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Yale Daily News

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Alex Hong, Staff Photographer

MLK JR. DAY

Marching on in 2026

STORY ON **PAGE 5**

Professors' dollars go to Democrats

BY JAEHA JANG
STAFF REPORTER

In 2025, Yale professors made 1,099 donations to federal political campaigns and partisan groups reflected in fundraising disclosures. Not one of the recipients was Republican.

The News analyzed data from more than 7,000 Federal Election Commission filings from 2025 for which the employer was listed as Yale. Of 1,099 filings that included "professor" in their occupation, 97.6 percent of the donations went to Democrats, while the remaining 2.4 percent went to independent candidates or groups.

This data is consistent with conservative criticism that university professors are not representative of the country's political spread — one rationale used by the Trump administration for its threats to universities' funding in the past year.

After a December report by the Buckley Institute found that 82.3 percent of 1,666 examined Yale faculty members were registered Democrats or primarily supported Democratic candidates, several conservative media outlets and figures — including Elon Musk, a former advisor to President Donald Trump — expressed outrage about a perceived lack of political diversity at the University.

The eruption of criticism appeared to prompt an unsigned Dec. 23 statement by the University, saying that "Yale hires and retains faculty based on academic excellence, scholarly distinction, and teaching achievement, independent of political views."

When asked about the data on professors' 2025 political donations, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Steven Wilkinson referred the News to the University's statement.

Professors who donated to Democrats in 2025 described this overwhelming tilt as an unsurprising result of a Republican administration's assault on elite higher education, including pressures on research and certain academic departments, slashes to research funding and an increased

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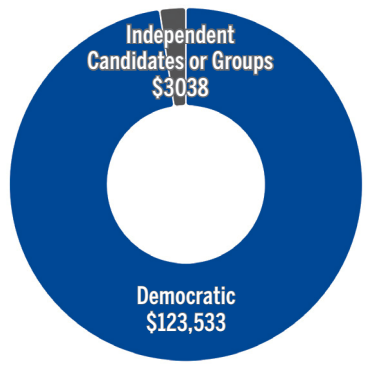

2025 Political Contributions by Yale Professors
Aiden Zhou, Data Editor

Amid budget pressure, Yale cuts graduate student spots

BY ISOBEL MCCLURE AND JAEHA JANG
STAFF REPORTERS

In recent years, Yale admitted two graduate students to its medieval studies program, but this admission cycle, the program will only be allowed to accept only one, according to Director of Graduate Studies Emily Thornbury.

The reduction is a part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences' three-year plan to decrease enrollment, which includes reducing the total students in humanities and social sciences programs by around 13 percent and those in STEM programs by 5 percent, University spokesperson Karen Peart wrote to the News.

The cuts come as a part of recent budget tightening as the University anticipates a hike in the tax to its endowment investment income set to begin in July. While three directors of graduate student programs told the News that this reduction did not come as a surprise to them in consideration of the University's financial constraints, they said it could have several negative effects on graduate and undergraduate student experiences.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Steven Wilkinson wrote in an email to the News that "given that our graduate school is heavily dependent on endowment income, and the endowment is now subject to an increased tax, we have to make reductions to

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Zoe Berg

Yale, city reach police oversight agreement

BY ADELE HAEG
STAFF REPORTER

New Haven officials and Yale administrators have operated for years without a formalized agreement on how to manage oversight of the University's police department.

Now, nearly six years after a new Civilian Review Board was formed to monitor police in New Haven, that board and Yale's new Public Safety Advisory Board have agreed on a legal framework for processing civilian complaints against the Yale Police Department. The review board's former administrator said a memorandum of understanding, which has not been previously disclosed or reported, went into effect on Jan. 1 — before the chiefs of both the Yale and New Haven police departments left their jobs.

The document has not been made publicly available, and the nature and scope of the review board's oversight role for the Yale police remained unclear. According to Duane Lovello, Yale's head of public safety, the Civilian Review Board "plans to make the agreement public at its upcoming meeting" scheduled for Jan. 26.

"This agreement not only formalizes mutual expectations but also symbolizes and strengthens our shared commitment to collaboration for the betterment of the Yale and New Haven communities," Lovello wrote in a statement provided by Yale's central communications office.

Although a 2019 city ordinance required the Civilian Review Board to "develop a memorandum of understanding" with the Yale Police Department, progress on the agreement was slow-moving.

In 2024, the Yale Police Advisory Board, meant to review civilian complaints against the Yale Police Department, was discontinued without an announcement to the city or University. Its successor, the Public Safety Advisory Board, took shape in the fall of 2025 and was filled with its first members in late November. The newly formed board's charter does not mention civilian complaints.

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Adrian Kulesza


Ellie Park, Senior Photographer

Campus security still boosted, but library limits loosened

BY REETI MALHOTRA
STAFF REPORTER

As students returned to classes this week, Yale largely maintained an amplified security presence that was initially prompted by the deadly shootings last month at Brown University and in Sydney, Australia.

In a Monday email to the University community, Head of Public Safety Duane Lovello wrote that while there is "no indication of any credible threat to campus," increased public safety measures first implemented in December will remain in place through the start of the semester.

A Yale identification card will still be required to enter most buildings, and Yale Public Safety officials will provide "increased, high visibility security coverage" throughout campus, Lovello wrote in his December email when the heightened safety measures were initially implemented.

Yale's Office of Public Affairs and Communications did not immediately respond on Tuesday to the News' inquiry about how long these measures would last.

Lovello, in an email statement provided by the office on Tuesday night, instead reaffirmed the lack of a present threat to Yale's campus and the "increased police and security presence at high-visibility locations across campus."

"The safety and security of our community remain of utmost importance," Lovello wrote.

The measures were put in place after a gunman shot and killed two students at Brown and two gunmen killed 15 people during a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney.

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Inside The News

As formals approach, many Yalies are hoping to find a date. Cue the matchmaking.

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SCROLL TOLL Three undergraduates developed an app geared at minimizing screen time.
PAGE 8 **SCITECH**

PROTESTING ICE In response to a federal agent's killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis, local activist groups organized a rally calling for ICE officers to leave New Haven.
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