

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Drop off letters to the Prospector in the box in the library, in room 216 or email letters to prospectornow@gmail.com. All letters must be signed. Limit letters to 400 words. The Prospector reserves the right to edit for style and length.

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MISSION STATEMENT
The primary purpose of the Prospect High School Prospector is to report news and explain its meaning and significance to our readers and the community. We, The Prospector, hope to inform, entertain and provide an unrestricted exchange of ideas and opinions. The Prospector is published by students in Journalistic Writing courses. Some material is courtesy of MCT Campus High School Newspaper Service.

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2020s requires updated political mindset

36% of Republicans and 27% of Democrats see their opposing parties as “a threat to the nation’s well-being,” according to a 2014 Pew Research study.

This fragmentation is increasing; the amount of ideological overlap has decreased dramatically over the past 20 years.

According to the same study, 92% of Republicans are to the right of the middle on the political spectrum, compared to 64% in 1994 — Democrats have seen the same trend by going from 70% to 94% to the left of the middle.

Among voters and elected officials, this polarization contributes to the mindset that issues are two-sided: a republican opinion and a democratic opinion.

This results in no middle ground, and the supporters of opposing parties are demonized.

We, The Prospector, believe that as we head into the new decade, issues must be looked at holistically and not only through a party-lens. Different perspectives must be taken into account, as every issue is complex and does not have an obvious solution.

It is OK if a Democrat’s opinion on a certain issue does not align with the rest of the Democratic party, and the same goes for Republicans.

The skill to examine both sides of an issue and take a position — while still being open to challenging pre-existing opinions — comes through education.

Prospect students can obtain this non-polarizing mindset through taking classes such as World Religions, AP Government and Sociology, where students can apply critical thinking skills from social science classes to current issues.

Furthermore, it is the student’s responsibility to exist outside of their own echo chamber by considering news from unbiased news sources; The Huffington Post and Fox News are not suitable publications for expanding outside of a pre-existing liberal or conservative opinion.

In order to make progress and solve present issues, Americans must understand issues from all perspectives instead of simply agreeing with whatever position his or her party takes on it.

In order to do this, it is crucial to humanize people with opposing views and not regard them as less intelligent, unsympathetic or unmotivated.

As our country transitions from the increasingly-polarized 2010s to the 2020s, our attitude towards alternative points of view must transition to include a more civil and holistically informed American public. **P**



PROSPECTOR POLITICAL PUBLISH

Impeachment, dropped Harris bid lead to eventful political week

WEEK #7

We are coming to the close of one of the biggest weeks in this year’s political atmosphere. With California Sen. Kamala Harris dropping her bid for the 2020 Democratic primary and the House Judiciary Committee initiating official impeachment proceedings, there is much to discuss in the political world.



BRENDAN BURKE
Copy Editor

I am going to start off by talking about Harris dropping her bid. I was quite shocked when the senator left the race due to the fact that she was polling in fourth place; I named her a winner of the November Democratic debate in

Prospector Political Publish Week #6, which can be found on prospectornow.com, and she was one of six candidates to qualify for the sixth Democratic debate in December (see Dominating Democrats).

Harris had a huge following when she announced her campaign back in January, but she failed to live up to the hype amid candidates such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden.

Harris is ending her campaign because of the lack of financial resources she requires for her campaign to continue.

“To my supporters, it is with deep regret — but also with deep gratitude — that I am suspending my campaign today,” Harris said in a Dec. 3 tweet. “But I want to be clear with you: I will keep fighting every day for what this campaign has been about. Justice for the People. All the people.”

While most people seem to think that Harris’ decision was a unique one, I applaud her for it and hope more Democrats will follow in her footsteps.

Harris has set a precedent by leaving the race because she showed candidates that have not been qualifying for recent debates what course of action they

should take in regards to their campaigns.

I stated in Prospector Political Publish Week #5 that many Democratic candidates must realize when it is their time to leave due to the fact that they are just confusing the entire party.

With the most recent political Gallup poll showing that 31% of Americans identify as Democrats, nominees dragging in the polls need to allow this group of over 75 million people to choose a small number of candidates that they can get on board with.

For example, the December debate currently only has five qualifying candidates set to participate. I can only hope that this number remains unchanged because it will officially cut down the size of the legitimate field.

It is time for nominees such as author Marianne Williamson and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick to leave the race, and Harris is allowing this goal to be achieved. However, I say with confidence that Americans have not seen the last of Harris; she even said in her farewell video, “I am still very much in this fight.”

The fact that Warren and Biden have both mentioned the fact that Harris would be the best vice presidential nominee widely hints at news to be revealed at the Democratic National Convention next July.

Obviously, most Democratic nominees have showed their appreciation for Harris and everything that she has done for the Democratic primary.

Surprisingly, President Donald Trump even tweeted at Harris saying, “Too bad. We will miss you Kamala!”

While many people have debated whether or not this was a sarcastic remark, Harris quickly responded with “Don’t worry, Mr. President. I’ll see you at your trial.”

Here, Harris is referring to the impeachment trial that Trump may face in the U.S. Senate if he is impeached by the House of Representatives.

photo by
Brendan Burke



Dominating Democrats

Democratic presidential candidates that have qualified for the sixth debate

<p>MASSACHUSETTS SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN</p> <p>+1 in polling</p>	<p>FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN</p> <p>+4 in polling</p>
<p>SOUTH BEND, IND. MAYOR PETE BUTTIGIEG</p> <p>+0 in polling</p>	<p>VERMONT SEN. BERNIE SANDERS</p> <p>+0 in polling</p>
<p>CALIFORNIA SEN. KAMALA HARRIS</p> <p>-2 in polling</p>	<p>MINNESOTA SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR</p> <p>Kamala Harris has just dropped her bid for the 2020 Democratic primary. She was polling in fourth place in recent polls.</p>

*information courtesy of Economist/YouGov polls
*photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This vote is actually not as far away as it seems because Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stated that it should occur by Christmas. As previously stated, the House Judiciary Committee has formalized impeachment proceedings by holding a day-long hearing with four legal scholars debating whether or not Trump’s actions are impeachable.

The three scholars invited by Democrats stated that Trump’s actions fit the impeachment clause while the fourth scholar invited by Republicans stated that their case is based on shoddy evidence.

With all of the witnesses providing necessary testimonies, Pelosi has said that drafting the articles for impeachment is the next course of action due to the 2020 election coming up fast.

The end of this impeachment proceeding is essential because it will play a larger role in the election. There should be no more debate about whether impeachment articles are justified; it is time for a vote. **P**