

Harvard College

Democrats

Annual Report 2015

Contents

- 2 Letter from the President**
- 3 By The Numbers**
- 4 Year in Review**
- 6 Graduating Seniors**
- 8 Board 2014**
- 10 Get Involved**
- 12 We Need Your Help**

To The HCD Community:

Thank you so much for all of your commitment to the Dems. Whether you attended one or all of our meetings, contributed through our alumni network, or made one phone call or one hundred, we appreciate the energy, dedication, and passion you have all shown. As you will read in the report, your collective efforts have made a huge difference in 2014.

As we usher in a new semester, we look to put the midterms behind us and venture into advocating and campaigning for issues that we are passionate about. In the future, we look to build on our growing social media presence, our strong membership base, and our impressive activism in Massachusetts and the nation. Check out our website at harvarddems.com, like our Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter, @HarvardDems. Thank you again for all of your support.

**Thank you
again for
all of your
support.**

Letter from the President

Dear Democrats,

In 2014, the Harvard Dems kicked off the year with an expansion of our committees, helping expand our goal of action-oriented progressive work. We brought guest speakers to campus including Governor Deval Patrick, Governor Christine Gregoire, and Governor Mike Dukakis. We hosted a forum with all five Democratic candidates for Massachusetts' governor and started an **annual award program honoring high-achieving, underprivileged high school leaders** in the Boston and Cambridge public schools. We organized service projects including a book drive that collected over 500 books for the Mann School for the Deaf.

In the fall, we continued to move forward with important progressive work: we held door-to-door canvasses across Massachusetts for candidates up and down the ballot, including Attorney General Maura Healey and Dems' alums U.S. Representative Seth Moulton and State Senator Eric Lesser. **We travelled to New Hampshire to re-elect U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen and spent a weekend in Maine campaigning through rain and snow** for Mike Michaud's campaign for governor. We also held many phone banks for close Senate races, including in North Carolina, New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Georgia, as well as governors' races in Texas, Maine, Wisconsin, and Connecticut, just to name a few.

This year, we'll be building on our organizational success to give members more active roles in the organization. We're planning a series of **interactive panels, high-profile speakers, skills workshops, and service events** that will keep members engaged and give them valuable, concrete, political experience. We're engaging alumni and students to develop lasting connections and friendships, and working to create more connections to alums through internships and mentoring. Now, after elections, we are doing letter-writing campaigns, phone calls and meetings with state and national legislators, and writing op-eds on important issues.

