

# THE JERSEY STATESMAN



@ALJBS



/ALJBS



ALJBS.org



ALJBS2025

June 19, 2025

Issue #3

Volume LXXIX

## Vote!

Make sure to vote in the Gubernatorial Elections. The debates will be from 8:20 to 9:30 am. Ballots will open at 12:00 pm. Senatorial primaries will be held at 9:00 pm.

**MAKE SURE TO VOTE!**

## Manuals Due!

Both city and county manuals are due today at 7:15 pm. There will be time to work on it from 11:30 am to noon. Remember to work on them in your free time as well.

**Submit early and often!**

## Sports:

1. Nimitz
2. MacArthur
3. Bradley
4. Marshall
5. Ridgeway
6. Vandenburg
7. Halsey
8. Eisenhower

## Wild Energy Wins Federal Party Chair Election – But What Does It Say About Us?

Nico Cordova

At the Federalist Party Chair election during Boys State, delegates witnessed one of the wildest moments of the week. One candidate, Maxwell Na, shocked the room by shotgunning a can of Monster energy drink just before giving his speech. The crowd erupted as he shouted, jumped around, and even ran off the stage mid-speech. He was loud, hyped up, and completely unpredictable.

His speech didn't focus on policy, plans, or leadership experience. In fact, many delegates later admitted they couldn't even remember what he said. But what they did remember was how he made them feel—excited, entertained, and fired up.

Meanwhile, other candidates gave measured, well-organized speeches about real issues. They talked about ways to bring unity, improve debate, and represent the Federal Party with strength and fairness. But compared to the high-energy chaos of the Monster-fueled candidate, their words felt flat to many in the crowd.

In the end, the energetic Maxwell Na won the vote. This moment said a lot about how people make decisions in elections. At Boys State, where future leaders come to learn about democracy, this result showed a clear truth: many voters are more moved by emotion, humor, charisma, and confidence than by facts, logic, or plans.

Of course, excitement and energy are important in leadership. A good leader should inspire others. But when voters choose the loudest voice over the most thoughtful one, it raises the question: Are we picking people based on how they look and sound, instead of what they believe or can do?

The election of the wildest candidate may have seemed like a joke to some, but it taught a serious lesson. In real politics, people often vote with their

*(continued on Local as Energy)*

# Local

*(Energy continued)*

feelings, not their minds. Being entertaining can sometimes win over being effective.

This should challenge all future leaders at Boys State to think carefully. What kind of leaders do we want to be—and what kind of leaders do we want to follow? If we only reward performance, we may forget to value the people who are truly ready to lead.

The Monster may have won today, but the message it left behind should wake us up more than any energy drink ever could.

## D-Day Presentation

Desmond Ferrara

Last night, while the Federal party had their state party convention, roughly 400 Nationalists gathered in the Yvonne theater and had the privilege of experiencing the ALJBS D-Day presentation, a tradition carried out for decades. The show was joined by a few dozen volunteer service members and veterans. The presentation consisted of a video followed by brief introductions and statements by the service members.

The entire presentation was around two hours long, beginning with an extended clip from *Saving Private Ryan*, a WWII movie known for its realism and accuracy. The clip showed in horrifying detail the bloody and brutal charge on the beaches of Normandy. As the scenes became more and more gut-wrenching, the audience was drawn in and even started to clap and cheer when an enemy soldier was killed. This lasted roughly 15 minutes, if not longer. The movie transitioned into a documentary from the 90's telling the stories of the men in the largest amphibious invasion in US history. The documentary

began by emphasizing the youth and inexperience of the soldiers and officers who gave their lives to give America a foothold in Europe during WWII. The documentary explained how the United States and Britain made painstaking plans to deceive the Nazis into thinking the invasion would be elsewhere to weaken the beaches of Normandy for allied invasion.

Interviews with veterans who experienced the day and historians who studied it were played alongside footage and images from D-Day. The veterans told stories of their experiences and how they were put through incredibly harsh training to prepare them for the hellish invasion, while the historians described the details behind the espionage happening in the background.

