



WYOMUN IV

Kennedy vs. Nixon: The Trail to Presidency
Richard Nixon Background Guide



Committee Chairs: Liam Sheerajin, Katie Whaley &
Chloe Constantinides

Crisis Directors: Sarah Sheerajin & Katherine Nocks

Director-General: Isabel Coyle

Chief of Staff: Katherine Nocks

Secretary-General: Ben Haward

Dear Delegates,

My name is Liam Sheerajin. I am a senior at Wyoming High School. This will be my fourth year participating in Model UN. I enjoy working with others, as well as leading. I have been active in all sorts of ways in my community, including playing on the soccer team, working behind the scenes of the drama department with the Tech Crew, rocking my saxophone in Wyoming's marching band, and raising money for the fight against cancer with Relay of Life.



I love trying new things, WYOMUN being one of them. This is my first year helping with WYOMUN, and I am looking forward to working as a Committee Chair. I know this will be a very enjoyable and interesting experience. I can't wait to meet every one of you, and I will make as many memories as I possibly can.

Liam Sheerajin
Committee Chair
Kennedy vs Nixon: the Trail to Presidency

Dear Delegates,

Hello! My name is Sarah Sheerajin, and I will be one of your crisis directors this year, along with Katherine Nocks. This will be my fourth year participating in Model UN, and I am thrilled to be a part of this lovely committee! We have spent these past few months working tirelessly, determined to make this year's WYOMUN a great experience for each delegate. I am very excited to be working with so many creative people on such an interesting topic; the outcomes of this election are endless!



If you happen to be wondering what I am like outside of this committee, I am a senior at Wyoming High School. Throughout my high school career, I have devoted my time to Wyoming's Drama Department as an art manager and a member of stage crew, along with being a member of Wyoming's Tennis Team and playing trumpet for marching band. As a senior, I have plans to become involved in more clubs and activities, including Academic Team, Yearbook, and Bowling, and I will continue to work backstage for Wyoming's theatre productions. Outside of school, I enjoy exploring my creative side by spending my free time taking pictures, painting, and playing music.

Although this is my first year at WYOMUN, I have always enjoyed Model UN; I look forward to working with this committee as a crisis director and am eager to see what WYOMUN IV has in store for everyone. I wish every delegate the best of luck!

Sarah Sheerajin
Crisis Director
Kennedy vs Nixon: the Trail to Presidency

Dear Delegates,

My name is Katherine Nocks and I am honored to be your crisis director for the JCC Election committee along with Sarah Sheerajin. I am excited to see how you work within this committee and bring what we all have been working on to life. The staff and I have been working hard on this conference and committee especially and hope you have a great time. It is my sincere hope that you can learn from this committee about what it is like behind the scenes of an election staff.



I am currently a junior at Wyoming High school. This year will be my fourth year participating in WYOMUN. Outside of Model United Nations, I am co-stage manager in our theater productions, a competitive figure skater, and a flutist in our school marching band. I would just like to emphasize how excited I am to meet you all and watch you work within this committee.

Katherine Nocks

Crisis Director

Kennedy vs Nixon: the Trail to Presidency

The Committee

The date is August 2nd, 1960, and the world is anticipating the results of the presidential debate televised across the nation. The candidates are eager to address the nation, once again, in hopes of gaining the support of Americans. As the days on the campaign trail pass, every decision is crucial to the success of the candidates. It is up to this committee to ensure the success of Richard Nixon's campaign to be the 35th President of the United States. This committee must run a campaign that will flourish in the face of any adversity thrown at it by opposing candidate, US Democrat and Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy.

Richard Nixon

Childhood and Education

Richard Milhous Nixon was born in Yorba Linda, California on January 9th, 1913 and is the second of five sons born to Frank and Hannah Nixon. There, his family owned a lemon farm that eventually faced bankruptcy, causing them to move to Whittier, California, they owned a grocery store and gas station. His mother, being a quaker, influenced Nixon to unwaveringly strive for peace. When Nixon graduated from high school, he was offered a scholarship to Harvard University, but, because his family could not afford the required fees, he attended the local Whittier College. At Whittier College, he was an ideal, outstanding student, participating in school plays, becoming President of the student body, and was known for his excellent debating skills. He graduated in 1934 and accepted a full ride offer from Duke University's law school. After earning his degree, Nixon returned to his hometown of Whittier and began to practice law in a local law firm. In addition, Nixon was an active citizen in his community; he was accepted on the Whittier College Board of Trustees and became involved in community theater. At one of his shows, he met his soon-to-be wife, Thelma Catherine Ryan, who was a high school teacher and long-time Whittier resident. They married in 1940 and had two daughters, Julie and Patricia. Soon after his marriage, Nixon accepted a job in Washington D.C., working for Franklin Roosevelt's Office of Price Administration (OPA). In this position, he helped regulate money and rents following the start of World War II.