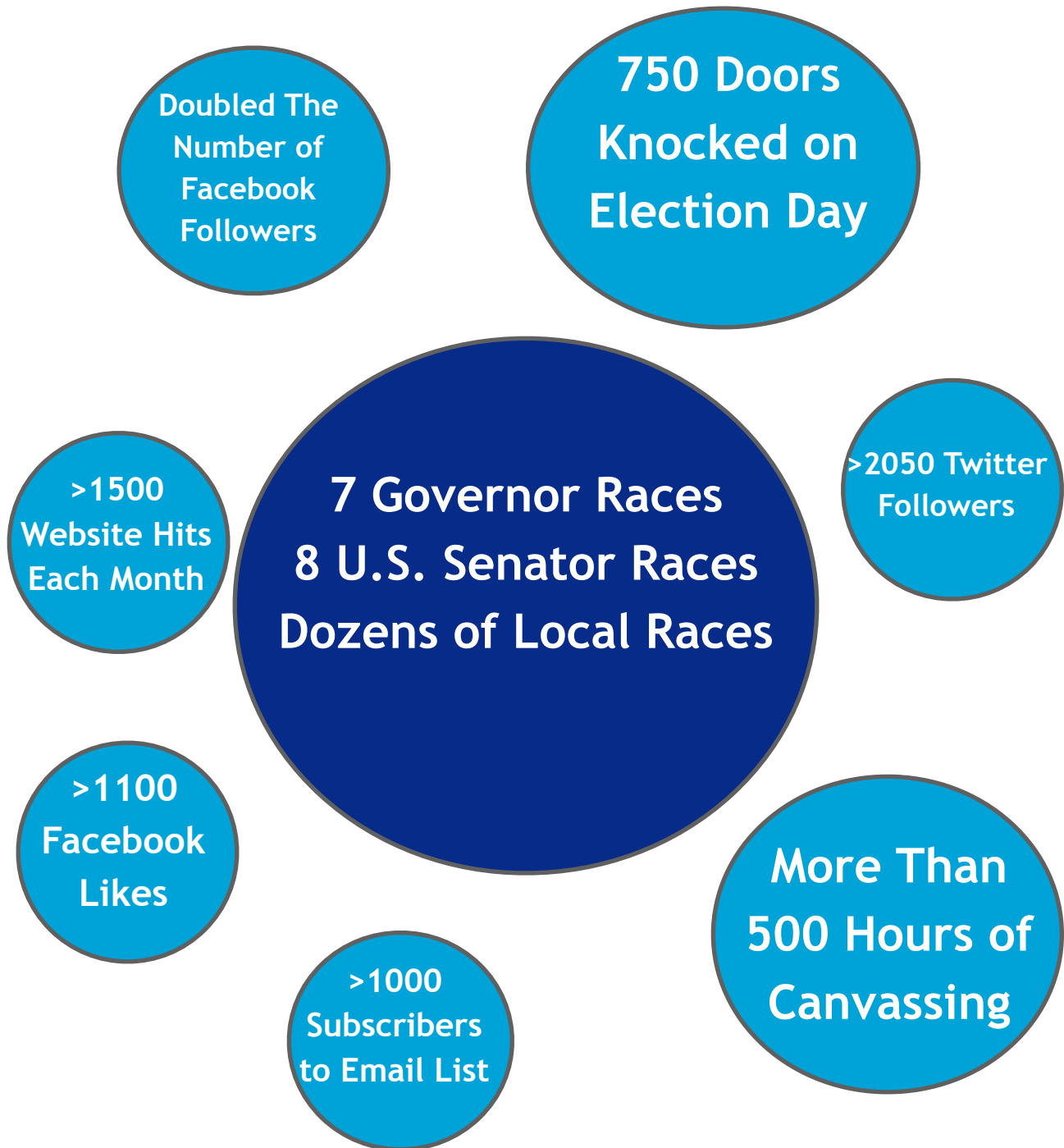
But we can't do any of this without your help, which is why I'm asking you to get involved and stay involved. Join a committee and plan a service event. Help us meet with legislators at the Massachusetts state house and write an op-ed. Attend a skills workshop and contribute to our capital campaign. Because our values are shared, it's **the work done collectively by our members that have made the Dems the largest, most successful partisan organization at Harvard**. We hope we can count on you to continue that tradition of success, and we're excited to work with you!

Thank you,



Jacob Carrel '16, President

By The Numbers



Year in Review

It's On Us Campaign

As part of an effort to raise awareness about sexual assault on college campuses, we took dozens of pictures of Democrats in solidarity with the movement.



“I shouldn’t feel SCARED on my OWN CAMPUS. #itsonus”

“Sexual Assault IS a Big Deal.”



“Only 4% of Assaulters are Prosecuted or Jailed.”

Massachusetts Governor Candidate Forum



Our President, Daniel Ki '15, moderated a forum with all five Democratic candidates for Massachusetts governor. Candidates provided the opportunity for students to join campaign teams as interns or volunteers.

Community Engagement Award



Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick gave a keynote address as we presented our annual Community Engagement Award for Young Leaders, an award given annually to a Boston or Cambridge public high school student who has shown leadership in their community, to Jerson Steve Familia, a senior at Boston Community Leadership Academy who successfully advocated for healthier options at mealtimes.

Year in Review

Canvassing in Portland, Maine, Manchester, New Hampshire and Springfield, Massachusetts

We traveled to Portland, Maine, Manchester, New Hampshire, and Springfield, Massachusetts, to knock doors and phone bank, supporting numerous competitive candidates for the midterm elections.



Election Day in Massachusetts



We woke up bright and early on election day to knock doors and make phone calls to encourage Democrats to go to the polls. In all, we knocked 750 doors in Cambridge on Election Day.

Democrat-Republican Debate

We hosted a debate with the Harvard Republican Club on the topics of raising the minimum wage and the DREAM Act. The discussion drew students from both parties together in an informative and constructive discussion.