At the conclusion of the documentary, the service members introduced themselves and gave a brief explanation of their positions and something about themselves. The stage was shared between active and retired soldiers all of whom exuded a sense of solidarity and patriotism. With every introduction, the audience's cheers got louder. By the end of the allotted time for the presentation, the audience was giving a standing ovation and not even half of the soldiers were finished. As the Nationalists filed out to elect their leaders, the Federalists entered and were given the same experience. Thank you to all of the volunteer veterans and soldiers who came to enrich our presentation experience, motivating all ALJBS students for future conduct.

## Family Day Friday!

Friday is Family Day. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 on Friday at a pop-up ticket stand. Families need to have tickets if they wish to be part of the Family Day picnic lunch.

# Local

## Alliance and Bipartisanship: Assemblymen Unite in Eisenhower County

Jay Chavan

On June 17th, 2025, Eisenhower County held its general election for state-level positions at New Jersey Boys State.

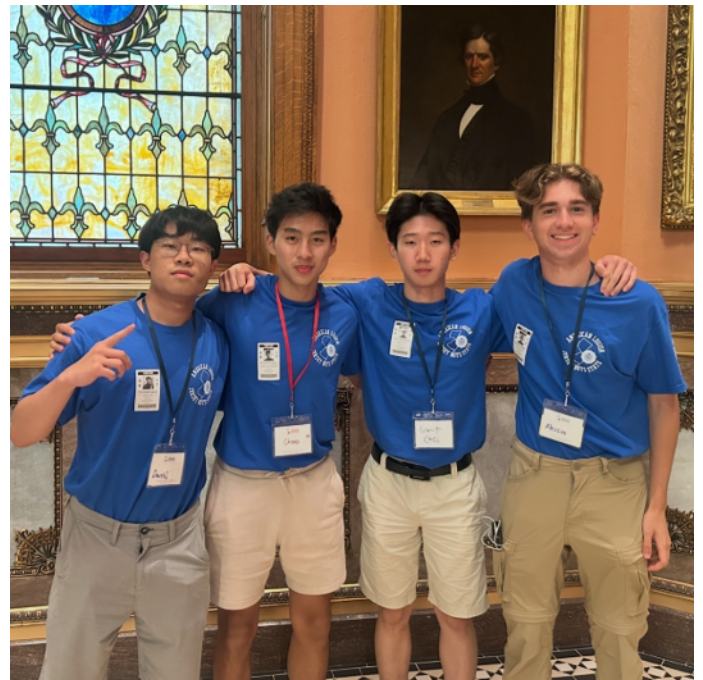
A truly unprecedented story unfolded in Eisenhower County, centered around four elected assemblymen. While most candidates ran individual campaigns—focused solely on their own ambitions, city, or political party—this coalition of four stood apart. Pictured left to right are City 13 Nationalist Daniel Han, City 14 Federalist Choco Chen, City 14 Nationalist Grant Choi, and City 13 Nationalist Alessio Pasini.

What set them apart was not their success, but how they achieved it: through alliance and bipartisanship. Despite differences in party affiliation and city origin, these four delegates formed a united front. They campaigned together, promoted one another, and refused to let party lines or geographic divisions define them. Their mission transcended politics—it was about representing the county and serving the state.

While others fractured along partisan or city lines, these four chose unity. No other group at Boys State forged such a cross-party, cross-city coalition. Eisenhower County didn't just elect four assemblymen—it witnessed the rise of a movement. One built not on division, but on collaboration, mutual respect, and shared purpose.

In total, only 40 of the 800 delegates are chosen as Assemblymen, and 24 as State Senators—two entirely separate and highly

competitive roles. This means just 64 individuals out of 800, or the top 8%, are selected to serve at the state level. Daniel Han, Choco Chen, Grant Choi and Alessio Pasini's election victory placed them in this coveted 8%—a rare and exceptional achievement, earned by only the most dedicated and visionary leaders.



Left to Right: Daniel Han, Choco Chen, Grant Choi, Alessio Pasini

## Striking the Gavel

Eli Abaya

On Wednesday, June 18th, city courts held trials prosecuting individuals who had violated ALJBS laws. The prevailing infractions that infringed on order was walking on the grass (Sec. 18), not complying with standard uniform (Sec. 20), and improper cell phone usage (Sec. 23).

