chance during President Joe Biden’s administration to elect a new House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate in the Congressional midterm elections on Tuesday, November 8.

For both President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump, the first midterms were near disasters for the party in power. Both lost control of the House of Representatives.

President Biden and Democrats hope to avoid the same fate. There are a number of key Senate, House and gubernatorial races that will decide if this cycle will be a success or failure for President Biden and Democrats.

Senate

The makeup of the Senate for the next two years lies squarely in the senate races in three swing states that swung for Biden in 2020: Nevada, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

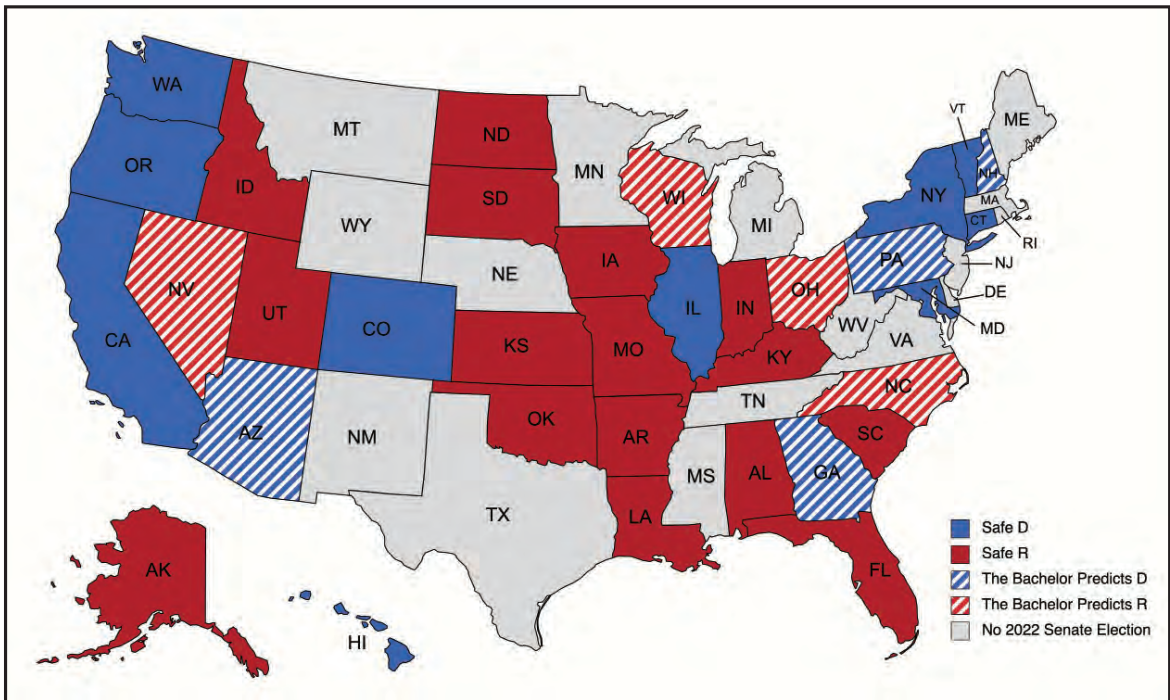
In Nevada, Catherine Cortez Masto (D) faces Nevada’s former Attorney General, Adam Laxalt (R), holding tight in the polls as Election Day draws near.

President Biden carried Nevada by just 2.39% in 2020, a narrower margin than former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton won it in 2016, and Republicans have seized on the seat. Cook Political Report rates this (and all the races mentioned later in this article) as a toss-up.

Laxalt would put a Republican back on Nevada’s Senate delegation for the first time since the 2018 elections when Sen. Jacky Rosen defeated Dean Heller.

In Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman (D) and TV host Dr. Mehmet Oz (R) are competing for the open seat left by Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA). FiveThirtyEight’s polling average had Fetterman up 12 points in mid-August, but the polls have tightened, leaving Fetterman with just a one-point lead in FiveThirtyEight’s polling average.

Oz has certainly changed stances on some political issues, but this tightening has come from increased coverage of the stroke that Fetterman had in May, just before the Democratic primary. For the first few months of his recovery, he stayed out of the public eye. But as the race tightened and Election Day neared, Fetterman attended interviews and debates armed with a transcription device, helping him with lingering auditory processing



GRAPHIC BY COOPER E. SMITH '23, DESIGNED WITH MAPCHART.NET

The Editorial Staff predicts House, Senate midterm races

See Page 2



problems following his stroke. Recent media coverage has centered on Fetterman’s health rather than the political issues at stake.

If Fetterman wins, it would be a major gain for Democrats, an opportunity they may not have elsewhere. Should Oz win, it would almost certainly mean that Senate control remains split or in the hands of Republicans.

Georgia shocked the nation in 2022 when President Biden won the usually red Southern state. Reverend Raphael Warnock (D) rode that wave when he defeated Senator Kelly Loeffler (R) in a special election on January 5, 2021.

Despite that victory, Warnock is running again just two years later to secure a full six-year term. This time, rather than running against Loeffler, he’s running against University of Georgia football legend Herschel Walker.

This race has been close the entire time, with neither candidate having a lead greater than 6%. As of Wednesday, FiveThirtyEight rated Senator

Warnock up just over a point in its polling average. But the race is narrowing, and Republicans are hopeful that Walker will overcome his many scandals to win the seat next week.

If Walker wins, Georgia’s Senate delegation will be bipartisan. This would represent a major loss for Democrats as they hope to solidify Georgia for 2024.

House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is almost certainly flipping from Democratic control under Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to Republican control, but there are a few races to keep eyes on.

Here in Indiana, Frank Mrvan (D) is in a tight race with Jennifer Ruth-Green (R), a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force and Indiana National Guard. Ruth-Green is the only Black Republican woman running for Congress this year and, if elected, she would be the only one in the House.

Mrvan is positioned as the favorite, but this race is closer than most feel comfortable

with, given that Indiana’s first congressional district has been controlled by Democrats for more than 80 years.

In Alaska, a conservative Democrat is looking to hold her seat and become the swing vote in a narrowly controlled Congress, no matter who has control. Mary Peltola (D) was named the congresswoman for Alaska in September after Don Young, the longest serving congressman at the time, died in a plane crash in March.

Peltola is running against former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin (R) as well as Nick Begich (R) and Chris Bye (L). Alaska’s use of rank choice voting means that Alaskans will only have to vote once, but that it could be some time before the winner is announced.

Peltola has taken positions on both sides of the aisle, proclaiming the right to choose and workers’ rights while supporting the Second Amendment and saying that Alaska wouldn’t be Alaska without guns.

It seems all but certain that

Republicans are going to win the House, but if their margin of victory is as close as it is for Democrats right now, Peltola could serve as the swing vote in a Congress controlled by the opposition party.

Governors’ Mansions

Gubernatorial elections aren’t sexy, but in some states, who voters choose as their chief executive could affect issues such as abortion rights. Right now, Republicans control 28 governor’s mansions, while Democrats control 22.

In Arizona, Kari Lake, the state’s GOP chairwoman, is running against Secretary of State Katie Hobbs (D). Lake is beginning to pull away.

Biden won Arizona by 0.3%, making him the first Democratic presidential candidate to win in Arizona since 1996, when President Clinton carried the state. Hobbs hopes to ride that wave to victory, but with the recurring trend of the president’s party losing in midterm elections, and with Hobbs’s refusal to debate Lake, Hobbs is in Lake’s rearview with a deficit of more than three points.

Should Lake win, Arizona will replace its moderate Republican governor, Doug Ducey, with an election-denier who supports Arizona’s law banning all abortion with no exceptions. Lake also pledges to finish President Donald Trump’s border wall in Arizona. However, if Hobbs were to recover, it could signal a major leftward shift for Arizona, helping to secure it for Democrats in 2024.

In Oregon, Republicans have a chance to flip the governor’s mansion in a state that has had a Democratic governor since 1987. Oregonian state Speaker of the House Tina Kotek is running a close race against Oregon Representative Christine Drazan. Drazan has made the race a dead heat. FiveThirtyEight’s polling average has the race tied with Libertarian Betsy Johnson holding just under 14% of the vote.

This race is close and could be one to watch next Tuesday. If Drazan wins, it would be a major shift for Oregon and could put abortion opponent in a state that President Biden won by 16 percent.

With 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 34 Senate seats and 36 governor’s mansions up for grabs, Biden’s agenda—and his 2024 chances—hangs in the balance.

Looking back on Biden before the Midterms



COURTESY OF AP NEWS

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | STAFF WRITER • Though President Joseph Biden is not running for election this midterm cycle, he is certainly on the ballot. When casting votes for key races for the House and Senate, many Americans will look to Biden’s first two years in office.

Biden attempted to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic by passing a coronavirus relief bill allocating \$47.8 billion for state and local health departments, including increased funding for contact tracing and COVID-19 testing. Within the bill, \$10 billion was also given for use of the Defense Production Act, intended to increase production of COVID-19 tests, vaccines and personal protective equipment. President Biden also put in place vaccination programs that saw more than 200 million Americans—close to 70% of all adults—fully vaccinated.

On his first day in office, Biden signed an executive order rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement after former President Donald Trump had officially withdrawn in 2020. During the 26th United Nations climate summit, Biden apologized for former President Trump’s exit, saying “I guess I shouldn’t apologize, but I do apologize for the fact that the United States—the last administration—

pulled out of the Paris Accords and put us sort of behind the eight ball.”

Biden’s handling of the chaotic evacuation of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, which resulted in the death of 13 U.S. servicemen, led to bipartisan criticism and marked the first time his approval rating dropped below 50%. In a written statement, Republican Senator Mitt Romney called the withdrawal “disastrous” and “a stain on America’s reputation,” while Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, expressed his criticism saying, “I am disappointed that the Biden administration clearly did not accurately assess the implications of a rapid U.S. withdrawal. We are now witnessing the horrifying results of many years of policy and intelligence failures.”

In August, President Biden announced a plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in student loans for certain individuals. The plan, however, has hit a roadblock as the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has sided with six predominantly Republican states who sued to block the President’s program.

In early October, President Biden issued pardons applying to individuals convicted of marijuana possession on a federal level, his first step in fulfilling his campaign promise of decriminalizing marijuana. These pardons only cover federal offenders who have been convicted on simple marijuana possessions, but Biden has encouraged governors to do the same.

“Just as no one should be in a federal prison solely due to possession of marijuana, no one should be in a local jail or state prison for that reason, either,” said Biden.

Biden had previously met with John Fetterman, a Democratic candidate for senate in Pennsylvania who has made decriminalization

of marijuana a central part of his campaign, a signal that this was a strategic move to put the Democratic party in a more favorable position ahead of the midterms.

Americans’ struggle with rising inflation rates poses to be one of the major issues of this midterm cycle. An Ipsos/Reuters poll conducted in October found that more than four in 10 voters cited either inflation, jobs and/or the economy as the issues they care most about heading into the midterms. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has shown alarming trends in inflation; from 2021 to 2022, inflation has risen a total of 8.2%.

Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law in August, was meant to “fight inflation and lower costs for American families.” Despite this bill, we are still seeing rising inflation rates, and many believe Biden hasn’t done enough to ease the effect of inflation on American families. Biden addressed his party’s economic promises by signing a more than \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill. The package included \$550 billion to fund transportation and utilities, \$110 billion to fund freight and passenger trains and \$55 billion to improve water systems and replace lead piping. The package also included \$65 billion for expanding broadband, after the COVID-19 pandemic left millions of Americans stuck at home without internet access.

With midterms creeping closer, Biden has been largely dismissive of polls predicting Republican victory. At the DNC headquarters, Biden addressed Democratic organizers in a speech that he called his “closing argument.” Biden painted the midterms as a choice between Democrats and Republicans, not a referendum on his largely unpopular administration: “If we get people out to vote, we win.”

