



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



in collaboration with the
US CONSULATE, CHENNAI

cordially invites you to

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE 2024 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Speakers



Ms. Alison Williams

Strategic planning
consultant



Mr. Eric Atkins

Public Diplomacy Officer,
US Consulate General
Chennai



Ms. Dasheika Ruffin

Attorney, Advocate
and Political operative



**PREVIEW THEATRE,
VISCOM BUILDING**
(LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI)



11:30 AM



06/09/24

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Panel Discussion on the 2024 US Presidential Elections

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

~Abraham Lincoln

Date: 6th September 12, 2024 (Friday)

Venue: Preview theater, VISCOM Building, Loyola College, Chennai

Organized by: Department of International Relations, Loyola College, in collaboration with the US Consulate General, Chennai

On 6th September 2024, the Department of International Relations, Loyola College, in partnership with the US Consulate General, hosted a highly engaging and insightful panel discussion on the upcoming 2024 US Presidential Elections. The event was well-attended by students, faculty, and guests, who were eager to gain a deeper understanding of the political dynamics surrounding one of the most anticipated elections on the global stage.

The event commenced with a prayer, followed by a warm welcome from Dr. Subramaniam. The faculty then honored the distinguished panelists with due felicitations.

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Eric Atkins** – Public Diplomacy Officer, US Consulate General, Chennai
2. **Ms. Alison Williams** – Strategic Planning Consultant
3. **Ms. Dasheika Ruffin** – Attorney and Political Operative

The event was compered by Nikitha Kishore, who introduced the moderator, Mr. Eric Atkins. Mr. Atkins set the stage by introducing the other panelists and delivered opening remarks, reflecting on the theme of peace in the post-World War era. This initiated a thought-provoking exchange of ideas.

The discussion that followed was both sharp and engaging, offering a succinct yet comprehensive review of American politics and election procedures. It provided an insightful overview of domestic and international policies, voter turnout trends, and voter sentiment. Ms. Williams delved into the workings of the federal system, the nuances of the American political landscape, and the critical role of diverse populations. She highlighted the significance of primary elections, the influence of third parties, and concluded with a compelling analysis of the peaceful transfer of power during changes in government.

On the other hand, Ms. Ruffin gave a detailed breakdown of the American voting process, focusing on the intricacies of the Electoral College, the influence of past presidents, and the pivotal role of swing states. She explained the dynamics of red, blue, and purple states and underscored the importance of political campaigns and presidential debates, highlighting contemporary political events to enhance the audience's understanding of the current election landscape.

Following the panel discussion, the floor was opened for a lively Q&A session. Students and attendees posed thoughtful questions, ranging from the role of media in shaping public opinion to the potential global ramifications of the election outcome. The panelists provided detailed responses, enriching the audience's understanding of the US electoral process from

both democratic and republican perspectives. Thus, through this question-and-answer session, the idea of swing states was well covered. Not only were domestic policies and sensitive issues like gun violence (issues relating to the 2nd amendment) and dark money brought up for discussion but also the idea of foreign influences like Russia within electoral practices. The heated topic regarding the US, i.e., its support to Israel given the current Israel-Hamas War was also addressed. Ms. Williams enunciated how the US and Israel's relationship is a historic one, she stressed the role of the US as a peacemaker with a continued relationship with Israel regardless of who is elected as president. The candidates from both parties were also discussed at length, with the role of women in political leadership extensively discussed with the hope for increased female representation in American politics and leadership.

Overall, the panel discussion was a resounding success, offering students and participants a valuable opportunity to gain diverse perspectives on the 2024 US Presidential Elections. The event not only deepened our understanding of US politics but also encouraged participants to think critically about the global impact of such elections on international relations.


The discussion, thus, provided a balanced view, with both panelists representing different political ideologies. Despite their differences, they demonstrated mutual respect, embodying the words of *John F. Kennedy*: "*Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past – let us accept our own responsibility for the future.*"

After the engaging Q & A Session, Mr. Eric Atkins presented a collection of books to the faculty as a token of appreciation. The event concluded with remarks from the Deputy President, who shared his thoughts on the US electoral processes, and a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Nand Kishore Yadav. A group photograph was taken outside the Preview Theater to mark the occasion followed by refreshments.

Photos:

Reported by:
~Nikitha Kishore (23-PIR-034)
MA IR



 **GPS Map Camera**



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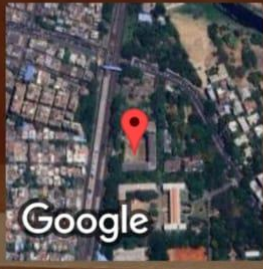
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11:00 AM PRE THEATRE, VISCOM BUILDING (LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI) 06

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