*(continued on Local as Gavel)*

# Local

*(Gavel continued)*

Stated and acknowledged on day one, these cases were the most frequent as they were the basis of order within Boys State. Though these cases may be minor infractions, they uphold the peace within every city and uphold the diligent image of not only a city, but the program as a whole. Furthermore, the cases were not just limited to statesmen, as counselors were also tried and held accountable to the law. All delegates must put a good foot forward, so regardless of our origin, party, rank, or obligation, it is our duty to keep all statesmen in order. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Another genre of cases revolved around more joking matters, such as a Monroe City trial which accused a delegate of “sucking on a popsicle too hard”, or a Jackson City claim where an individual had a “three way ‘wrestling’ match in their dorm”. Though comedic, these cases contributed to the legislative process being conducted, and reinvigorated the attention of distracted watchers. Visually seeing the role of positions in court creates a new enlightened perspective, especially when it pertains to a statesmen's own city.

## Italian Menus!

**Lunch:** Pesto Grilled Chicken, Roasted Cauliflower, Roasted Zucchini, Penne Pasta, Vodka Sauce

**Dinner:** Italian Sausage w/ Peppers, Sauteed Green Beans Onions Tomatoes, White Rice, Ziti w/ Marinara

**-Chicken Tenders, Fries, and Flatbread Pizza are served with both meals-**



Gubernatorial Nominees Nationalist Zayden Lanlani (left) and Federalist Jeremy Maletzky (right) celebrate their selections with former Governor Chris Christie (right middle) and Director Dave Bagatelle (left middle).

## Yearbooks!

The ALJBS store continues to sell yearbooks commemorating the 79th session of The American Legion Jersey Boys State.

The 32-page, glossy paper booklet will showcase the highlights of ALJBS's 79th session, including elected officials, photographs from throughout the week, award winners, and much more. An example of the 2023 yearbook, which was a special edition made only for the ALJBS Board of Trustees, is available as an example in the ALJBS Store.

Those interested in purchasing a yearbook should visit the ALJBS Store in Daly Dining Hall at mealtimes or during sports time. Yearbooks will be sold for \$25 and will be mailed to each purchaser at some point after the session ends.

# Opinion

## Cafeteria at ALJBS

Jay Han

It is a common saying that an army runs on its stomach, but what about Boys State? Sleepaway camps, such as “Oak Crest Day Camp”, are noted for their disappointing food. Boys State however seems to be the exception.

Our food has a wide variety of options day by day: Swedish on one day, Chinese on the next, and Mexican on another. The food consistently received positive feedback from statesmen with the general tso’s chicken being a hit menu item. Though the quality may take a hit in the name of variety, options have been well renowned among statesmen.

Contrasting the wide variety, the cafeteria presents consistent options: the deli, flatbread pizza, and chicken tenders and fries. The deli allows statesmen and staff to make small subs to their liking. More notable among statesmen are the chicken tenders, with many statesmen considering these chicken tenders to be some of the best they've had. It has the right amount of saltiness, a great crisp, and is not too dry. Some may consider the chicken tenders to be their last option, but many agree it's a highly regarded option on its own.

The line now recognized is the allergies, or gluten free, section. This section also has a balance between variety and consistency. The main menu changes from entrees such as pasta to turkey beasts while the gyro pit chicken stays on the menu. The chicken's quality is on par with that of the chicken tenders. The gyro pit chicken develops more of a crust as the meals go by. plastic knives become a distant second to teeth after a while.

Whichever line suits you better, you would know best. Both options have their ups and downs.

## PPE: Growing Major from Overseas

Desmond Ferrara

What you decide to major in college is very important to your future and career. As a result, most students pick traditional and risk-free majors to guarantee employment after college. Students interested in the humanities typically enroll in programs related to English, History, Economics, or Political Science. As of recent, students in America interested in these topics have a new program to consider: PPE.

PPE—which stands for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics—is a major that combines multiple different aspects of a humanities education, serving a similar purpose to a traditional Political Science major. PPE can provide an alternative path to those who feel boxed in by the existing options for a safe major while significantly improving the student’s career potential.