Military Service

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Nixon decided to join the Navy as a lieutenant junior-grade, despite the fact that he was excluded from the draft due to being raised as a Quaker. In the Navy, he was sent to the Pacific as an operations officer with the South Pacific Combat Air Transport. Fourteen months later, he returned to the United States to work as a lawyer in uniform.



Politics

Nixon left the Navy following the war and was asked by Whittier Republicans to run for the 12th Congressional District of California, thus beginning his political journey. Nixon began to campaign, gaining a reputation for his use of mudslinging, or negative campaigning. This method involves directing malicious or scandalous allegations against the opposing candidate or party. His main opposition in the Congressional campaign was Johnny Voorhis, who had been elected five times previously and was a favorite among the voters. Voorhis' campaign was strongly anti-communist, but Nixon managed to convince voters that Voorhis was being backed by a Communist run organization, and portrayed his views as radical and dangerous. This mudslinging tactic made the election an easy win for Nixon. As a congressman, Nixon was assigned to the House Labor Committee and the Select Committee. In 1947, he and the other congressmen toured Europe and, during this time, gained several important connections, along with first-hand information about the European countries. Nixon quickly earned the reputation of being an international figure. He was also a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), which was created to investigate allegations of communist actions in the

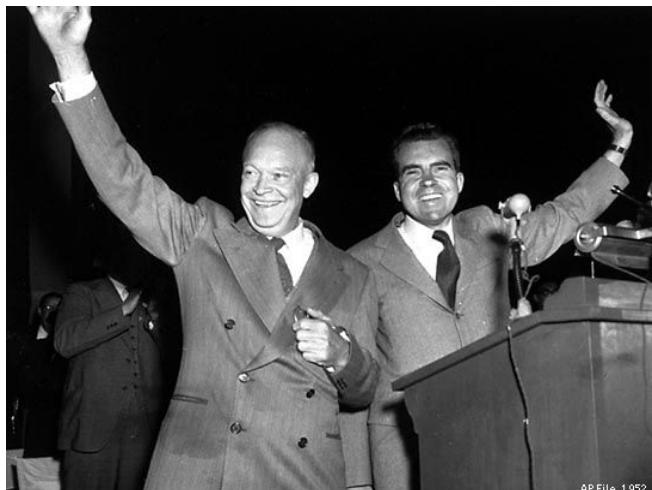
United States. During his time working for HUAC, he became an even more popular public figure, and his popularity only grew after uncovering Alger Hiss, a US government official found to be a Soviet spy. In 1948, Nixon won the reelection with endorsements from both parties, and in 1950 he ran for a senate position against Helen Gangan Douglas, the incumbent 14th district representative for California. Nixon ran on a strong opposition to communism and frequently



cited his work for HUAC as an example of this belief. It was this staunch opposition to Communism that also lead to Massachusetts representative John F. Kennedy quietly donating to Nixon's campaign. Nixon also returned to his use of mudslinging for this race and, sensing the sentiment of voters, accused Douglas of being a Soviet sympathizer. His reputation for these aggressive tactics earned him the nickname "Tricky Dick", which proved to serve him well; he was elected as Senator for California, winning around 60% of the popular vote.

Vice Presidency

In 1952, Dwight David Eisenhower, a respected war hero, asked Nixon to be his running mate and vice president. This race did not prove to be as easy as Nixon had hoped. In September of 1952, just as the race was starting to intensify, he was accused in a New York Post article entitled, "Secret Rich Men's Trust Fund Keeps Nixon in Style Far Beyond Salary," of



using donations from supporters for personal use. Nixon quickly refuted those claims and accusations and, at the next campaign stop, spoke out against the allegations, saying, "You folks know the work that I did investigating Communists in the United States. When I received the nomination for the Vice Presidency, I was warned that if I continued to attack the communists in the government they would continue to smear me." Still, Americans

were not convinced, causing Nixon to address the claims in his famous Checkers speech. In this speech, he admitted to collecting eighteen thousand dollars in donations from his supporters. However, he stated that he did not use the money for personal use but solely for campaign trail expenses. Within the speech, he both defended his position and continued to attack the opposition. The speech was widely successful and, as a result, earned former and new support from many Americans. He and Eisenhower defeated the Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson and John Sparkman, carrying 39 of 48 states.

