NEWS

"And if you saw my love / You'd love her too."
THE BEATLES AND I LOVE HER

At Yale College Democrats watch party, caution becomes glee

BY SARAH RIVAS AND ZORA PENAGER DAVIDSON
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MARTIN PERALTA / HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Around 90 students who had gathered in the Morse College dining hall erupted in cheers every time a race was called for a Democrat in Tuesday's midterm elections. Some said memories of 2024 initially made them cautious to be optimistic.

As Democrats routed Republicans across the nation on Tuesday night, excitement ran high in the Morse College dining hall at an election watch party hosted by the Yale College Democrats.

Around 90 attendees erupted in repeated cheers as NBC news correspondent Steve Kornacki, projected on a large screen, projected one Democratic victory over another. The Democratic Party took over the Senate in Tuesday's election, flipping traditionally red states like Kansas, South Carolina and Texas, and also secured control of the House of Representatives, in addition to numerous contested governorships.

"Over the last few years, I have been horrified by the administration's abuse of power, the war in Iran, rising gas prices, and then just the blatant petty corruption," Giuseppe Dimassa '28 said. "I wanted to be here to celebrate with friends when there was accountability for those actions."

At the beginning of the event, many remained cautiously optimistic about the election results.

Lanae Branch '30 said many attendees were "almost hesitant to be excited" because of their experience in 2024 anticipating a Kamala Harris victory in the presidential election, only to be disappointed by President Donald Trump's return.

Branch, who participated in canvassing and phone banking campaigns for Yale Dems, added that she thinks results improved this election because of high rates of early voter registration.

Excitement in the room climbed as more races were called in favor of Democratic candidates.

"I am overjoyed. I personally feel a never-ending drumbeat of cynicism about the way things are going in this country," Yale Dems Vice President Conor Webb '28 said. "Finally, we get to respond and have an ability to change that, and to see not just ourselves but our neighbors doing that? It overwhelms me with faith in our country."

Layla Greten '30 called the results a "blue tsunami."

Leading up to the elections, the Yale Dems contributed to numerous campaigns. Through a mix of canvassing, fundraising, and phonebanking efforts, they supported Democratic candidates who emerged victorious on Tuesday, including Troy Jackson and Chris Pappas, now the incoming Senators from Maine and New Hampshire, respectively.

Webb said he thinks the College Democrats' efforts contributed to the candidates' successes.

"We won these races," he said. "I'm proud of that success."

Claire Billings '29 echoed the excitement that swept the student organization, which she said has worked "really hard to support different campaigns across the country."

In addition to commemorating the group's successful efforts, some Yale Dems members also celebrated blue wins in their home states.

"I'm so happy we won the general, and I'm so excited about David Crowley," said Events Director and Wisconsin resident Aharon Shelef '29, referring to his state's governor-elect. "I've been excited about him for such a long time because he's such a progressive champion, honestly, on so many things."

Ethan Schroyer '28 compared the event to "Yale's Super Bowl."

Multiple attendees also emphasized the predictability of the Democrat candidates' sweeping victories.

Matt Sprintson '28, a Texas native, said that the results of the elections could have been as easily seen as "a train coming down the tracks."

"Am I surprised that Texas chose not to elect Ken Paxton, who is one of the least savory candidates we've ever seen?" Sprintson said. "No, I'm not surprised he didn't win."

James Talarico, who beat Paxton on Tuesday, became the first Democratic candidate to win a Senate race in Texas since 1988.

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Yale liberals, conservatives express optimism after midterm blue wave

BY LILIANA DUMAS
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After Democrats flipped both the House of Representatives and the Senate during Tuesday's midterm elections, liberal and conservative Yale students both said their respective alliances must trundle on toward change.

Although not all races have been called, Democrats as of Wednesday night have gained seven seats in the Senate and 31 seats in the House of Representatives, including in Republican strongholds like Texas, Kansas and South Carolina, according to The Associated Press. In interviews with the News, seven student political group leaders reflected on election night, with liberals celebrating the results and conservatives expressing optimism about the future of conservatism in America.

"Although this was not the outcome we expected, none of us feel any sense of worry or panic because we know there is always more work to be done," Diego Victoria '27, the vice president of Yale's Turning Point USA chapter, wrote in an email to the News, referring to campus conservatives.

Conor Webb '28, the vice president of the Yale College Democrats, wrote in an email to the News that he urged Democrats on campus not to treat elections like "trophy hunting" but rather as calls to action to improve Americans' lives across state lines.

The Yale Dems held an election watch party on Tuesday in the Morse College dining hall.

Jaida-Nyelle Sinkler '28, the club's city engagement coordinator, said reactions during the watch party were "palpable," with many students jumping, cheering and hugging their peers. She added that this year's event was a stark contrast to the Yale Dems' watch party in 2024, where Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris lost to Donald Trump, which Webb described as "demoralizing."

Yale Dems members worked "relentlessly" to support campaigns nationwide at both the state and federal level, according to Maya Koerber-Marx '29, the elections coordinator for the club.

"Seeing young people like Eli Sabin and Luke Bronin, both campaigns that various Dems members had been involved with, be able to win was really inspiring," Koerber-Marx wrote in an email to the News.

Both Sabin, the incoming state representative for Connecticut's 92nd district, and Bronin, who will represent the state's 1st congressional district in the House of Representatives, attended Yale. Sabin graduated from Yale College in 2022 and Yale Law School this year, and Bronin graduated from Yale College in 2001 and the Law School in 2006.

Some conservative students, however, said they were fearful about the outcome of Tuesday's election.