PPE is an emerging option in America, but is a long standing and popular major in England. It was introduced in the 1920’s at Oxford University as a program catering to future leaders and civil servants. It focuses on the study of modern society, governance, and economics. Instead of studying ancient societies, PPE courses focus on what can be learned from today’s governments. Three of the last five Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom have studied PPE at Oxford.

American schools are beginning to adopt PPE programs, which are rapidly becoming very popular. Some colleges only offer it as a minor, but a growing number including Davidson College, University of Maryland, and Duke University offer full undergraduate programs. PPE is a great fit for the future leaders at Boys State interested in politics.



# Opinion

---

## Leave No Voice Behind

Eli Abaya

Democracy is based upon the voice of the people. At Boys State, our duty as statesmen is to continue this honor, not just by voting in elections, but also through rigorous participation in public sessions with our party. There are multiple methods to keep a fair representation of everyone's voice, however, it is easy to lose control in the passion of debating, leading to interruptions and speakers being left unheard. Further organization is required of running a court, so in the heat of the moment, I wish to remind statesmen of the necessary steps to ensure all voices are heard.

A key factor to a democratic floor is an inviting environment which includes the order and priority of speaking. The brightest, most talented minds gathered in one spot can be overwhelming, so it is the Sergeant in Arms' duty to ensure order. Further, keeping an open mind with respect to representatives allows for all voices to be heard, preserving the values we need. It is our job to make sure every individual is still represented, from their council to the higher levels of the state.

Engagement is another focus that must be prioritized, as our counselors have engaged and opened discussions from the simplest questions to substantial political debates. Learn to listen to the person next to you and change the system of the environment to fit what is needed. A broader idea might require small group discussions to flesh out an argument and resolution. A narrower discussion, however, might require a neatly organized debate to find a solution. Be a visionary and take the initiative to help structure the best environment that fits everyone's voice, not just the loudest.

Lastly, on an individual level, public speaking tips present a plethora of benefits. The cornerstone steps that are required are a plan, flexible preparation, time, and passion. Before you start your campaign, outline your main points to base your speech off of. The sustenance should be the focus, so they should be the most prepared. When presenting, give yourself the time to say your ideas; your pace is important, not only for your audience, but for yourself. If you struggle or lose an idea, pause and recoup, as filler words and stuttering lose focus of your outlook. You can have the most knowledge, but if you don't have the determination and drive to present it, the delivery can fall flat. Listen to your tone and emotion and feel the passion, like a fire burning beneath you. With this inclusion, open-minded incentive, and emphasis on voice, we can find the brilliance that exists in every individual's voice.

## How Architecture Transforms our Worldview and Political System

Jeffery Liu

Every time you visit a historical courthouse or government building, it's hard to resist stopping and staring at the beautiful preservation of rich history and culture. It is not often that you get to learn about the individual or the company behind the design of architecture. On Tuesday, Boys State hosted a representative from the architecture firm, Michael Graves, to speak to a full room of delegates excited to learn about the projects being introduced and announced.

*(continued on Outside as Architecture)*

# Outside

## World Superpowers on the Iranian-Israeli Conflict

Luke Chai

History was made on the 13th of June 2025 when missiles sent on the order of the Israeli government hit several key nuclear and military positions around Iran. The strike, known as Operation Rising Lion, aimed to stop Iran from reaching a critical point in their nuclear research program that would have given them access to nuclear warheads. Iran responded with their own ballistic missiles, striking key military and intelligence areas in Israel, and would also contend with the justification by the Israeli government.

The conflict has now progressed to a more intense situation as president Donald J. Trump calls for the “unconditional surrender” of Iranian forces. His demands have caused major powers around the world to start shifting and the US to begin preparing for another potential conflict in Iran. At the moment, the conflict between Iran and Israel rages on as both sides continue to hurl missiles at one another, causing significant civilian casualties.

The USA has historically been an ally of Israel. That continues today as the United States becomes more intensely involved in the conflict between Israel and Iran. The US has demanded for the unconditional surrender of Iran, an action that has led to the deployment of US troops around Iran in the case of Iran’s refusal. Iran has stated that the US will suffer consequences for supporting Israel.