Supreme Court poised to strike down Harvard and UNC affirmative action programs

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • The Supreme Court of the United States heard oral argument in two cases with the potential to strike down affirmative action in college admissions on Monday, October 31. Over 4.5 hours of argument, the Court weighed the constitutionality of Harvard University and the University of North Carolina’s policies of including race as one factor among many in undergraduate admissions.

Affirmative action policies refer to race-conscious decision-making, usually in hiring or college admissions. This week’s two cases, Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina and Students for Fair Admissions v. President & Fellows of Harvard College, ask whether or not the Fourteenth Amendment precludes admissions officers from including race as one factor in admitting students.

At oral argument, both sides attempted to rely on the legacy of Brown v. Board. Opponents of affirmative action argued that Brown advocated for a “colorblind” vision of the Constitution, one that permitted no decisions on the basis of race whatsoever. For their part, the supporters of affirmative action argued that the ideals behind Brown, a remedy for racial disparities in education, had not yet been realized, and that affirmative action was necessary to create student bodies that mirrored the population as a whole.

“It was Brown’s vision that

education could be the engine of our democracy, a place where students could prepare for the rights and obligations of citizenship in a diverse and inclusive setting,” said North Carolina Solicitor General Ryan Park in his opening lines. “The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill seeks to fulfill Brown’s vision by assembling a student body that is diverse along the many dimensions that matter in American life, including race, but also social class, geography, military status, intellectual views and much more.”

The Supreme Court controls which cases it hears, a power that virtually no other constitutional court relishes. Typically, the Court agrees to hear cases when the lower courts disagree on an issue. Though there was no such circuit split on the constitutionality of affirmative action, the Court still agreed to hear these two cases this term.

This was not the first time the Court had heard cases regarding affirmative action. Most notably in 1978 and 2003, the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld affirmative action policies as constitutionally permissible, provided the policies treat race as one factor among many, and not as a decisive factor or a strict quota.

With six Republican-appointed justices, many of whom have previously declared that they find affirmative action to be constitutionally suspect, many observers believe the Supreme Court is likely to rule against the universities in the two cases.

The coming Congressional shift

The Editorial Staff predicts 50-50 Senate split, Republican House

EDITORIAL STAFF • Election predictions rarely age well. Yet after reviewing countless poll coverage from *Politico*, *FiveThirtyEight* and *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, we are ready to attempt to predict the outcome of next Tuesday's midterm races. The Editorial Staff of *The Bachelor* predicts the Republicans to win between 220-240 House seats, gaining control of the chamber. For the Senate, we predict a 50-50 split, with Vice President Kamala Harris (D) breaking the tie, allowing Democrats to maintain the slimmest Senate majority possible.

Senate Predictions

The Editorial Staff predicts a 50-50 Senate tie. The key battlegrounds are Georgia, Pennsylvania and Nevada. We think Democrats will maintain their leads in Georgia and Pennsylvania, while Republicans will successfully flip Nevada red. For Georgia, we predict that incumbent Raphael Warnock (D) will prevail over Herschel Walker (R). Walker's seemingly endless scandals may be catching up with him, though the polls have tightened in recent weeks. We also note that many Georgia Republicans may split their tickets, as evidenced by the gap between Republican support for Governor Brian Kemp (R) and Walker. Between Walker's scandals and Warnock's incumbency, we give the edge to Warnock in a tight, much-watched race.

Crossing north to Pennsylvania, we address the Keystone State's knock-down, drag-out match between John Fetterman (D) and Mehmet Oz (R). Following a divisive Republican primary, Oz early on faced somewhat lukewarm support from Pennsylvania Republicans. Fetterman's barrage of claims that Oz was not a Pennsylvanian, but from New Jersey, didn't seem to help matters.

But the race dynamics have lately shifted to focus on Fetterman's health. There are growing concerns about Fetterman's capacity while he recovers from a stroke he suffered in mid-May. Following a televised interview and debate against Oz, national headlines pivoted from Oz's rhetoric and scandals to Fetterman's health. Following an amalgamation of polling (predominantly from *Politico*, *FiveThirtyEight* and *Sabato's*), we still give the race to Fetterman, but barely. In any event, the counting will likely continue late into the night.

Out west, we predict the Republicans' biggest prize of the evening: Nevada. Incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto (D) faces a strong challenge from Adam Paul Laxalt (R), the former state attorney general. Laxalt has leaned into Trumpian rhetoric, stylizing himself in a similar vein to Republican Senator Josh Hawley (MO) and candidate J.D.

A pessimistic prognosticator's perilous prediction

DR. ETHAN HOLLANDER | GUEST COLUMNIST • My advice for the elections next Tuesday is to enjoy them...they might just be our last!

Not that I expect them to matter very much. Gerrymandering assures us that most of the upcoming races are already decided. And those that end up being close are likely to be challenged in court, where lawyers, pundits and profiteers levy accusations of election fraud, well-founded or otherwise (mostly otherwise).

If Republicans win control of the House (as they very well may do), expect them to end the investigation of Trump and January 6. If Democrats win, expect the investigation to limp along until 2024, when the presidential election will pick up where this one left off: more court challenges, more empty rhetoric about the need to come together and more vitriol to tear us apart.

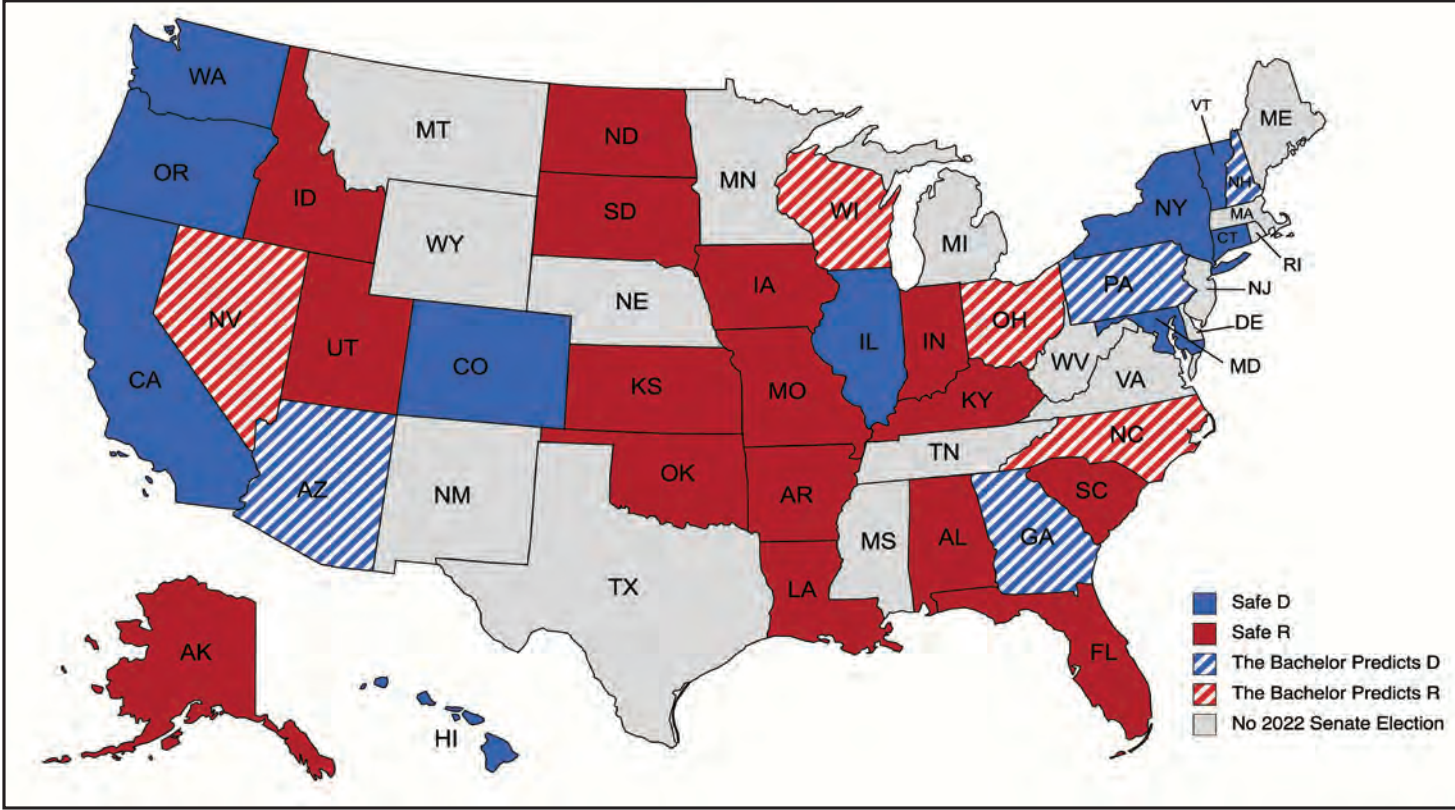
If Republicans win the Senate, I wouldn't be surprised if they eliminate the filibuster—that last protection against majority tyranny that everyone hates when they're in the majority. Democrats, ever the optimists, missed an opportunity to do just that two years ago—convincing this pessimistic prognosticator that, even now, they fail to fully appreciate just how desperate the situation has become.

Either way, gridlock will continue. Both parties will focus on cultural issues so as to avoid structural reform. And government will remain unable to take the difficult steps necessary to address the root causes of our malaise: poverty (urban and rural), polarization (partisan and pecuniary), segregation (racial or economic), and fear-mongering (millenarian or material).

No, I don't anticipate another civil war—the uptick in Google searches for that term (and in gun sales) notwithstanding. We're much too distracted by our dinkley-dooos to undertake anything that ambitious, nor do enough of us value abstract goals sufficiently to put our lives on the line for them. More likely, I think, will be a slow simmer of low-level violence: vigilantism, assassinations, demonstrations, riots, the occasional improvised explosive and plenty of mass shootings.

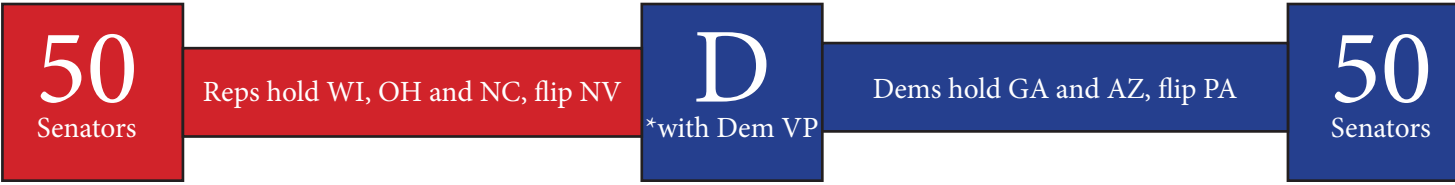
Why the gloomy outlook? And what, if anything, can we do make it less likely to come to pass? For that, consider attending the WDPD forum on democratic decay later this month!

Dr. Ethan Hollander is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Wabash College. Hollander primarily teaches comparative politics.



GRAPHIC BY COOPER E. SMITH '23, CREATED WITH MAPCHART.NET

The Editorial Staff predicts a 50-50 Senate split for the midterm Congressional elections on November 8. Grey states on the map indicate states without 2022 Senate races.



Vance (R-OH).

Laxalt's strategy has paid off. Since September, Laxalt has surged. On September 8, *FiveThirtyEight* gave Laxalt a 37 in 100 chance of winning the seat; on November 1, it gave Laxalt a 58 in 100 chance. We find that these polls demonstrate Laxalt will overcome the incumbency and name recognition benefits Cortez Masto enjoys. Flipping this seat is key to Republican strategy for winning the Senate; without Nevada, it will become increasingly unlikely for the Republicans to win the Senate. The Republican road to victory runs through Carson City.

