

2016

## The team

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# THE TEAM

By Audra Kincart

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Voting for the next commander-in-chief is an important civic duty. Whenever the President of the United States is not fit to serve our country, the vice president steps in place. Iowa State students vary in their interest of the vice presidential candidates.

“I think vice presidents are important because they’re the backbone of the

president and do the back up work the president doesn’t have time to do,” said Anne Deutsch, senior in industrial engineering.

And other student’s disagree.

“I don’t think they are very important,” said Nate Vande Wall, senior in agriculture business. “In context of the debate the other night I think it

has zero impact on the election even though there might be a possibility the vice president might serve as president.”

Whether you agree or not, who the presidential candidates chose as their running mate adds yet another dynamic to this already-wild election season.

## HILLARY CLINTON & TIM KAINE

It was the middle of July and nobody had heard any wind of who Hillary Clinton was going to choose as her running mate.

With the Democratic convention around the corner on July 25, 2016, Democrats were becoming anxious to find out whom Clinton would add to the ballot.

Just two days before the convention, Clinton announced via text message to her supporters that Virginia Senator Tim Kaine would be her vice president.

This announcement came after the buzz from the Republican National Convention and amidst an attack by a 16-year-old boy in Munich, Germany.

Flash back to the process of choosing Kaine as vice president, where Clinton's team of lawyers and communications specialists kept the process confidential for the media to merely speculate.

"Tim is a good man. He's a true progressive. And he will make a great vice president," President Obama said via email to Secretary Clinton after sharing that she would be selecting Senator Kaine as her running mate.

Clinton's team had narrowed the field to multiple finalists including Labor Secretary and Hispanic Tom Perez, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Ohio Senator and African-American Sherrod Brown, and Virginia Senator Tim Kaine.

Speculations about these candidates arose after each met for individual meetings with Secretary Clinton, and confirmed that other hopefuls, including Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, were no longer in the running for vice president.

In just 48 hours before the Democratic National Convention, Tim Kaine was announced as Clinton's running mate.

According to sources such as the Chicago Tribune, Kaine was a great choice for Clinton's campaign.

Kaine, fluent in Spanish, appeals to the critical Hispanic vote necessary to defeat Trump. He also has experience in Washington having also served as the governor for Virginia, which shows that Clinton was looking more for experience in her decision than pushing the historical-envelope by choosing a fellow minority to add to her ticket.

The decision was also made, according to Clinton, because of the comfort she felt during her meetings with Kaine. Kaine, who had a similar upbringing as Clinton, was born in Minnesota, raised in Kansas, and attended the University of Missouri before graduating from Harvard Law School. Kaine's wife, Anne Holton, also has her law degree and serves as the Secretary of Education for the state of Virginia.

"Kaine is a much more working class guy and is not touting feminism," said Dr. Steffen Schmidt, professor in political science. "The Democrats have had problems keeping white men voting for Democrats and Tim Kaine offers this sort of contrast."