Graduating Seniors

Ross Svenson

*Former Campaigns
Director*



Hometown: Ashburn, VA

Concentration: Government, Spanish Secondary

House: Winthrop

Political Inspiration: The 2000 presidential election

Political Accomplishments: Leading the 2014 campaign efforts for the College Dems, working on the campus Obama for America team in 2012, and interning at the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House, and the office of Senator Mark Warner (D-VA).

Other Extracurriculars: Harvard Varsity Lightweight Crew, Harvard Political Review, First Year Outdoor Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay

Future Plans: Working on a presidential campaign

Favorite Place to Visit: Outer Banks, NC

Favorite Dems Memory: Canvassing in NH and returning to campus to celebrate the win in 2012!

Madeleine Gearan

Former Treasurer



Hometown: Geneva, NY

Concentration: Sociology, Government Secondary

House: Winthrop

Political Inspiration: Hillary 2016

Political Accomplishments: Working to provide campaign and canvass experience to Harvard Democrats through our capital campaign effort.

Other Extracurriculars: JFK Jr. Forum, Fellows & Study Group Program, Winthrop House Speaker Series, Winthrop HoCo

Future Plans: Would love to work in public service.

Favorite Place to Visit: Ireland or Cape Cod

Favorite Dems Memory: Welcoming new and awesome Dems members this fall.

Graduating Seniors

Hannah Phillips

Former Vice President



Hometown: Glasgow, Scotland

Concentration: Government

Secondary: English

House: Pforzheimer

Political Inspiration: Elizabeth Warren

Political Accomplishments: Harvard Dems, Vice President; Harvard Dems, Secretary; Elizabeth Warren for MA, Field Intern and Campus Organizer; Scottish Labour Party, Volunteer; Institute of Public Policy, Research Assistant; Intern for Lord McConnell at the House of Lords

Other Extracurriculars: Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, Strong Women Strong Girls, PAF, IOP (WIL, Fellows and Forum Usher)

Future Plans: Something exciting

Favorite Place to Visit: London

Favorite Dems Memory: When Elizabeth Warren sang Happy Birthday to Jacob Carrel on Election Day 2012.

Daniel Ki

Former President



Hometown: Cupertino, CA

Concentration: Government

House: Mather

Political Inspiration: Barack Obama

Political Accomplishments: President, Harvard College Democrats; Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs Intern, The White House; Massachusetts Campus Coordinator, Obama for America

Other Extracurriculars: Institute of Politics

Future Plans: 2016 presidential campaign

Favorite Dems Memory: Election Day 2012

Board 2015

Jacob Carrel

President



Year: 2016

House: Winthrop

Concentration:

Government

Political Inspiration: Scott

Walker's attacks on public
education

Susan Wang

Vice President



Year: 2017

House: Mather

Concentration: Social
Studies

Political Inspiration: Hillary
Clinton

Jacob Mueller

Service Director



Year: 2017

House: Quincy

Concentration: Social
Studies

Political

Inspiration: My Father

Mary Grace Darmody

Treasurer



Year: 2017

House: Lowell

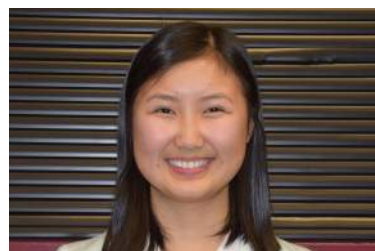
Concentration: Social
Studies

Political

Inspiration: Joe Biden

Sharon Yang

Legislative Director



Year: 2018

House: Weld Hall

Concentration: Economics

Political Inspiration: The
2008 presidential election

Board 2015

Reed Shafer-Ray

Communications Director



Year: 2018

House: Wigglesworth Hall

Concentration: Government

Political Inspiration: Barack Obama and my grandma

Gabe Hodgkin

Campaigns Director



Year: 2018

Dorm: Holworthy Hall

Concentration: Social Studies

Political Inspiration: Senator Elizabeth Warren and Congressman John Lewis

Nina Wagner

Secretary



Year: 2018

House: Grays Hall

Concentration: Government

Political Inspiration: The 2008 presidential race

Farris Peale

Membership Director



Year: 2018

House: Massachusetts Hall

Concentration: Government

Political Inspiration: Michelle Obama

David Olvera-Sanchez

Events Director



Year: 2018

House: Greenough Hall

Concentration: Government

Political Inspiration: Gandhi and Sonia Sotomayor

Get Involved

Campaigns Committee

Director: Gabe Hodgkin

campaigns@harvarddems.com



If you're interested in grassroots activism for Democratic candidates and causes, and want to learn essential campaign skills along the way, then join the Campaigns Committee. The committee plans, coordinates, and carries out the campaign activities of the Harvard College Democrats. During election years, the committee Director: Gabe Hodgkin phone banks, canvasses, and Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) efforts in coordination with Democratic candidates' campaigns. These activities occur both within Massachusetts and neighboring states. Between major elections, the committee coordinates issues advocacy for causes chosen by the Harvard College Democrats members. With Campaigns Committee, you'll learn about the inner-workings of campaigns and make life-long friends.

Policy and Publicity Committee

Directors: Sharon Yang, Reed Shafer-Ray

legislative@harvarddems.com

communications@harvarddems.com



The Policy and Publicity Committee is a center for progressive legislative thought and advocacy as well as the public face of the Harvard Democrats. It is the home for those interested in researching, discussing, and debating the policies and issues the Dems find most pertinent. Those interested in legislation will write the position papers of the Democrats and work to push progressive legislation locally and nationally. Members who want to focus on engagement will help get the word out about events and manage the Dems' various media outlets. The committee as a whole will act as a liaison between the Democrats and the wider Harvard and political community. All members work together to advocate for the policies the Dems community cares about.

Get Involved

Programming Committee

Directors: David Olvera-Sanchez, Jay Mueller

events@harvarddems.com

service@harvarddems.com



The Finance Committee helps to support the Harvard College Democrats by raising and managing the funds that make campaign trips, social events, and service days possible. Members of the Finance Committee practice valuable skills by writing grants, running phone banks, and researching best practices to raise money for the Harvard College Democrats. Members of the finance committee get to talk to interesting people, build relationships, and cultivate interpersonal skills by reaching out and looking for new ways to raise funds for the Harvard College Democrats. Additionally, the Finance Committee works to help facilitate summer internships for students interested in working for progressive offices. Also, the Finance Committee helps to establish mentoring and advising networks that enhance and complement the summer experiences of progressive interns.



Finance Committee

Directors: Mary Grace Darmody, Nina Wagner

treasurer@harvarddems.com

secretary@harvarddems.com

The Programming Committee plans and coordinates meaningful events and service opportunities for members of the Harvard College Democrats. Main goals include: providing interesting and varied programming for our members and the greater Harvard community, organizing thought-provoking events with engaging guest speakers, giving back to our Cambridge and Boston neighbors through service, providing information to members about internship/public service/alumni connections, and effectively collaborating with other student groups on campus when planning programming pertaining to different topics relevant to their prospective goals/interests.

We Need Your Help

We need your help. Without our generous donors and some institutional funding, much of our work could not be possible. Over the past year, we hosted dozens of events ranging from study breaks, talks, presentations, and unifying gatherings that were graciously funded by our donors and the Harvard Undergraduate Council. In addition, we traveled to western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to canvass for the midterm elections: overall, we registered over 500 hours of canvassing. For every volunteer hour, only \$2.08 was spent.



This coming year, we will have more work ahead of us; important legislation on everything from immigration reform, health care, civil rights, campaign finance reform, climate change, and much more will be decided upon both on the national and state level. Every dollar goes directly toward grassroots activism — whether it's organizing leaders on campus, knocking on doors while campaigning for Democrats, or making our voices heard on important issues.

Donate to the Harvard College Democrats

Please use my gift where it is most needed

Please use my gift for: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donations can be made online at www.harvarddems.com/donate using a credit card or a PayPal account. Checks can also be made out to the Harvard College Democrats and mailed to: 59 Shepard St., #137 c/o Harvard College Democrats, Cambridge MA 02138

The Harvard College Democrats is an independent student-run organization at Harvard College. Donations to the Harvard College Democrats are not tax deductible.