Our other senate predictions, in our view, deserve far less of a mention. Mark Kelly (D) seems to have pulled ahead enough in AZ, and J.D. Vance (R), Ron Johnson (R) and Ted Budd (R) look like they will hold on in Ohio, Wisconsin and North Carolina.

House Predictions

We find our House prediction rather simple: Republican landslide, winning between 218 and 247 seats. There are few reliable

outlets predicting anything other than a clear Republican House victory. Out of its 100 simulations, *FiveThirtyEight* predicts that Republicans win a House majority in 83. *Politico* rates the House not as "leans Republican," but as "likely Republican," an even stronger rating.

There is a dearth of competitive House races this cycle. Out of the 435 House races, *Politico* rates only 27 as toss-ups. And *FiveThirtyEight*, using a stricter metric, rates only 11 House races as toss-ups. Where have all the close races gone?

Political gerrymandering is one cause for the lack of tight House races. With partisan map-drawing and technological precision, parties can choose their voters (rather than the democratic method of voters choosing their parties). Both parties engage in political gerrymandering, but, because Republicans usually control more state legislatures, it has disproportionately benefited Republicans, who used it in the 2012 midterms to win the House 234-201 despite receiving 1.4 million fewer votes, according to the *New York Times*.

Of course, gerrymandering is not the only cause. Americans are increasingly geographically siloing themselves, choosing to live in communities that disproportionately agree with them. As a result, there are just fewer purple districts.

With all of these effects, and the standard midterm phenomenon of the president's party losing control of the House, it is little wonder that virtually every media outlet is calling a Republican House victory. The Editorial Staff of *The Bachelor* sees no reason to differ.

Should this prediction prove correct, President Joe Biden will face a difficult second half of his term. The Senate is currently tied 50-50, with Democratic Senators Joe Manchin (WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) frequently stymying the Democratic agenda. Should the Senate remain 50-50 (or certainly, flip Republican), Biden will continue to struggle to pass his agenda. And, without the House, as seems increasingly likely, most Biden and Senate-approved legislation will die in the lower chamber.

2022 midterms: Expect the expected

DR. JOHN VALDEZ | GUEST COLUMNIST • Although some scholars of politics consider election prediction either outside the realm of scholarship or simply a fool's errand, I maintain that there is value in putting predictions to paper and owning the risk involved with being wildly wrong. As such, rather than complain about the voices of those whose questionable methodologies grate on my political scientist sensibilities, I submit my own predictions.

A few major trends will shape races around the country next Tuesday. First, this summer the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, effectively outlawing abortion in much of the country. Though this initially seemed to bode well for Democrats chances in the midterms, the bump in the polls seems to have faded as we have gotten closer to election day. Even so, there is a chance that women, and specifically young women, may turn out in higher numbers than usual in favor of pro-choice candidates.

Second, persistent high inflation has hit Americans in the pocketbook. Such economic hardships traditionally drive election results with voters punishing the party in office. Democrats can expect to pay a steep price as Republicans hammer home the message that the Democratic are to blame. Gas prices have been a proxy for inflation generally, though with interest rates rising, consumers may not be feeling much relief even as gas prices have fallen precipitously from their peak in June.

Finally, Trumpism, though not Trump himself, is on the ballot. If Republicans take control of the House of Representatives, the January 6 Committee will almost immediately cease its investigation into both the attack and Trump's own culpability.

In addition, Trump-endorsed candidates, such as J.D. Vance in Ohio, are running competitive races. Whether Vance or others, some will certainly be part of the next Congress.

Finally, expect election results to be scrutinized and challenged both in court and online. The violence associated with the transition of power following the 2020 election will lead to widespread questions about this election, though it remains to be seen how serious of a problem this will present.

U.S. House of Representatives

The House has become easier to forecast over time, thanks in large part to gerrymandered districts. Effective gerrymandering by either side tends to reduce the total number of competitive seats. 50+ years of this process has yielded a plethora of races whose outcomes are all but certain.

It is also worthwhile to note that when very few districts are truly competitive, the choice over who goes to Congress is made by primary voters. There is good reason to believe that primary voters, as a smaller, more attentive subset than general election voters, may take more extreme positions or be more likely to support fringe candidates. All told, politicians choosing their voters—rather than the other way around—distorts the democratic process, but happens to make the task here a bit easier.

As such, I predict as many others have, that the GOP will win control of the House. At the moment, the deluxe model at *FiveThirtyEight* is giving the Republicans about an 80% chance of gaining control of the lower house, and my prediction agrees.

That isn't to say that Democrats have no chance. There are competitive districts in Iowa, North Carolina and at least two in Texas where Democrats could pick up seats. They would need to overperform on multiple fronts, however, to hold on to the House.

The more likely case is that the Democrats surprise in a few races—perhaps winning a race in South Texas, or pulling off an upset in Iowa—but find themselves unable to overcome the weight of structural disadvantage, leaving the Republicans to take over the House.

U.S. Senate

The Senate race this cycle has all the makings of election night drama. Right now, the race for control of the upper house is a dead-heat, with neither side enjoying an appreciable advantage. Although 21 Republican-held seats and 14 Democrat-held seats are being contested, only a few are competitive, and they will drive the outcome.



COURTESY OF AP NEWS

Adam Laxalt (R) is running for Senate in Nevada

Those races include Pennsylvania, where Dr. Mehmet Oz (R) of daytime TV fame has a slim advantage over John Fetterman (D); Georgia, where former college and NFL

star Herschel Walker (R) has managed to stay ahead of incumbent Raphael Warnock (D-GA) in polls amidst multiple scandals; and Nevada, where Adam Laxalt (R) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) are running neck and neck.

Although the overall race is remarkably close, I predict that the Democrats will maintain a slim majority in the Senate. The Republicans will likely have to overcome both accusations of Dr. Oz's carpetbagging and Herschel Walker's now-public private life. I predict that doing both will prove too difficult, and the Democrats will be able to keep either a tie (with Vice President Kamala Harris casting deciding votes) or a one-seat majority in the U.S. Senate.

Governors' Races

36 states will vote for governors this cycle. Though state-wide gubernatorial races often mirror senate races, there are still some important complexities. Competitive races are taking place in Wisconsin, Oregon and Nevada, with potential GOP flips in all three.

Oregon is particularly interesting, with a three-person race increasing the likelihood that typically-blue Oregon will choose a Republican governor. In Massachusetts and Maryland, the Democrats are likely to win their own flips.

Democrats, however, are facing difficult races challenging popular GOP incumbents in Georgia and Florida. In Georgia, despite establishing herself as one of the top Democratic organizers in the country and running a strong race for governor, Stacy Abrams trails Brian Kemp heading into the next Tuesday's election. Similarly, Beto O'Rourke continues to run behind Greg Abbott in Texas in spite of the former's national fame, and the latter's recent scandals.

My prediction is that the balance of governors across the country will remain the same. Although Republicans have a real chance at flips in Wisconsin, Oregon and Nevada, they need to win all three close races to overcome likely losses in Maryland and Massachusetts. I expect that they will win two out of three, with either Oregon or Nevada spoiling their chance to add another seat to their current advantage.

In the end, I think Democrats will lose their grip on the House of Representatives, but rumors of a "red tsunami" are overblown. I'm a little more confident close to home: Crawfordsville and the rest of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District will continue to be represented by Jim Baird (R-IN).

Dr. John Valdez is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wabash College. Valdez primarily teaches nuclear and comparative politics.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

The first of many
In conversation with first
generation athletes and
coaches
Page 5

Revolutionizing the
unremarkable
Liam Thompson '24 sets
new school record
Page 6



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

SPORTS



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Vinny Buccilla '25 (right) drives past Edreece Redmond II '24 (left) at the Red vs. White scrimmage on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at Chadwick Court.

BASKETBALL RETURNS

Coach Brumett: 'Every year is its own entity'

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | BASKETBALL REPORTER
• The reigning NCAC Men's Basketball Champions will return to action on Tuesday, November 8, at Chadwick Court. The Wabash College basketball team faces off against Mount St. Joseph for the first game of the 2022-23 season. Having graduated three of the greatest players in Wabash history, this year is an opportunity to forge a new Little Giant identity.
The 2021-22 season was the most successful for the Little Giants since the team won the National Championship in 1982. Wabash finished the year with an overall record of 28-4 (16-1 NCAC). This impressive

record was crowned with the team winning the NCAC Championship for the first time since joining the conference in 1999.
But the most memorable part of the season was Wabash's miraculous journey to the NCAA DIII Final Four. After sweeping aside Berry College in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, Wabash dug in to hold off the sharp-shooting Emory College in the second. The Little Giants went on to eliminate Williams College and Illinois Wesleyan University to advance to the Final Four. However, Elmhurst University ended the historic

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Gavin Schippert '26 (right) eyes the basket against Styles McCorkle '25 (left).



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Associate Head Basketball Coach Pat Sullivan strategizes with his Red Team players to keep them in the game.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Edreece Redmond II '24 shoots a long-range jumper in front of the Chadwick Court emblem.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Champ McCorkle '24 elbows past Ethan Jones '25 for the easy basket.

Carving a new identity

Continued from page 3

run, beating Wabash 68-90.

Wabash begins the 2022-23 season having graduated three key players. Jack Davidson '22, Tyler Watson '22 and Kellen Schreiber '22 were three of the greatest players to ever wear the scarlet uniform. The trio combined to score 1,803 of the team's 2,853 points last season. Davidson was the recipient of the Jostens Trophy for the most outstanding DIII player in the NCAA and is currently training with the G-League's Greensboro Swarm.

However, the team has not lost all of its firepower. Returning players Ahmoni Jones '24, Vinny Buccilla '25 and Edreece Redmond '24 all played significant roles in the team's Final Four run last season. Jones is the leading returning scorer from last season where he averaged 14 points and six rebounds per game. He also can be a flexible defender at 6'4" with the ability to defend on the perimeter and in the paint.

Redmond and Buccilla both proved their ability to change the outcome of a game last season. They are both remarkably solid perimeter defenders who can hold off even the best ball handlers. They also bring good three-point shooting to the table and are more than capable of finding open shots.

Several new additions to the team promise to strengthen the returning roster. Josh Whack '26, Randy Kelley '26, Kannon Chase '26, Hayden Maiben '26 and Zach Schroeder '26 will be playing as guards. Grant Brown '26 and Matt Ross '26 will be playing as forwards. Adonis House '26 and Gavin Schippert '26 will contribute inside the post.

"2022 was a special year in so many ways, but every year is its own entity," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett, who is entering his ninth season as head coach. "The returning guys are gonna have to be different with this team than they were with that team. So that's a big part of the fun of it, getting to see returning guys grow into a better and different version of themselves. Some of our goals will be similar. Our goal is to win the NCAC tournament."

This change in lineup will also require a change in style from the Little Giants. The high-paced offensive power of last season has been replaced with a strong defensive lineup. Redmond and Buccilla will head the strong defensive backcourt for the Little Giants. Avery Beaver '24 and Turner Royal '24 will be returning as guards and should see more minutes this season; both will bring shooting to help make up for the offensive loss from last season. Whack and Kayden Beatty '25 will both have an opportunity to add to the strong list of guards with their own strong defense.

"We're going to be a much more defensive-minded team than what we were last season," Brumett said. "Our offense last year made our defense better because we were so fast offensively. We would wear people down with our offense. It's typically not how it goes. This year our team is going to be able to wear people down with our defense."