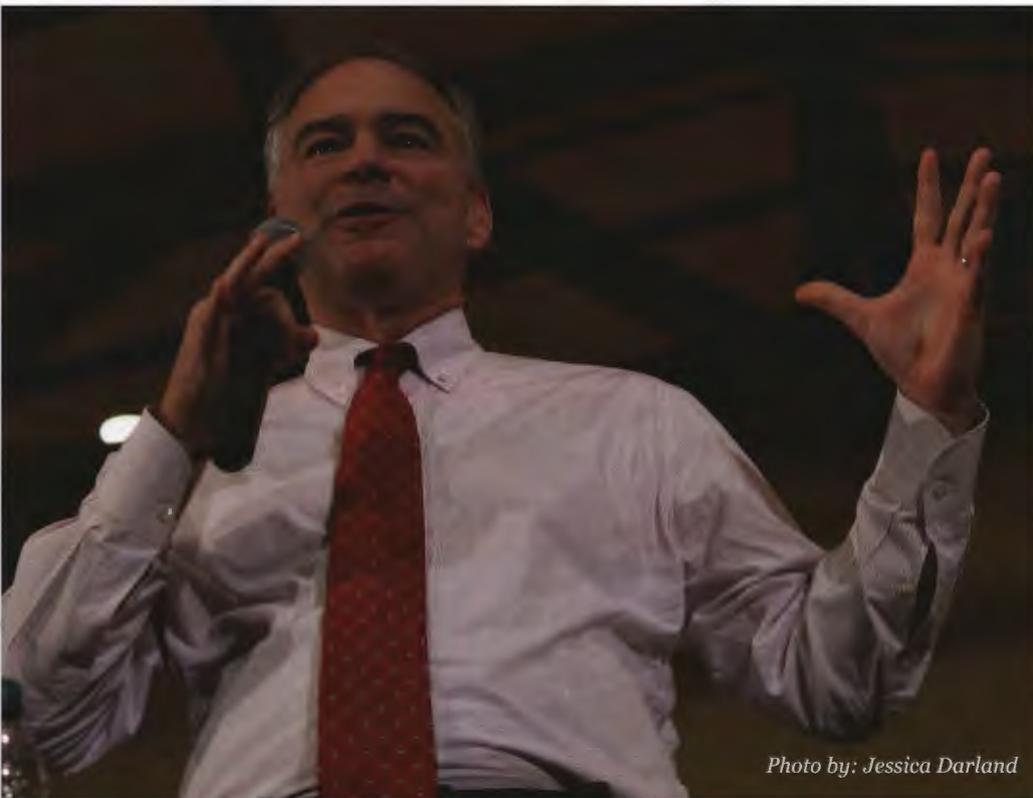


Photo by: Jessica Darland

## DONALD TRUMP & MIKE PENCE

The selection of Trump's running mate was much different than the Democratic nominee's approach.

Trump, who was very open about his selection, announced three days before the Republican National Convention on July 15, 2016, via Twitter that Indiana Governor Mike Pence would be his running mate.

This announcement was made after a series of events; first Trump was outraged that his choice of Pence had been leaked and denied having made a "final, final decision," then Trump listened to his advisers explain that choosing a vice president is different than choosing a best friend as Trump was rumored to question his decision the night before the announcement.

The Trump finalists included New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and former Georgia U.S. Representative Newt Gingrich, with Gingrich saying he hadn't heard a final answer from the Trump campaign after the Pence announcement.

The tweet was originally going to be postponed in light of the ISIS-inspired attack in Nice, France, but Trump's decision was reversed and Pence was announced as vice president mid-morning.

The Republican nominee found a running mate with devout conservative credentials whose history includes attempting to defund Planned Parenthood, ban abortion, and sign a religious exception law that would have led to discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. Pence's background made the Clinton campaign quick to say they

would use those examples against Trump to show he is a bigot.

Also unlike Kaine, Pence is viewed as an extreme decision and slightly surprising to the Republican Party as he was chosen on performance instead of loyalty.

Pence grew up outside of Indianapolis and his father ran a chain of gas stations. Pence attended a liberal arts college in Indiana and later graduated from law school. Upon graduation, Pence began his career in politics.

Trump and Kaine's relationship is fairly new, with the two interacting for the first time just two weeks before the announcement. Pence originally backed Ted Cruz in the election and also says Trump's comments on banning Muslims from the U.S. are "offensive and unconstitutional." Pence is also in

favor of free-trade agreements and Trump is not.

Republican senators view Pence as a great choice to Trump's ticket for the Republican Party. Pence was one of the first senators to accept the Tea Party on Capitol Hill and has ties to the Koch brothers and other donors who have stayed away from Trump. Pence has also admitted he views his role as vice-president as attack dog and has already spoken against rival Hillary Clinton.

"Mike Pence is a big contrast to Trump in a good way," Schmidt said. "Mike Pence doesn't go off message, Mike Pence doesn't tweet at 2 a.m., Mike Pence is a Republican and Donald Trump isn't. The Trump campaign has Donald Trump as the top of the ticket who's not conservative, but at least the vice president is a conservative."



Photo by: Tyler Coffey/Iowa State Daily

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Whether you will take into consideration the vice presidential candidates when you enter poll on November 8, junior in agriculture studies Keaton Keitzer describes why it's important to him.

"It wouldn't affect who I'm voting for, but it would give me more confidence on who I'm voting for."



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kincart: The team

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