Russia has been a close ally to Iran ever since it supplied Russia with drones for its war with Ukraine. Russia finds its relationship with Iran tested as the conflict rages on. Russia’s response to the conflict has only been an offering for the country

to help negotiate a peace talk between Israel and Iran, a far cry from the heavy military aid it gave to Al-Assad’s faction during the Syrian conflict in 2011. This may show a degradation in the alliance between Russia and Iran and a sign that the Ukrainian conflict is taking a greater toll than once thought.

The nation of China has become closer to Iran over the past years. Joint military exercises and several different cooperative agreements have led to a growing relationship between the two nations. That relationship can be seen in the current ongoing conflict as China has officially sided with Iran. In several different statements, China has called Israel’s actions “unacceptable” and “in violation of international law.” However, despite their strong words, China is likely to commit nothing more than their words as the Middle-East has not recently been the hotbed of Chinese attention and investments.

*(Architecture continued)*

Austin Crowley, associate at Michael Graves, has extensive experience in working on governmental and political buildings, highlighting the significance architecture plays in influencing our view of the government. Crowley stated that his goals were to utilize powerful machine rendering softwares, such as Revit, to continue to create the best models possible for his clients.

In terms of career and college advice, Daniel Lopatka, architectural designer at Michael Graves, took a 5 year license program at Penn State, and took his first job there for three years. City 7 Federalist, Trevor Wyso, stated, “this seminar allowed me to explore an untapped interest I had since I was young, and I’m really happy for this opportunity at Boys State.”

# Sports

## Potential Thunder and Pacers Close-Out Game in Intense NBA Finals

Nolan Gabel

The Oklahoma City Thunder clawed a victory back from a double-digit deficit this Friday the 13th to beat the Indiana Pacers 111-104 in Game 4, tying the NBA Finals at two games apiece. League MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the charge with 35 points, including a 15-point surge in the final 4:38 of the game. His clutch scoring swung the momentum just as the Pacers appeared ready to take a commanding 3-1 series lead, which has only been surmounted by one finals team ever. Oklahoma City's bench came up big as well, with Alex Caruso chipping in 20 points and providing steady perimeter defense. Starting center Chet Holmgren controlled the paint, grabbing 15 rebounds, dunking over defenders, and altering shots at the rim.

With the series now tied, Game 5 was a critical swing game as both teams traveled back to Oklahoma City on June 16th. The Thunder, energized by their home crowd and comeback momentum, secured a dominant 120-109 victory over Indiana led by Jalen Williams, who became the fifth

youngest player to ever score 40 points in a finals game. Gilgeous-Alexander, consistent as ever, contributed 31 points with 10 assists and 4 blocks. Holmgren added 11 rebounds and three blocks of his own. On the Pacers, Haliburton disappointed fans with a passive performance, scoring just four points with zero made field goals. Pascal Siakam led the team in scoring with 28 points to go with five steals + blocks. The Thunder gained the lead 1:51 into the first quarter and never looked back. In the third, T.J. McConnell had 13 points, and nearly mounted a comeback by himself, but the pressure from the Thunder's historic perimeter defense opened the gap and the fourth quarter was a commanding victory.

Game 6 is tonight at 8:30 PM in Indiana. Will the Thunder close out the finals and win their first championship or will the Pacers extend the series to seven games and potentially win their first on the road?



### Political Editors:

Jeffery Liu - FED  
Landon Schuster - NAT  
Joseph Brennen - FED  
Nico Cordova - FED  
Luke Senzamici - FED  
Matthew Cullen - NAT  
Justin Yoo - FED  
Grant Choi - NAT  
Luke Chai - NAT

## The Jersey Statesmen

### Publisher:

Thomas Marsden

### Assistant Publisher:

Kevin Cameron

**Managing Editor:** Desmond Ferrara

**Asst. Managing Editor:** Eli Abaya

**Layout Editor:** Jay Han

**Sports Editor:** Nolan Gabel

**Photographer:** Abraham Pearlman

**Seminar Editor:** Juno Moon

**Opinions Editor:** Jay Chavan