Down low, the Little Giants will have a lot of opportunities for new and returning players to step into bigger roles. Jones will be returning to his position as starting forward and should continue to help stop threats close to the rim, while continuing to put up several points from both sides of the arc. Schippert, who is 6'7", will most likely fill the center position. Returning players Styles McCorkle '25 and Ethan Jones '25 will both help fill the rebounding gap from last season, as well as bringing some extra height to the defense.

In spite of the many changes for the team this season, the Little Giants are looking to defend their title as NCAC champions. In the preseason poll, Wabash was voted third-most likely to win the conference. However, this poll can only predict so much. Last season, the poll predicted the Little Giants would finish second in the conference, failing to account for the major impact that then-younger players such as Redmond and Buccilla would have.

Last season: 28-4 (16-1 NCAC)
2022 prediction: 17-8 (12-4 NCAC)
Key additions: Gavin Schippert '26, Josh Whack '26, Grant Brown '26
Key subtractions: Jack Davidson '22, Tyler Watson '22, Kellen Schreiber '22

From the commentary booth: Reflections on basketball's historic Final Four run

NOAH McROBERTS '25 | PRESS WRITER

• "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Chadwick Court! It is November 10, 2021, and today the Wabash College Video Network is bringing you coverage of the first Little Giant home basketball game in over a year. Today, the Hanover College Panthers take on your Wabash College Little Giants led by the trio of seniors: the 6'5" center Kellen Schreiber '22, the 6'2" guard Tyler Watson '22 and, the owner of the NCAA consecutive free throw record, the 6'1" guard Jack Davidson '22!"

These were the opening words of the historic 2021-22 Wabash College basketball season. As an incoming freshman learning the ropes of video broadcast color commentary, I had only heard of the talent this team had.

Yet that evening was disappointing, an 83-81 loss to Hanover. Even though the three seniors combined for 63 points, a whopping 33 from the hands of Davidson alone, it was a lackluster showing from their compatriots. Their performance prompted a plurality of questions. Was the team lacking character? Was the team devoid of cohesion? Was the team a team at all? Of the 27 made baskets in that game,

just six of them were assisted. If the Little Giants were to make their dreams come true, they would have to come together.

Step one in this process: fill out the rest of the starting lineup. By the time Wabash returned to Chadwick, Ahmoni Jones '24 asserted himself as a key piece of the puzzle. In the second home game of the season, Jones was the man. On December 1, he dominated the visiting Fightin' Engineers, placing second on the team in points scored and leading in rebounds with 15 and nine respectively.

But finding that essential fifth man was a more difficult task. Coach Brumett desired a third guard to cap off the lineup. Initially, Reis Thomas '23 took the court. Not long after, Vinny Buccilla '25 took over the role. But, come January 29 against the visiting Big Red, it was Edreece Redmond '24 who quite literally stole the spot in his first start with blazing quickness and hard-nosed defense, collecting three steals and two blocks on the way to a convincing 86-63 win.

Now that Brumett had established his team, this squad would need to build some character and develop some grit.

Adversity, like a forge, quickly rounded

out this unit. An embarrassing loss to Oberlin College in front of the Chadwick Crazies on December 4 forced the Little Giants on a journey of learning who they were.

Instrumental to this process was the hype man Schreiber. His boisterous enthusiasm and signature mustache grew some gusto in the hearts of this team. It seemed as though every win included an "and one" with Schreiber's body slamming to the floor, a whistle piercing the air and a defiant man rising from the ground with a stroke of his 'stache.

When hordes of fans donning the red and white descended on Fort Wayne last March, everyone knew that the moxie and can-do attitude of Schreiber and his companions had carried them to this point. And it was in that moment when Schreiber was forced to leave the court that Wabash fans knew their season was over.

Following that thriller of a season was an absolute gift as a freshman establishing himself as a loyal Wally. This year I hope to gather some more students, faculty and family of Wabash around a new Little Giants team next Tuesday, November 8, "Coming to you live from Chadwick Court!"

With superstars graduated, Jones '24 assumes new role

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR

• The 2021 Little Giants basketball team won 28 games and advanced to the Division III Final Four on the backs of 2022 graduates Jack Davidson '22, Kellen Schreiber '22 and Tyler Watson '22. With their departures, Ahmoni Jones '24 has stepped up as the leader of a Little Giants basketball program in its rebuilding phase. Jones is set to be an integral part of the team's new identity.

Wabash may have lost three fantastic leaders in Schreiber, Watson and Davidson, but Jones took every opportunity he had to learn from the seniors before him.

"I learned a lot about what it takes to be a great basketball player, coming in, putting in that extra work, taking care of your body afterwards," said Jones.

While he learned a lot from those three on the court, Jones learned just as much from them about his role as a leader off the court.

"I knew coming in this year that I would be the most experienced guy," said Jones. "I want to focus on how I can provide to [younger members of the team] what the seniors last year provided for me. I want to be able to reciprocate all that information."

For Jones, one of the keys to success last year was the "close-knit" environment of the team.

"We were all brothers," said Jones. "So, we all knew that we were in this together. We all knew that we had each other's backs and I think that was the most fulfilling thing that we all experienced."

As much as the team has changed in the intervening seven months, Jones describes the current team's environment as the same.

"We're all still super, super close," said Jones. "And even with our freshmen coming in, we started that connection pretty early. We started at the beginning of the summer having open gym, being able to hang out with each other. The environment's the exact same, you know—we're all super hungry. We want to continue to prove people wrong. The incoming freshmen really work hard and our work ethic coming in for last season was already extremely high."

Jones told me that the biggest part of last year's team was that they held each other accountable and that that's what made Davidson, Schreiber and Watson such great leaders. And Jones has no intention of letting that tradition fail while he holds the role as the most experienced player on the basketball team.

"I really wanted to emphasize continuing to hold each other accountable," said Jones. "I'm not afraid to call people out. I'm not afraid to put you on the spot when I feel like you're doing something wrong and or I feel like you could, you know, push yourself to be better."

He also hopes to be a resource for freshmen off the court as they transition from high school to college.

"I just want to give them the same information, and I wanted to make the game a lot easier for them because I know—for me as a freshman—that transition of high school basketball to college basketball was a completely different boat."

Last year's season was the most successful that Wabash basketball has had since it won the National Championship in 1982, and with the loss of Davidson, Schreiber and Watson, the team is in a rebuild, but Jones wants everyone to know that while the team lost significant star power, they are working hard to reach the same heights.

"You can definitely expect us to work hard every single day, getting better

every single day and holding each other accountable, so that we get back to that position where we know we can be," said Jones.

With those spots open in the lineup, Jones said to look out for guys who played big roles off the bench last year like Vinny Buccilla '25 and the McCorkle brothers, Champ '24 and Styles '25, to break out this year and fill the giant shoes left empty.

The 2022 Little Giants basketball team was voted to finish third in the NCAC this year, a far cry from last year's conference championship and Final Four run. However, with junior forward Jones at the helm, this year's team is younger, but just as hungry to finish well and push for a second consecutive NCAC championship.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Ahmoni Jones '24 on the court against Elmhurst University in Wabash's NCAA DIII Final Four matchup on March 18, 2022, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.



FRANCIS AND MOUNT

CRAWFORDSVILLE

131 N. WASHINGTON ST., CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

WWW.FRANCISANDMOUNT.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/FRANCISANDMOUNT



HALF OFF A DESSERT WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY MEAL!

MUST PRESENT WABASH STUDENT ID

The first of many

First-generation students overcome obstacles and raise the standard

SAM BENEDICT '25 | FEATURES EDITOR

• A typical student at Wabash College wakes up on their first day of class and feels overwhelmed, anxious and worried for the impending rigor of a new environment, but at least most know what to expect. First-generation students often don't receive this benefit.

First-generation college students represent about 20% of all college students in the United States. However, Wabash currently enrolls a student population that includes 30% first-generation students. These students are often faced with unique challenges and experiences that multi-generational students take for granted.

Here at Wabash, one steady force for many students is athletics. But for first-generation students, playing a sport can be an even more meaningful outlet to reduce the pressure to succeed.

"At least in my experience, being a first-generation college student certainly came with elevated levels of anxiety," said basketball player Anthony Donahue '25. "My dad sacrificed a lot of things in order to give me whatever he thought were the best opportunities for success and with that comes a certain sense of responsibility to not let my family down. The financial burdens associated with college are constantly in the back of my mind, which can be overwhelming at times. However, knowing the reputation of Wabash and their graduates' knack for becoming successful eases these worries."

This is a problem that first-generation students have attested to for decades. Current Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03 was a first-generation student at Wabash and returned to lead the program in 2017. "The biggest struggle I faced was self-doubt," said Martin. "I often asked myself if college was for me, or if I belonged. Could I make it? I believe this is a fairly common question that first-gen students face. Without family who had been through the challenges I was facing, it felt like a lonely struggle at times."

First-generation students oftentimes feel overwhelmed and alone in their initial collegiate experience because of the lack of family experience that others receive. However, family also drives their motivation to succeed.

"I grew up in a family who valued hard work," said Martin. "I think I can count on one hand the number of days my parents missed work. However, my grandparents didn't encourage them to attend college. I was fortunate to have



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jonathan Gonzales, president of La Alianza and a first-generation student, leads a Dia de Los Muertos event for students and faculty.

a mother who prioritized academics and an uncle who planted the seed of the possibility of attending college. Attending, and graduating, college meant a lot for me. I know my parents and my brother were very proud of what I was able to accomplish. For me, I was very grateful for the sacrifices they made to create that opportunity. I know it was not easy for them, and that was my motivation to succeed. My 12-year-old daughter now expects to attend college, because both of her parents did. What started as a question of whether I could attend college has now become an expectation for her. I believe that shows how much of an impact that opportunity has had on my family."

"Being a first-generation college student is something that I take pride in," said Donahue. "Despite being the first person in my family to attend college, I know how hard my dad and grandmother worked to give me the opportunities necessary for me to get to where I am today. Because of that, it's important to me that I take advantage of all the possibilities that are presented to me so I can eventually give those same opportunities to my children someday."

The immediate community and comfort of a game the athlete has played for years is an outlet to wind down from the stress of academics and a new environment.

"Basketball has always been a positive outlet for me, and I am very grateful for all the memories, relationships, and

opportunities the sport has provided me with over the years," said Donahue. "Through basketball at Wabash, I have gained friendships and memories that will last for the rest of my life. We are all extremely close off the court and spend most of our free time together. Having them around has made the difficult transition to college much easier knowing that I can come to them with anything and that most of us are all going through the same things."

Furthermore, athletics often acts as the window of opportunity for first-generation students to attend college.

"I worked hard in basketball to receive offers so I could continue playing basketball and to encourage more people in my family in the future to go to college as well," said basketball player Adonis House '26. "I have received tons of support from professors, coaches, and teammates. They all have helped me with staying positive, understanding work, and I feel a real feeling of genuine care."

The mentorship of coaches, professors, faculty and friends is an important factor in student success and even more so for first generation students.

"I've had several players in the past who have faced similar experiences that I did," said Martin. "I've reassured them that while they may be facing a new challenge their family cannot necessarily relate to, there are many people here who are going through the same challenges. I try to reinforce the thought that they

‘Moving in the right direction’ Soccer makes strides, room for growth

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS

EDITOR • The sun has set on the 2022 soccer season, but what an entertaining couple of months it has been. The Wabash College soccer team has thrilled us with enjoyable play from beginning to end. And although the Little Giants lost out to Kenyon College in the NCAC semifinals on October 1, there is still plenty to reflect fondly on. It was a season of trial and error, but this group is confident they will come back next year stronger than ever.

Wabash finished fourth in the NCAC standings after failing to beat Ohio Wesleyan University in the last game of the regular season on October 29. This defeat set up a repeat of last year's NCAC Tournament semifinal, an away trip to Kenyon. The Little Giants were hungry for revenge, but there was none to be had as Wabash fell to a 4-0 defeat.