"My greatest fear of the Democratic Senate majority today is that if a Democratic presidential candidate wins in 2028, the new president and the Senate would pack the Supreme Court, which has been the most consistently principled branch of government today," Jason Cao '29, a recruitment director for the Buckley Institute and the Floor Leader of the Right for the Yale Political Union, wrote in an email to the News. "If the Supreme Court becomes politicized in this way, then our fundamental value of judicial independence is in peril."

Morgan Vannell '27, the chairman of the Federalist Party, wrote in an email to the News that the result of a ballot measure in his home state of Virginia, in which voters backed abortion rights, was a "tragedy."

Mór Szepesi '27, a former president of the Yale Political Union, wrote in an email to the News that he wasn't surprised that the House and Senate will return to Democratic control because of past midterm results.

"It is a well-established political trend that the party opposing the incumbent president tends to perform well in midterm elections," Szepesi said.

Victoria, however, said he remained hopeful that conservatives could gain ground in future elections, with blue states like Connecticut perhaps one day turning red. He also noted other successes for conservatives, including North Carolina's passing of voter identification laws, Florida's passing of a homeowner property tax cut and transgender athlete bans that passed in Arizona and Nebraska.

Szepesi said that for Yale's majority liberal campus, the blue wave could offer more opportunities for conservative speakers to come to the University and engage with students.

"Given that many Republicans are now out of office, I suspect that inviting Republican speakers to campus will become easier as a result of their newfound unemployment," Szepesi said.

The Yale Political Union has seven member parties.

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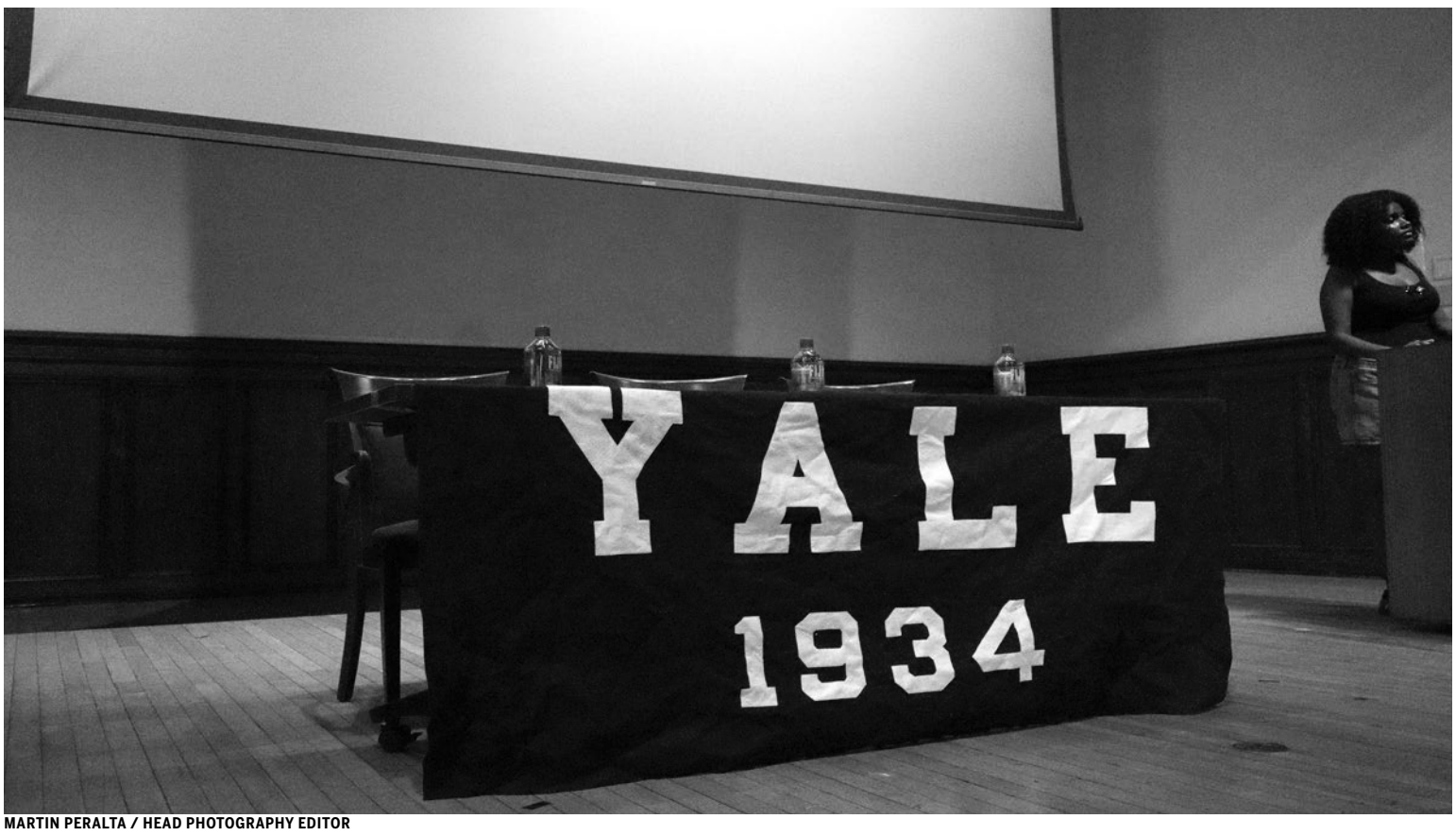

MARTIN PERALTA / HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students across the political spectrum on Yale's campus reacted to the slew of Democratic wins that engulfed the federal legislature during Tuesday's midterms. One posited that some Republicans' "newfound unemployment," would allow them to speak on campus.