

S.R. 4 (2024)

An Open Letter Addressing the 2024 Presidential Election Results

ADDRESSED TO:

All Santa Clara University Students, Faculty, and Staff



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November 2024

To all Santa Clara University Students, Faculty, and Staff,

On November 5th, 2024, Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, was elected the 47th President of the United States. The results of this election have undoubtedly induced emotion—whether positive, negative, or mixed—for all members of our community. Within the Associated Student Government, we harbor great concern regarding Trump’s agenda and its effects on individual liberties over the next years. Our hearts are heavy from the shared grief of our fellow students, friends, and Americans.

Students, faculty, and staff will inevitably face negative outcomes as a result of this election season, if they haven’t already. With the legislative and judicial branches of our country’s government now under the control of a Republican majority and the executive branch soon to be after the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th, 2025, we may feel the weight of new laws and court decisions aimed at infringing upon the rights and dignity of already marginalized groups. **Even if you do not believe you will be significantly impacted, you know someone who will.**

We acknowledge that the results of this election have already, and will likely continue to, trigger acts of racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, xenophobia, and other discriminatory behaviors in schools throughout the nation. **Let us be clear: such messages have no place at Santa Clara University.** We are steadfast in our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all students, faculty, staff, and families in our school community.

This was an unprecedented election, with unprecedented results. From a factual standpoint, the President-elect is a convicted felon and a sexual abuser. Donald Trump will be the first convicted felon to assume the Presidency. Additionally, he and his campaign platform—building on his first term in office—have continually threatened the rights of People of Color, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities, religious groups, especially Muslims, and many others, all of whom are represented within our Santa Clara community. President-elect Trump has also made discouraging claims about higher education, calling for the termination of the Department of Education and proposing reductions to higher education funding (FAFSA, federal student loan and grant programs, etc.). While these calls are mostly baseless and uninformed, they have fostered fear and concern, directly attacking the mission and values of equal opportunity and education we strive to uphold at Santa Clara University.

Our intent in highlighting these concerns over the next presidency is not to create divisiveness, deny the results of the election, or argue what should or should not have happened during this election. **We simply aim to bring awareness as to why our fellow students and faculty may be struggling and call upon you to listen and sympathize with those in our community.**

Here at Santa Clara, we place the utmost importance on and belief in the Jesuit principles that are central to our identity. Specifically, we are committed to forming and educating agents of change, which calls us to dedicate ourselves to progress and social action on key moral and ethical issues we face. The Jesuits also emphasize being “for and with others” by further upholding social justice and standing with those who are vulnerable. President-elect Trump, his platform, and his history of discrimination and hatred stand in direct opposition to these Jesuit values that we must prioritize as an institution.

We, the Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University, stand in solidarity with those affected by the results of the 2024 Presidential Election and offer our resources. As leaders and advocates, we will continue to fight for what is right. We see you, we hear you, and we will continue to stand by you in any way necessary.

The **Office of Student Life** engages with students in different modalities and advocates for them in ways they view as being supportive. You can visit their office at Benson Memorial Center, 205. **Campus Ministry** is also here to serve students of different religious backgrounds, and you can reach them at Benson Memorial Center, 105. If you are an undergraduate student living on campus, you can speak with a **Therapist in Residence**, who offer same-day, next-day, or same-week check-in appointments that can be booked through the Student Health Portal. **The Wellness Center** also offers support through appointments and mentorship. You can find them at 852 Market Street (down the street from Benson) or reach them at (408) 554-4409. The Survivor Advocates are here to listen and guide you in whatever way you need. **Additionally, you can reach CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) for 24/7 Mental Health Support at (408) 554-5220.**

Take care of yourself and others, and always reach out if this feels too heavy to carry alone. You are welcome to email the authors of this statement to ask questions or simply seek a supportive space.

Always, we begin again.



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