"We as a team fell short this year in punching above our weight and keeping a positive record at home," said midfielder Austin Hughes '23. "We lost most of the key matchups against teams ranked above us as well as a handful of decisive matchups at home. These were deviations from past seasons, as typically we do really well at taking points off of top teams and pulling off upsets throughout the year. These are things that need to be reversed next season, and I have full confidence in the returning guys to make that happen."

Despite the defeat at Kenyon, the soccer this season has, for the most part, been very exciting. Wabash finished the season with an overall record of 12-6-1, tied second for the most wins in school history. What's more, Wabash finished scored 42 total goals scored compared to 19 allowed. Twelve of those goals came through Caleb Castaño '26 and Alexis Delgado '23, this year's joint top goal scorers. Castaño, tied with Bruno Zamora '25, also led the team in assists, making the freshman from Las Vegas, Nevada, the most powerful offensive Little Giant.

"Losing at Kenyon was a disappointing way to end the season," said goalkeeper Soren Russell '26. "But I think this program is moving in the right direction. We can build off this season and come back stronger next year."

There are plenty of other positives to take away from this season. Compared to 2021, Wabash scored more goals, took more shots and converted a greater percentage of their scoring opportunities. On the defensive side of the ball, the Little Giants conceded far fewer goals, a testament to the excellent work of the new-look defensive line.

"I think the biggest areas of improvement since last season have been the style of play and the ability to attack with controlled possession," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "Part of it is personnel, but we have also focused more on creating opportunities and free flowing soccer, rather than very robotic shadow

play. We've worked on transitions and allowing the guys to have a bit of creativity in the front half."

This is, of course, not to say that there isn't room for improvement. Some of that will come with new personnel; Keller and his staff have already been busy recruiting for the class of 2027. But the current freshman class has done more than its fair share of hard work this season, something that the staff hope will propel the team to even greater heights next year.

"I think the difference between freshman and sophomore year, for the majority of kids, is huge," said Assistant Soccer Coach Jesse Olivas. "The experiences this young group just gained are so important. We're looking forward to seeing how the current group of freshmen develop by just being a little bit more experienced."

Some of that inexperience shone through in the game against Ohio Wesleyan. The early phases of the match were evenly contested, with both sides creating scoring opportunities. But perhaps the defining moment of the game came in the 25th minute when Jose Escalante '26 was shown a straight red, reducing the Little Giants to ten men.

In the remainder of the first half, the Battling Bishops peppered the Wabash goal with shots. Little Giants goalkeeper Soren Russell '26 had to make four saves in the first period alone. Then, in the 42nd minute, the tension increased as the referee awarded yet another red card, this time to Ohio Wesleyan's Gabe O'Reilly. But at halftime, the score remained 0-0.

The breakthrough moment for Ohio Wesleyan happened in the 67th minute when Will Harr set up Christopher Guerra for his first ever goal in a Battling Bishop shirt. From that point on, Wabash looked deflated and didn't manage another shot on target. In all, Wabash managed just nine total shots compared to Ohio Wesleyan's 22.

This final day loss encapsulated Wabash's biggest problem this season: a lack of creativity in the final third. The Little Giants have been very good this year at getting, and keeping, the ball at their feet. But the team has consistently struggled to convert those long spells of possession into goalscoring opportunities.

Take, for example, the game against Hanover College on September 19. In that match, Wabash dominated possession and almost completely stifled the Hanover offense. But on the attacking side of the ball, the Little Giants struggled to get through the Panthers' defense, managing just eight shots and four on goal. Thankfully for Wabash in that game, a Castaño penalty bailed the team out, and the Little Giants won 1-0.

But in other matches, like against Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash hasn't been so lucky. Even though the Battling Bishops allowed Wabash little time on the ball, the Little Giants nevertheless struggled to make



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Emilio Paez '25 prevents a Denison player from getting to the inside on October 11, 2022.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

The Wabash College soccer team stands together before taking on Denison College on October 11, 2022.

much of their possession. If the team wants to improve on their performance next year, Coach Keller will need to find a way to improve the battles in the midfield and provide more imaginative service to the strikers.

Following the defeat at Ohio Wesleyan, the stage was set for the playoff semifinal at Kenyon. The Owls, ranked third nationally, beat Wabash 8-0 in the corresponding game last season and ultimately proved too formidable a foe again this year.

Nearing the end of the first half, Wabash may have thought they had a chance. A series of corners in the 25th minute produced a handful of opportunities, but the Little Giants just couldn't find the net. Wabash's best opportunity came when Castaño capitalized on a misguided back pass and crossed the ball in toward the unmarked head of striker Coledon Johnson '23. However, the cross was just a touch too heavy and floated out for a goal kick.

At the other end of the field, Kenyon had several good opportunities before Isaac Cortez finally broke the deadlock in the 34th minute. The Owls would almost certainly have scored before then were it not for the efforts of goalkeeper Soren Russell '26. He made five saves in the first half alone, including a couple of

belong here and to remain focused on how graduating from Wabash can impact the rest of their lives. I've also learned that it is beneficial to talk to people about those moments of self-doubt or personal struggles. I didn't do that while I was here for fear of looking weak or incapable. Coaches, faculty, counselors, teammates and friends can be a great support in those moments.

While athletics draws a significant segment of first-generation students, not all students come to Wabash through recruitment of coaches. Richard Pan '24 is a Crawfordsville resident that has made the most of his time at Wabash.

"I've enjoyed my college experience as it has been fun, meaningful and engaging," said Pan. "I've made many lifelong friendships, learned many life skills and had many opportunities to be active on campus. One of the biggest things I've enjoyed on campus is the open-mindedness of those around me. I've yet to face any racist remarks, and I have learned so much from meeting people from all sorts of places with unique perspectives. I've achieved things I never thought were possible for me, like being a leader in a club or my fraternity. This Wabash experience has led me to grow into the man my five-year-old self dreamt of being."

While Pan has not experienced the exact same difficulties that other first generation students have experienced, his sentiment is similar.

"As a first-generation college student, I had to face a unique challenge: I could not go to my parents for help," said Pan. "They know about college less than I do, which makes me have to go to peers and others who may have more experience with college than I do. Many fraternity brothers have been very helpful when I'm struggling with problems I need help with. I'm also able to go to faculty for support; anytime I do, they are very friendly and helpful. It's interesting asking for help from these people because of all the unique perspectives and answers I receive, which are very helpful in shaping who I am."

On November 8, Wabash will honor first-generation students by handing out shirts to all first-generation students and faculty as part of the National First-Generation College Students celebration. This celebration began in 2017 and honors the unique difficulties and successes that first generation students experience.

This week in sports

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • It was a packed week in Wabash athletics. Soccer closed out their season, football set news records and volleyball announced their spring schedule. Here's a rundown of the week's action:



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Adam El-Khalili '23 competes against Albion College on October 29, 2022, at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

Football: Thompson '24 reaches new heights

The Wabash College football team routed Hiram 59-23 on October 29 at Little Giant Stadium. In a record-setting game, Liam Thompson '24 picked apart the Hiram defense for seven touchdowns (six in the first half), breaking the Wabash record for passing touchdowns in a single game. Additionally, Thompson's primary target, Penn Stoller '24, caught three touchdowns, while Gavin Ruppert '26 made an astonishing 16 tackles during the game, earning him an NCAC Defensive Player of the Week award. Furthermore, Cooper Sullivan '24 quietly tallied over 100 yards and a touchdown to supplement Stoller's breakout performance. The Little Giants will face off against Kenyon College on Saturday, October 5, at Little Giant Stadium. The Owls are currently ranked 8th in the NCAC standings with a 3-5 (2-4 NCAC) record.

Soccer: Season comes to an end

Soccer ended its season with a 4-0 loss to Kenyon College in the semifinal round of the NCAC tournament on November 1. Clinching the fourth seed in the regular season, soccer earned its sixth consecutive trip to the conference tournament. However, Wabash was unable to overcome Kenyon, the NCAC regular season champions. The Owls went into the game third-ranked in the nation and ran out 1-0 victors. In a one-sided contest, the Owls outshot the Little Giants 10-2 on goal. Soren Russell '26 recorded 6 saves, while Jesse Martinez '26 and Caleb Castaño '26 each mustered one shot on goal.

Cross Country: NCAC Championships

The cross country team competed at the NCAC Cross Country Championships on September 29, finishing in seventh place overall. Brayden Curnett '25 finished 12th individually in the competition, earning a spot on the All-NCAC second team for the second consecutive year. Joe Barnett '24 and Justin Santiago '25 both placed in the top 33 as well.

Swimming: McCarty '23 leads team

Swimming and diving competed in a dual meet against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Albion College on October 28 and 29 respectively. On the first day of competition, the Little Giants traveled to Rose-Hulman. However, despite scoring seven first-place finishes, Wabash ultimately lost 186-110. Caleb McCarty '23 led the team with two individual wins, while Ethan Johns '25 scored an individual victory in the 200-yard freestyle. William Morris '25 featured in the diving portion for Wabash, winning two events. The following day, the Little Giants returned to Wabash and hosted Albion at the Class of 1950 Natatorium. Unfortunately, Wabash ultimately lost the close contest by a score of 129-111. On the day, Johns led the Wabash effort with multiple first place finishes, while Barret Smith '26 contributed an individual victory in the 200-yard backstroke.

Caleb McCarty '23 was named the NCAC Men's Swimming Athlete of the Week after a pair of stellar performances. As well as his two individual victories at Rose-Hulman and a runner-up finish against Albion, the senior also participated on Wabash's 400-medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay teams, winning both events.

On November 4-5, the team will be participating in meets at both the University of Chicago and University of Indianapolis.

Volleyball: Schedule announced

The Wabash College volleyball team this week released their schedule for the 2022-2023 Season. The regular season will begin with a scrimmage on January 11 against Saint Mary-of-the Woods College to prepare for their first actual game against Maranatha Baptist University on Saturday, January 14. At the end of a lengthy schedule, Volleyball will participate in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League tournament in April.

Revolutionizing the unremarkable

Thompson '24 sets single-game touchdown record on the road to Monon

DAVID GELMAN '26 & BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | FOOTBALL WRITER & SPORTS EDITOR • A Wabash football match against Hiram has no right to be remarkable. With just one win on the season, the Terriers would be last in the conference were it not for the Oberlin Yeomen's woeful record. Yet for quarterback Liam Thompson '24, the unremarkable became the revolutionary.

In the October 29 game against Hiram, Thompson had a field day, passing for 392 yards and seven touchdowns. Of course, Thompson threw zero interceptions and, strikingly, did not play in the fourth quarter at all. Had Thompson been available for fantasy football leagues, he still would have earned 68 points in most league formats.

"Going into it, I did not know what the record was or anything like that," Thompson said. "One of the guys on the sideline mentioned it to me before and then right after they announced it. It was obviously a cool experience, just knowing the guys that came through here, a ton of good quarterbacks. Jake Knott '03 was one of the best quarterbacks to ever come through here, and he texted me after the game congratulating me."

In classic Thompson fashion, he described his performance with the humble understatement of the year: "the game went pretty well." During the game, the record wasn't on the coaches' minds either. "I didn't even know about it until after the game," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. "With the level of offense in the conference right now, no lead is safe until mathematically you know. If in the fourth quarter you are up by four scores, you have a really good chance of winning the game. I had no idea he had broken the record; I didn't even know there was a record." Thompson led Wabash to a team-total



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Head Football Coach Don Morel devises strategy with record-breaking quarterback Liam Thompson '24 against Hiram College on October 29, 2022.