Between 1955 and 1957, Eisenhower suffered from a multitude of diseases including both a stroke and a heart attack. Although Nixon did not hold a lot of direct power, he managed the office without Eisenhower, helping to ensure the passage of his approved bills. While

Eisenhower was unable to work, Nixon also sat in on several high level meetings. Eisenhower's health scares and Nixon's management in his absence led to the adoption of the 25th amendment.

Nixon held strong opinions on foreign policies, which were met with mixed reactions. He believed that the best defense plan was to possess such remarkable strength that "no aggressor can feel he can launch an attack without risking retaliation in return." Nixon went on several foreign trips as an ambassador for American good will, including on a trip to Moscow. On July 24th, 1959, while touring the American National Exhibition with Soviet general Nikita Khrushchev, they stopped in an American kitchen model where Nixon began to engage Khrushchev in a calm debate about their differing ideologies. While this "Kitchen Debate" did not directly impact the Russian and American relationship at the time, it made Nixon increasingly popular for standing up to the Soviet state. Nixon also visited places like Hanoi and North Vietnam, giving Nixon a first person view of the brewing tensions in both North and South Vietnam, along with knowledge of foreign affairs. In April of 1959, Vice President Nixon met with Prime Minister of Cuba, Fidel Castro, during an unofficial visit to Washington. He later wrote that the US had no choice but to try to "orient" the leftist leader in the "right direction". These several meetings were tremendously important, since the tension between the United States and both Cuba and Vietnam were increasing. On the multitude of his foreign trips, he made many valuable connections and gained knowledge of foreign affairs.



Nixon's Policies

Throughout the campaign, Nixon has said that it is best for America to continue Eisenhower's programs, simply adding improvements where they are needed. Several programs in which Nixon has expressed interest in doing so include welfare, foreign aid, and defense programs. In addition, Nixon believes that crucial measures should be taken in order to give Americans necessary housing, along with the establishment of a federally supported

medical care program to benefit the elderly. Furthermore, Nixon stresses the need for a free enterprise system and urges states to assume greater responsibilities than they currently have. When reviewing education, Nixon pushes for federal aid in poor areas for school construction. However, he does not believe in federal subsidies for teacher salaries because it can lead to federal control of education.

A major disagreement between Kennedy and Nixon concerns US relations with Cuba; with Fidel Castro's rise to power, tensions between Cuba and the United States have been less than ideal. In February, Cuba made a trade agreement with the Soviet Union. Cuba's refineries, all owned by American corporations, refused to process the Soviet Crude; Castro retaliated by nationalizing the refineries. The Eisenhower administration responded by reducing Cuba's sugar quota in American markets, which is one of Cuba's critical exports. This action lead to a message from Castro in April, threatening to nationalize all American owned properties in Cuba. Despite of this, Nixon remains hopeful that the Cuban people will recognize the need for freedom and seek help from America on their own accords. Nixon continues to be a strong believer in individual rights, freedom of choice, and equality.

Presidential Race

On July 28, 1960, Richard Nixon was nominated by the Republican party as the presidential candidate. It is now your job as his election team to convince the American people that he is best fit for the role. The first televised debate will convene in Chicago on September 26th. The topic of the debate will be domestic affairs. In this debate your candidate will answer several questions along with write opening and closing statements. These debates are a crucial part of the campaign and how the public perceives your candidate may make or break your campaign. There will be a second televised debate of the campaign trail on October 7, 1960, in Washington, D.C. You will need to establish your party's policies on several key problems that plague the United States and the world today. Over the next couple of months, challenges will be thrown at you as you and your election team's campaign for your candidate. The trail will not be easy; your team will have to face scandals, important world events, and gain specific influential people's support. You and your election team must figure out where your candidate stands on the each of the following policy questions and have a plan ready by the next debate.

The Election Process

Having already been chosen by their respected parties the candidates have begun campaigning. They are both traveling across the nation explaining their plans and beliefs to the voters. During the campaign both candidates will participate in four televised debates. During these debates they will answer questions, defend their policies and speak directly to their opponent. On Tuesday, November 8th, the American people will cast their votes for the candidate they wish to see as president. However, the winner of the popular vote will not necessarily be next president. To win, the candidate must win the majority of the electoral college votes. The electoral college is made up of electors from each state. The amount of electors per state is determined by how many members of congress the state has. A candidate needs at least 270 electoral votes, more than half, in order to win the election. Due to the electoral college system, states with the majority of electors from one party are often ignored during campaigning and those with an even mix are more focused on. These states are called swing states or battleground states. Specific swing states of this election are Texas, Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Illinois, Hawaii, California, and Alaska.

