

ELECTIONS

draw student involvement

Politics bring valuable experiences

To many young people, politics may seem inaccessible. Teenagers are brushed off by adults as idealistic or ignorant, or feel as though they can't make an impact. Most notably, they can't vote.

But students aren't letting these things stop them. "[Politics] affect every aspect of your life... You can ignore it, but if you do, people are just going to make decisions for you," senior Yoav Gillath said. "I want to get as many people as I can involved with politics."

Gillath is the president of Free State Young Democrats and was involved in the founding of Kansas Young Democrats. He also serves as the Regional Director for the Second Congressional District of Kansas High School Democrats.

Because of these experiences, Gillath was recruited to get even more involved in politics. This year he worked on a state representative campaign, a congress campaign in Iowa and a voter-to-voter project through Douglas County Democrats.

Senior Braiden Bangalan has also been involved in larger elections.

Bangalan phone banks for Barbara Bollier's senate campaign and is a student ambassador for the same Iowa campaign that Gillath works with. He also is the Assistant Director for the Second Congressional District of Kansas High School Democrats and the

Vice President of Free State Young Democrats.

"I started volunteering for local campaigns over quarantine," Bangalan said. "It made me aware that what happens in local elections is more pertinent to our daily lives, rather than national elections."

Senior Amy Mai has not been involved in as large-scale elections as Gillath and Bangalan, but instead focuses on community- and school-based involvement.

"This year I went out for the secretary position of the Free State chapter of High School Democrats," Mai said. In her position, she informs club members about important current events. "I think a lot of

people are motivated, with this being an election year, to come and learn."

Gillath, Mai and Bangalan are involved in politics in different ways, but share the same passion.

"Both of my parents are immigrants from Vietnam and a lot of my other family members are immigrants too," Mai said. "We are pretty affected by what gets talked about."

Bangalan's passion goes beyond social media.

"We can complain about Trump on Twitter and go on with our lives," Bangalan said. "But these are actual issues, actual pressing problems."

Overall, Gillath, Mai and Bangalan pushed other students to get involved.

"Just start volunteering, start being interested and most importantly, vote," Gillath said.

“ [Politics] affect every aspect of your life... You can ignore it, but if you do, people are just going to make decisions for you. ”

FEATURE

pages by Hannah De Guzman
story by Mary Kate Shultz
illustration by Gus Cordova

I voted in
Douglas County



I voted in
Douglas County



I voted in
Douglas County



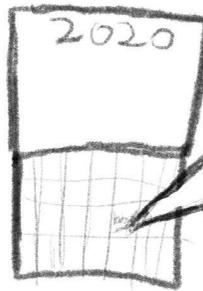
VOTE



I can vote now!



Students involved
in elections



18th
B-day



VOTE

I voted in
Douglas County



I voted in
Douglas County