625 yards, the third-most in any game all season. 42 of the offense's 59 points were from Thompson's seven touchdowns. The gameplan from the beginning was to give Thompson the ball and let him do his thing. Prior to halftime, Hiram had back-to-back touchdown scoring drives without a Wabash score. So, going into the break, Coach Morel decided to keep Thompson in as quarterback, even though the Little Giants were up 42-17. Morel wanted to "put the game away," and Thompson did exactly that. Just five minutes into the third quarter, put Wabash even further ahead and broke the record. On the other side of the line of scrimmage, Gavin Ruppert '26 stepped up to capitalize in the shoulda-been-unremarkable game. Ruppert led the Little Giants with 16 total tackles and one sack, his heroic efforts earning him the NCAC Defensive Athlete of the Week award. The Little Giants take on the Kenyon

College Owls on Saturday, November 5, at Little Giant Stadium. Kenyon is currently 3-5 on the season, their only two conference wins coming against Hiram and Oberlin. Nevertheless, the Owls have a remarkably powerful offense. Having put up 35 points against DePauw, the best-ranked defense in the conference, Kenyon could prove tricky opponents. With only two games remaining, Thompson has his sights on a number of other records. Currently, he is only 53 yards away from his career high for passing yards in a season. Beyond the personal, Thompson isn't far off from the Wabash record for most passing yards in a season—600 yards shy, to be exact. Thompson currently averages 362.9 yards per game, so the next record may soon fall. And with the final game at DePauw, the record may fall at Blackstock. Watch out, Dannies.

Liam Thompson '24 Wabash QB	
	
PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23	
2022 STATISTICS	
TDs: 34	YDS: 3,218
INT: 5	CMP%: 71.9
YDS/G: 402.26	QBR: 190.97

Ryan O'Leary Kenyon QB	
	
PHOTO COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE	
2022 STATISTICS	
TDs: 24	YDS: 2,497
INT: 7	CMP%: 62.45
YDS/G: 298.38	QBR: 144.19

NCAC football power rankings

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS WRITER

1. Wabash Little Giants (6-2, 5-1 NCAC) Wabash continues to be the dominant force in the NCAC. With the conference's leading offense and a much-improved defense, the Little Giants host Kenyon College this Saturday before the potential conference championship game against DePauw in the 128th Monon Bell Classic.

2. DePauw Tigers (7-1, 5-1 NCAC) DePauw currently sits atop the standings of the NCAC, but with a backup QB starting the rest of the season and unimpressive showings their last four weeks, the Dannies rank second in the power rankings. They still control their own destiny for a conference title, as two wins would secure a second straight conference crown.

3. Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops (4-4, 4-2 NCAC) Ohio Wesleyan kept it within one point against DePauw and demolished the Yeomen of Oberlin by 77 (not a typo) in their last two outings. The ups and downs continue for the mediocre Battling Bishops.

4. Denison Big Red (6-2, 4-2 NCAC) Denison's dismal head-to-head performance against OWU slides them to 4th in the power rankings. Wooster and Kenyon are the final two tests for the Big Red. If the ball bounces the wrong way for Wabash and/or DePauw, Denison can sneak in to grab a share of the NCAC title. This will likely require a miracle.

5. Wooster Fighting Scots (5-3, 3-3 NCAC) After a 2-3 start for Wooster, the Fighting Scots have won three straight. Although they are virtually out of contention, the

Scots deserve a pat on the back for turning the season around and potentially securing a record above .500.

6. Wittenberg Tigers (4-4, 4-3 NCAC) A team that typically sits around the top of the standings is now among the likes of Kenyon, Hiram, and Oberlin (yikes). Wittenberg now only has one conference game remaining before finishing off the season against winless Hilbert College. A disappointment would be an understatement when describing this team.

7. Kenyon Owls (3-5, 2-4 NCAC) A very typical Kenyon season to this point, as their only conference wins came against Hiram and Oberlin. Their offense is clicking right now; they put up a solid 35 points against DePauw's #1 ranked defense. This week, they face the top dogs in Crawfordsville.

8. Hiram Terriers (1-7, 1-6 NCAC) Hiram was so excited about their first conference win in four years that they almost got a second, falling just short to Kenyon 34-31. But there is some good news. They play 0-5 Hilbert College this week, the footballing equivalent of dunking on a third grader.

9. Oberlin Yeomen (0-8, 0-6 NCAC) Unfortunately for the Yeomen, this team flat-out stinks. They've given up 60+ points in the last three games, and they show absolutely no signs of life. This week, they could pull off the biggest football upset of all time if they beat DePauw on their own turf. We're all Yeomen fans this week.

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

'Bash Before the Bell




Join Us on Thurs., Nov. 10
at Half Liter BBQ
with My Yellow Rickshaw
featuring Nathan Klatt '01
wabash.edu/events/iawm-bell

wabash.edu/alumni/ra/indy

Rugby wins conference



PHOTO BY DEREK MILLER '24

Brayden Goodnight '23 rises to catch a lineout against Taylor University on October 8, 2022.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER • The Wabash College rugby team took home the Allegheny Rugby Union conference title October 29. The team won the conference by going 4-0 in the tournament held at Taylor University. The Little Giants defeated Alderson Broadus University 28-5 and Cedarville 35-5. The final two matches were forfeited.

"Winning conference truly means a lot to everyone on the team," said Brayden Goodnight '25. "We have been putting in work since the start of the school year and paying attention to the little details to perform the best we can. We have a lot of new guys on the team that have never played rugby before but are already very passionate about the game. It's easy to teach these guys how to play the sport when they bring that competitive nature to practice everyday."

Despite not having varsity status, the rugby team has garnered increasing support among students in recent years. This is no doubt in part to the squad's stellar on-field performances. Having drawn in a number of quality players, Wabash has become one of the more successful rugby programs in the region.

This season, rugby has continued its tradition of dominating the competition. So far this fall, the team has a 10-0 record, with none of those matches being particularly close.

And the season is not yet over. This year will see the return of the Monon Keg, a historic matchup between the Wabash and DePauw rugby teams. DePauw's team has been dormant for a few years but has this season resumed activity.

"Playing the Keg match is something that everyone has been looking forward to," said Goodnight. "The club hasn't played DePauw in close to 10 years, since their team fell through, but it's nice we'll have the opportunity to face them this year. We're hoping we can have a big turn out and a lot of support from the student body because this will definitely be our biggest and most important match of the year."

The revival of the Keg game will be held on November 11 at Wabash, though the exact location has yet to be confirmed. Nevertheless, it will be the only opportunity this semester to see the rugby team in action, and what a game it should be.

Wabash political science students analyze close House races

EDITORIAL STAFF • There is no better time for a political science course on Congressional elections than during a midterm cycle. In Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Shamira Gelbman’s PSC-210 course, eight Wabash students are each currently researching contentious races for the House of Representatives. This week, they are putting their research to practice, describing the race they have studied while issuing their predictions.

Daniel Uribe ’24: NM-02
New Mexico’s 2nd Congressional District is a close race between incumbent Republican Yvette Herrell and Democrat Gabe Vazquez. Energy, border security and the economy are the most important issues in NM-2 due to its surplus of petroleum in the state, distance to the border and the current state of the economy.

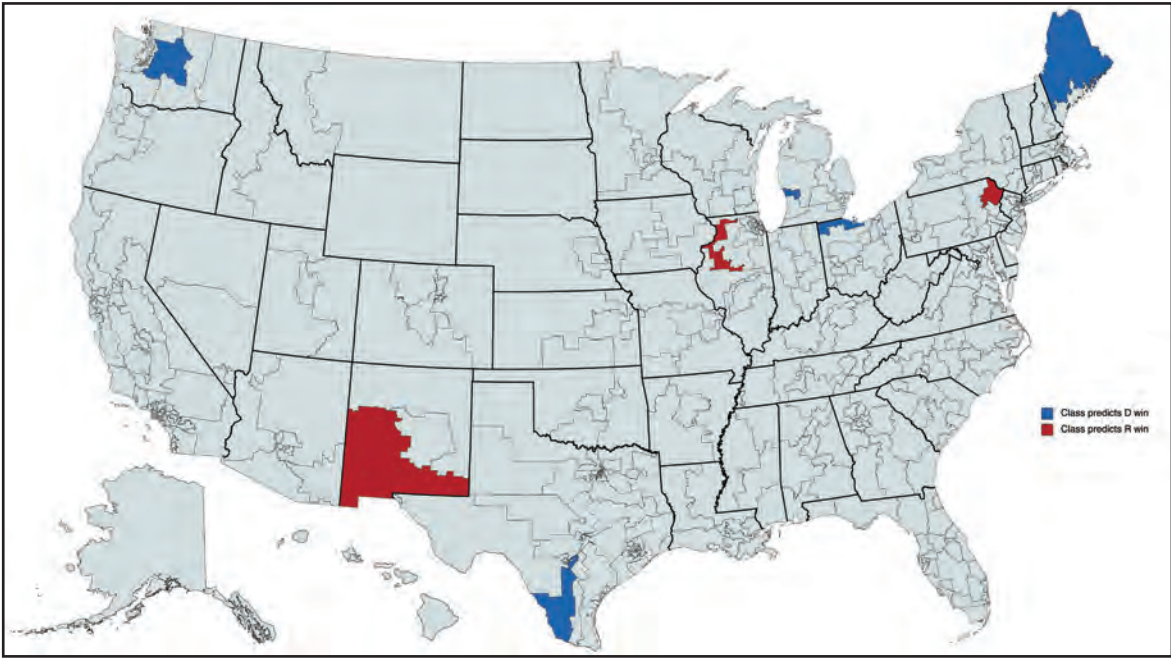
This race features two candidates who are very different ideologically, with Herrell being a more modern, Trump-esque Republican, and Vazquez being a progressive Democrat. NM-2 was recently redistricted to exclude the eastern side of the state, which Democrats and Republicans agree favors Vazquez.

The most recent polls show Vazquez with a one-point lead. However, due to the strength of her incumbency, support of the oil industry and state of the economy, my prediction is that Herrell is going to win re-election.

Kade Irwin ’25: ME-02
I have watched the race in Maine’s 2nd Congressional District, where a similar matchup from 2018 unfolds again. Republican challenger and former House Representative Bruce Poliquin faces off against Democratic incumbent Jared Golden. In 2018, Golden narrowly beat Poliquin from 50.6% to 49.4%. However, it is important to note that the district swung for Trump in 2020, favoring him with 52% of the votes.

Golden has described himself as an independent, citing his votes against the Biden administration being the most of any other Democratic candidate. Alternatively, Poliquin yields a different campaign, using attack ads to paint Poliquin as pro-Biden and to declare his desire to protect the lobster business in Maine, create jobs and reduce inflation.

I believe that Poliquin will narrowly lose to Golden, similar to the results suggested by Real Clear Politics, placing the race at 47% Golden and



GRAPHIC BY COOPER E. SMITH ’23, CREATED WITH MAPCHART.NET

39% Poliquin as of October 15. As an independent candidate, Jared can swing across party lines, taking votes from both sides and distancing himself from the Democratic party. Due to this, I believe Golden will be able to win this year’s election.

Seth Acero ’25: TX-28
I am watching Texas’s 28th Congressional District between Democratic incumbent Henry Cuellar and Republican challenger Cassandra Garcia. Cuellar has been the district’s representative since 2004. Garcia has no experience in political office but has worked for Republican superstars Donald Trump and Ted Cruz.

The main issues for this district are immigration and inflation. Garcia continuously attacks Cuellar as a “far-left Democrat” who is unfit for his seat. In return, Cuellar attacks Garcia for being a “carpetbagger” who was not even born in the district and spreads false rumors about her challenger. What’s also interesting is the baggage that Cuellar carries, as he was recently raided by the FBI for his ties to Azerbaijan and exposed for taking donations from the Zeta Cartel. While there are few polls on the race, *FiveThirtyEight* predicts that Cuellar has a 75% chance of winning. I predict Cuellar will win the district with 60% of the votes.