Questions to Consider

1. How can we react to and quell the ever growing support for communism around the world ?
2. How can we gain the support of the working class and minorities?
3. What strategies should be used to persuade voters and electors in swing states to vote for our candidate?

Positions:

Co-Campaign Manager-Robert H. Finch: Finch befriended Nixon when he worked as an administrative aide to Congressman Norris Poulson. He is a man of tremendous courage and is known by his peers as an important voice and a trusted colleague.

Co-Campaign Manager John N. Mitchell: Mitchell used to work with Nixon at the same law firm and considers him his closest friend. Before entering this campaign, he worked as a municipal bond lawyer and also served three years as a naval officer during World War II. Mitchell regards the suppression of civil liberties in order to uphold or create “law and order” as

preferable and necessary. He is not afraid of using loopholes or “dirty tricks” in order to achieve his goals.

Wife- Thelma “Pat” Catherine Nixon: Thelma has a graduates degree and has worked several odd jobs, including as an assistant psychology teacher and lab assistant. Pat continues to be influential in Nixon’s politics- she often attends and reviews his opponent’s speeches and she plays the impactful role of editing Nixon’s speeches. Pat also makes public appearances at outdoor rallies and fundraising dinners or teas with Republican women. Her opinions are influential and often sought out.

Foreign Affairs Advisor- Robert F. Ellsworth: Ellsworth previously represented the state of Kansas in the House of Representatives and is a close personal friend of the Nixon family. Ellsworth is known for his emphasis of traditionally southern opinions, his flaring temper, and his deep-set need for everything to go his way.

Financial Director- Maurice H. Stans: Stans is a very successful man; before joining this campaign, he was president of several successful financial businesses. He entered the political world in Eisenhower’s campaign and became deputy director and director of the Bureau of the Budget. He believes very strongly in the fact that all problems can be solved with hard work and a plan.

Speechwriter- William Safire: Safire is well known for being a Jewish pulitzer prize winning political columnist in the *New York Times*, in addition to his several other award-winning books and papers. He is a college dropout, but has always been proud of it. Safire is described as a straight forward go-getter. He is the individual who sets up the prominent Kitchen Debate between Nixon and Khrushchev.

Director of Outreach and Correlations- Leonard Garment: Garment is known by everyone as a happy-go-lucky person, unlike the other personalities found in Washington. He is a New York, Jewish lawyer with a love of jazz music.

Political Director- Patricia R. Hitt Hitt is a very close personal friend of the Nixon family. She is strong willed and her opinion is occasionally trusted on key strategic moves within the campaign.

Legal Advisor- Herbert G. Brownell: Brownell has worked at his current law firm for 31 years, along with playing a very influential role in government. He was chairman of the Republican National Committee, where he focused on modernizing it with advanced polling methods and fundraising techniques. He is a very stubborn man who believes strongly in natural rights for all men.

Press Secretary- Herbert G. Klein: Klein was the assistant press secretary when Nixon ran for Vice President and for his congressional campaigns. he is also the executive editor for the *San Diego Union*, a well-known and respected newspaper. He has been in the journalism business for the entirety of his life and greatly believes that all news should be open to the public, especially news concerning politics.

Administration Assistant- E. Frederic Morrow: Morrow acted as Administration Assistant in Eisenhower's campaign, as well as Nixon's. He previously worked in the White House on Eisenhower's staff as administrative officer for special projects, making him the first African American to hold an executive position in the white house.

Advance Man- H. R. "Bob" Haldeman: Haldeman previously worked on Nixon's 1956 campaign, developing an unwavering respect and loyalty to Nixon, and, therefore, becoming Nixon's most trusted aide throughout his campaigns. His family owned an air conditioning supply company and donated to Nixon's financial fund, contributing to Nixon's "fund crisis" in 1952.

Further Reading:

Although this background guide is a great starting point for research, additional investigation is necessary for further understanding of the committee and the topics to be discussed. Below are a few sources to help delegates begin this process. That being said, delegates are strongly encouraged to look for sources beyond those listed here, especially when researching topics specific to particular positions. Taking these actions will ensure a successful committee experience for all delegates.

Nixon-Kennedy Presidential Debates:

- (1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbrcRKqLSRw&t=590s>
- (2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-4VeDta7Mo&t=1s>
- (3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SdDhojNT2o&t=44s>
- (4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN8F1FGZfzA>

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- (1) <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history>
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Leader in California GOP Was 70. He Also Served in Nixon's Cabinet and as President's Special Counselor and Campaign Manager." *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 11 Oct. 1995, articles.latimes.com/1995-10-11/news/mn-55826_1_richard-nixon.

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