Gavinn Alstott ’25: OH-09
I have been researching Ohio’s 9th Congressional District, which encompasses the urban city of Toledo and many rural counties that push

westward to the northeast border of Indiana. This race features career politician 40-year Democratic incumbent Marcy Kaptur against breakout politician and nuclear energy executive J.R. Majewski (R), who has faced harsh criticism over possible stolen-valor accusations.

After the latest census, redistricting has made many races competitive in the 2022 midterm election, and this district is a leading example of such effects. In the 2020 Presidential Election, Biden easily won the old district by a whopping 19 percentage points. But after gerrymandering, the results would have yielded a four-point victory for Trump.

It is my prediction that the Democrat Marcy Kaptur will win by 3 points against Majewski, provided voters reject Majewski’s military service and campaign incivility on Twitter.

Zane Stout ’23: MI-03
For this project I have been studying the race between Hillary Scholten (D) and John Gibbs (R) for Michigan’s 3rd Congressional District.

One of the important things to note about this race has been redistricting, as it has completely changed the voting landscape from once being a Republican stronghold for the last twenty years, to a district that looks as though it will lean 2-3 percentage points more Democrat.

Another point of interest in this race was Gibbs beating out incumbent Peter Meijer in the Republican primary. Many have attributed this to Meijer voting to

impeach former President Donald Trump, with another credible rumor that Democratic political action committees (PACs) were helping to fund Gibb’s race because some Democrats believed Gibbs would be the easier opponent to beat.

One last point of interest is campaign finances. Scholten entered the race with \$990,000, and Gibbs entered with around \$330,000. Each has spent roughly \$100,000 on their campaigns, but the disparity between the two could point as evidence that the Republican party does not believe that Gibbs is going to win this race.

My prediction for this race is that Scholten (D) will win the district at 53% to 46%. Scholten has the campaign funding lead, which often predicts races. And whoever spends more tends to win.

Caleb Gross ’23: IL-17
The Illinois 17th Congressional District is a hotly contested race between Republican Esther Joy King and Democrat Eric Sorensen. This race is for an open seat; the incumbent Democrat Cheri Bustos represented the district for the last eight years as a centrist. The district was heavily gerrymandered in favor of Democrats during redistricting, going from a slight Republican tilt to a district that voted for Biden over Trump by an 8% margin in 2020.

This race significantly reflects the trends across the country. Initially, Sorensen focused heavily on climate change and abortion, but he recently shifted messaging as inflation and

gas prices skyrocket. The candidates’ backgrounds have had a big effect on the race. Sorensen is a local weatherman, which garnered him name recognition, and a member of the LGBT community, which has given him media attention. King is an Army JAG officer who was brought to the district by her service and a women’s rights aid worker in Afghanistan before that. This is King’s second run for the district, having been narrowly defeated by Bustos in 2020. She has shown herself to be extremely capable and has out fundraised Sorensen by a wide margin. I predict she will beat Sorensen come November 5.

Quinn Manford ’25: WA-08
Washington’s 8th Congressional District is in a tight race between Democratic incumbent Kim Schrier and Republican challenger Matt Larkin. Both candidates are running on a non-partisan platform, focusing on issues in the district that they would like to solve, such as helping the local police forces and fixing inflation within the district. Schrier has been the most active candidate, maintaining a presence on Twitter, doorknocking throughout the district and appearing in more media to spread her word. Larkin has been oddly quiet, inactive on social media and only attending a few interviews. His message is highly unclear, considering he hasn’t been involved in promoting that message. The district has been historically Republican, with every candidate being a part of the GOP before Schrier. If Schrier can win, she can cement herself in a new Democratic stronghold. Schrier seems to have the lead, and will likely win +5.

Omar Garcia ’25: PA-08
I am covering Pennsylvania’s 8th Congressional District. The candidates are Jim Bognet (R) and Matt Cartwright (D). Cartwright is the incumbent for the district, while Bognet is the challenger for the second time in a row after losing to Cartwright in 2020. The main issues they cover on their platforms are social security, border issues and inflation. The most recent poll has Cartwright winning by a margin of +6. I personally believe Bognet will come out on top. Bognet lost the first time, and he is coming back very hungry for the spot. He has definitely gained traction with Pennsylvanians, and for that reason, I have him winning +3.

OPINION

Dueling Opinions: College Republicans and Democrats



James Daly ’23

Reply to this column at jcdaly23@wabash.edu



With the midterm elections mere days away, the various state and federal races across the nation have increasingly narrowed. Consequently, undecided and absent voters could meaningfully influence the outcomes in favor of either political party. Unfortunately, convincing reluctant citizens to vote in non-presidential elections is an especially difficult challenge. However, increasing voter turnout is still a very achievable goal. For example, two years ago, history was made when the 2020 election saw the highest voter turnout in a national election in over a century. This means that educating voters by providing them with the insights they need in order to make an informed decision on election day should be the biggest priority over the next few days. With that said, if you are a Wabash student intending on voting, please participate in the democratic process. Voting is one of the most important patriotic duties you have as an American citizen, and as a result, it is of paramount importance that citizens exercise their right to vote.

Now, before blindly voting for a candidate based on their political affiliation, it is extremely important to first assess whether your candidates’ agendas are truly the best for Indiana and for America more broadly. After all, as Americans have painfully experienced, proper consideration was not adequately exercised during the last election. As a result, Americans have been forced to live through two financially unstable years with one of the most unpopular presidents and a Congress blindly bending the knee along party lines.

Many ordinary people, especially those struggling to get by, are unsatisfied with the direction our country is going. Much of this is attributable to the historically high inflation surge, the likes of which have not been seen in America since the early 1980s. Indeed, a recent New York Times poll lists the economy and inflation as the top two issues among voters, well above cultural issues such as abortion. In that poll, only 5% of voters said that the abortion issue was their biggest concern for this election. While this may surprise some, overturning *Roe v. Wade* made abortion returned the issue of abortion to the inhabitants of each state, rather than a national abolishment of abortion on a federal level. Considerably more people are worried about the American economic state, including having to pay more for food, gas, and other essentials. Additionally, issues related to the cost of living are substantially more pressing to everyday Americans who are just trying to feed their family on an honest wage, feel left behind by the government supposedly representing them. Having said that, it is important to note that

since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, the issue of abortion has returned to a more prominent position in the 2022 election race by all means. However, since *Roe*, many on the left have openly embraced radical stances on abortion, fully advocating for its legality on demand until the point of birth, a position that is widely unpopular and out of touch with most of the country. Over the past few decades, the Democrat Party’s stance on abortion has gone from ‘safe, legal and rare’ to openly praising it through online campaigns such as ShoutYourAbortion and even hashtags like ‘thank god for abortion’. Not only do these people have no value for the life of the unborn, but they literally believe that abortion is a great thing, one that should be recognized as a moral right in religious institutions. Unbelievably, today’s Democrats are even in favor of abortions funded at the expense of diligent taxpayers.

Another issue that has garnered significant interest among registered voters is the state of democracy, an obvious allusion to the January 6th protests last year. This is the first national election since the capitol incident took place and it is being used as a political pawn by Democrats to divide America. They have been repeatedly labeled half the country as ‘extremists’, feigning solemnity, and falsely blamed the entire Republican Party for inciting the Capitol storming. Not surprisingly, when considering what the average American actually cares about, the New York Times Poll shows that only 8% of registered voters rank the state of democracy as their biggest concern heading into the midterms, a strong sign that voters are not buying the left’s deeply polarizing rhetoric

surrounding the so-called insurrection. The state of our democracy stands strong, but this political division is so bad for our country.

Now, if Republicans can take back enough seats to regain a congressional majority, they have made it a pledge to actually address the economic issues relevant to normal Americans. The forefront of the Republican agenda includes a plan to reduce gas prices and bring back our energy independence. Additionally, Republican lawmakers promise to take on Big Tech censorship, which directly attacks free speech in the digital age by silencing opposing viewpoints. Finally, unlike Democrats, Republican candidates have committed themselves to fighting off D.C. corruption. No one should be above the law and, if elected, a Republican legislative majority would ensure that those in power are using their positions to serve the people, not for personal gain. Proposals put in place by GOP candidates include comprehensive measures concerning election integrity, Second Amedment rights, religious liberty, border security, and the depoliticization of the Department of Justice.

So, are you one of the many average Americans who feel disillusioned by the government’s incendiary response to inflation, are appalled by the prospect of unlimited, late-term abortion on-demand and are tired of the partisan rancor of hatred & division being pushed by liberal elites? If so, vote red. Elections have serious consequences, as our nation is currently painfully aware of, and the stakes have certainly never been higher, so this is not one to sit out. Come to the polls in large numbers and make your voices heard on November 8th.



Liam Buckley ’23

Reply to this column at lbuckkle22@wabash.edu



Next Tuesday, vote for the political party that actually gives a damn. Elections are about what you’re voting against as much as what you’re voting for, and the best argument for electing Democrats next week isn’t just what they bring to the table, but what Republicans say they will. In terms of governing ability, Republicans are the dog chasing the car (don’t worry, Dr. Oz didn’t get a chance to murder this one), except in this scenario, the dog wants to take away

your health insurance, make it harder for you to vote, burn books about gay penguins and put the 1-in-3 American women who have received abortions in prison.

Republicans think that if your sister is raped and impregnated, she should be forced to carry the pregnancy to term. Can we pause for a moment and just think about that? The 12-year-old who had to travel to Indiana to terminate the pregnancy of her rapist over the summer wouldn’t be allowed to get an abortion in Indiana anymore. Forgive me if I don’t give as much weight to the President’s son’s drug problem or the cost of diesel at the Circle K.

Beyond the damage they have done while in power, Republican candidates are generally contemptible individuals who don’t actually care about anything they claim to. Herschel Walker wants to ban abortion despite being responsible for more abortions than jungle juice, Dr. Oz literally murdered more than 300 puppies, and Doug Mastriano stormed the Capitol on January 6. Even Indiana Republican Senator Mike Braun – a Wabash alumnus whom we have welcomed on campus – said that the Supreme Court should

overturn the right to interracial marriage. Democrats’ stances on these issues are simple. Women should have the freedom to terminate a pregnancy under the trimester framework laid out in *Roe v. Wade*; Our natural environment should be preserved through conservation efforts and investments in clean energy; We should stimulate wage growth by reworking our tax system to favor those in the middle class; The democratic principle of ‘one person, one vote’ should be protected; and the role of government should be to organize society so every person has the chance to succeed. Yeah, the Democrats are meme-able. The President is old, the Speaker of the House likes \$7 pints of ice cream, and some Democratic politicians are as hypocritical & duplicitous as some Republicans. But at the end of the day the majority of them actually want all of the American people to have jobs, civil rights and food for their families. That’s what this election is about. The people we elect actually have to run a country of 330 million people. They have to organize an economy of trillions of dollars; they have to decide whether people live or die.

Elections matter. Politics matters. We should elect the people who are the most interested in making the world a better place.

The federal government is structured such that it is hard to pass meaningful legislation without control of two branches and a near supermajority in the U.S. Senate. With that impossible task, the Biden Administration has accomplished more in two years than any President in 50. Republicans’ argument for your vote is that unleaded gasoline costs more than it did a year ago. They don’t have a plan to fix it, only platitudes. And rather than support bills that increase America’s energy independence and invest in American workers, they vote against them. Every time. Republicans are the party of all talk and no solutions, of power over progress and of outrage over reform.

Vote for the Democrats because the government is too important to be run by people who want to destroy it. With the promise befitting of this country, Democrats will work every day to make the lives of every person a little bit better. That’s all we can hope for our government to do.

BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

Twitter: @WabCoBachelor_
Instagram: wabashcollegebachelor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cooper E. Smith • cesmith23@wabash.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Jakob Goodwin • jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Sarvik Chaudhary • schaudh25@wabash.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Andrew Dever • atdever25@wabash.edu

FEATURES EDITOR

Sam Benedict • ssbenedi25@wabash.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Benjamin Bullock • bbulloc23@wabash.edu

ONLINE EDITOR

William Grennon • wkgrenno24@wabash.edu

CROSSWORD EDITOR

Logan Weilbaker • laweilba25@wabash.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Jake Paige • jwpaige23@wabash.edu

The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in *The Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

The Bachelor is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

Staff Editorial

This election cycle, grab coffee with someone from a different political background. It just might heal our democracy.

EDITORIAL STAFF • Across the aisle, do we agree on anything these days? From the candidates we support to the media we rely on, we’ve learned to cling desperately to the party line. Every political issue, regardless of size, becomes the all-important hill to die on. And increasingly, our parties seem to shape the very way we view reality.

It’s up to us, everyday Americans—yes, even college students—to help restore balance. We can tone down the demonization without toning down our causes.

It isn’t just a divide on policy issues; news articles are chock full of quirky studies demonstrating the cultural canyon between Democrats and Republicans. Marriages between Democrats and Republicans are increasingly rare; according to the Institute of Family Studies, only around 4% of US marriages in 2020 featured such cross-party relationships. A TIME article relied on Grubhub data to reveal dietary differences between Republicans and Democrats. And of course, there is the classic study in the Scientific American finding a strong correlation between bedroom cleanliness and political party (for those wondering—yes, those notoriously free-spirited liberals tended to have messier rooms).

We seem to have staked our entire political and cultural identities in our political parties, siloing ourselves away from our opponents.

Frustratingly, there does seem to be one cause both sides are willing to fight for: demonizing the other. Our fear-stoking politicians play with fire, peddling their demagoguery to everyday Americans who internalize that fiery, demonizing rhetoric. When we perceive our political opponents as demons, we otherize them. At best, we ignore them and fail to reach them. But at worst, we use that demonization to justify violent attacks.

Just last weekend, a violent

extremist, wielding a hammer, broke into House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s home to break Pelosi’s knees and “teach Democrats a lesson.” When she wasn’t there, he instead beat her husband, Paul, sending him to the hospital. As soon as news of the attacks reached the media, apologists rushed to the attacker’s defense, supplying countless theories of an “illicit lovers’ quarrel” to downplay the violent attack on the woman second in the line of presidential succession. And just Tuesday evening, the Washington Post reported that the attacker had a list of several politicians to attack on his “suicide mission.”

There must be an end to the madness. Though most Americans manifest our increased entrenchment in far less violent ways, we collectively continue to fuel violent rhetoric that threatens our institutions.

For the health of our democracy, we must find common ground. If not on political issues, at least on our opponents’ humanity. We must learn, or re-learn, how to talk with one another civilly. We must learn to fight the argument, not the person. Yes, most people pay lip service to this idea—but it’s much harder to put into practice.

Politicians and the media are often all too eager to profit on the mayhem. It’s up to us, everyday Americans—yes, even college students—to help restore balance. We can tone down the demonization without toning down our causes.

None of this is to say that we should all ignore abhorrent, beyond-the-pale views. The targets of hateful, destructive rhetoric need not pretend to hold hands with those who advocate their demise. This is simply a call for growing civility on the margins, those situations where we can safely put down our arms and reach agreement on something.

Please, for the sake of our democratic health, go out of your way this election cycle to chat with someone you know who disagrees with you politically. It doesn’t have to be about politics, though that may ultimately be a necessary step to resolve our differences. It can be about sports, music, travels—any topic that forces us to find the humanity in our opponents.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

54 BUCKS A SHARE? FOR THIS?

Hi-Five to Elon Musk for killing Twitter and somehow reviving Tumblr from its watery grave. Guess we have to choose between alt-right trolls and NSFW content. Easy choice?

SNYDER SELLS THE SLUR

Hi-Five to Dan Snyder for finally selling the Washington Commanders after being investigated for financial crimes. Turns out paying Albert Haynsworth a \$100,000,000 contract wasn’t the worst financial decision Snyder made.

SO MUCH FOR BEING MY BROTHER’S KEEPER

Hi-Five to the visiting PSC professor who paid \$40 to a student to shave his head. It’s some real immersive learning. Lo-Five to the students in that class for bidding it down from \$500 to \$40.

WHAT MONTH IS IT AGAIN?

Lo-Five to all the Wallies that already lost. Better luck next November. Don’t worry, you still have two more lives.

‘ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?’

Lo-Five to the NCAC for not picking Liam Thompson as the NCAC Offensive Player of the week. Is 450 yards and 7 touchdowns good enough for your people?

‘This is fine’

Editorial Cartoon by Arman Luthra ’26



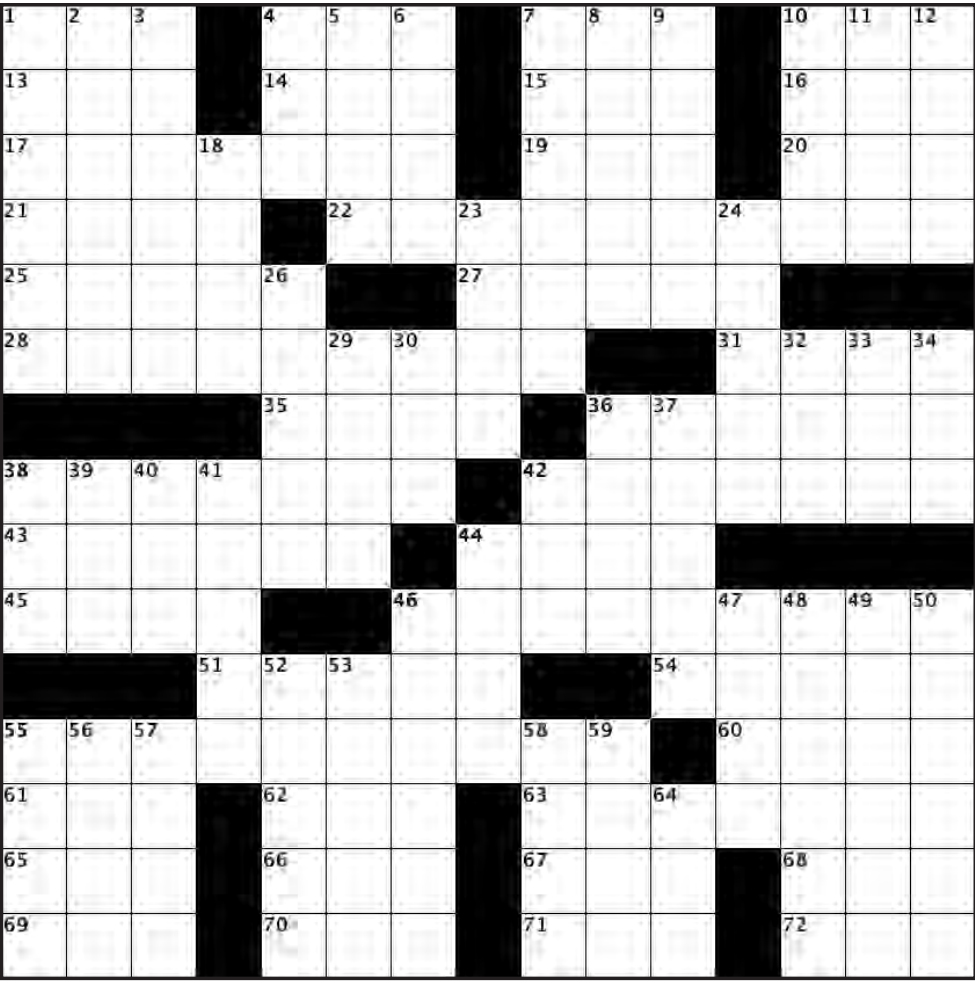
ACROSS

- 1. “ABBOTT ELEMENTARY” NETWORK
- 4. SPRING MO.
- 7. SOME HIGH SCHOOLERS: ABBR.
- 10. CALCULATOR BUTTON
- 13. GRAZING LAND
- 14. HALLOWEEN CRY
- 15. “HOLY TOLEDO!”
- 16. HEDWIG, FOR ONE
- 17. EXPRESSIONS
- 19. WEDDING WORDS
- 20. MAUNA _____
- 21. ORG. FOR PEOPLE 50+
- 22. *MAN WITH A PLAN
- 25. CONCLUDE
- 27. DESKTOP IMAGES
- 28. *FALLOUT
- 31. “THE PERSISTENCE OF MEMORY” PAINTER
- 35. USE YELP, MAYBE
- 36. LIKE SOME BASES
- 38. WHAT EQUINOXES AND SOLSTICES DIVIDE

- 42. TO WHOM ONE MIGHT REPORT A PROBLEM
- 43. TAKES THE STAGE
- 44. IT HAS THE JUICE
- 45. IDYLLIC GARDEN
- 46. *1994 PEARL JAM HIT
- 51. TRANQUIL
- 54. DEBONAIR
- 55. *SUMMERTIME SNACK
- 60. BIAS
- 61. THE ROCKS
- 62. CLEAN AIR ACT ORG.
- 63. TYPE OF GENERAL ELECTION ... OR WHAT CAN LITERALLY BE FOUND IN EACH OF THE STARRED ANSWERS
- 65. WHAT’S REVEALED AT A REVEAL PARTY
- 66. ALWAYS, TO AUDEN
- 67. HIT THE SLOPES
- 68. U.N. VIP
- 69. SUPERLATIVE SUFFIX
- 70. STONE WITH A MUSICAL “FAMILY”
- 71. BARBIE’S BEAU
- 72. WRITE

‘Off to the races’

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker ’25



DOWN

- 1. CAMEL’S COUSIN
- 2. ON _____ OF (REPRESENTING)
- 3. VEGETABLE ON A STICK
- 4. WORKOUT TARGET, FOR SHORT
- 5. JOYCE KILMER WORK
- 6. SANTA _____
- 7. NINTENDO GAMING CONSOLE
- 8. RIDING AND ROPING EVENT
- 9. LIKE AN OATH
- 10. 2021 DISNEY+ SERIES
- 11. ACTOR WILSON OF 10-DOWN
- 12. DELIGHTED
- 18. BASILICA PART
- 23. LOCALE
- 24. WINDOWS PREDECESSOR
- 26. 404, E.G.
- 29. STAFFS
- 30. TAGS IN A POST, IN SLANG
- 32. CTRL-_____-DELETE
- 33. ZODIAC BEAST

- 34. COZY ROADSIDE STOP
- 36. SEPARATE (OUT)
- 37. MIXTAPE ENTRIES
- 38. “GOT IT?”
- 39. CONCLUDE
- 40. CONSUMED
- 41. 10F5
- 42. ON THE UP AND UP
- 44. “THE GREEN MILE” SETTING
- 46. OUT OF FOCUS
- 47. CORROSION
- 48. BLUSH OR CONTOUR
- 49. OPPOSED (TO)
- 50. SEINFELD’S TV NEIGHBOR
- 52. JOYCE KILMER WORK
- 53. URGE
- 55. SAGE
- 56. LAS VEGAS WNBA TEAM
- 57. COMMUNICATE VIA PHONE
- 58. CITY ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY
- 59. REEBOK RIVAL
- 64. HULLABALOO

MEET YOU AT

Arni's

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Free small drink when you show your Wabash ID!

With a \$5 minimum purchase

114 W Wabash Ave,
Crawfordsville, IN

765-362-2764

Like us on Facebook!
@Arni's Crawfordsville