

# The Laurelette

6.26.2023

@ctgirlsstate

Monday

**WELCOME DAY AT GIRLS STATE 😊:**

## A Recap of the Laurel Girls State Town Elections!

By Sara Alarjawi



All three towns have done an incredible job with elections. Elections were held within the first two days within Lamont City, Grassotown, and Bysiewicz City. Girls state students were already in their own town/cities and then each town was divided into two parties based on the back of their badge (blue and yellow stickers). Then Primary elections started, which wasn't final for most as the candidates needed to win against the other party as well. However some parties got to have an actual election because there were multiple spots for some positions.

Everyone who presented was incredibly qualified. These girls were incredibly accomplished in many ways. Many of them were/are student body president or class president. At least one was valedictorian and many more were at the top of their classes. Most people had been at least the president of one club. Everyone was really kind too. Even the people who lost took it with grace and were supportive and kind to their opponent before and after. It was really wonderful to see competition in a way that wasn't the least but mean spirited. Some groups even made up fake beef with others who they lost against for plane fun.

It should be said that if someone lost, they still did a great job. It's incredibly nerve racking and intimidating to compete with people you barely know. All should be proud for putting themselves out there. Please don't let losing discourage you and congrats to all winners.

### Laurelette Minutes 🕒:

By Morgan Brimecombe



Two days into Girls State has already been packed with so many fun opportunities! Girls Staters have conducted all of their local and legislative elections and have heard from a number of notable speakers, such as, forensic scientist, Dr. Henry Lee, CT Democratic State Representative, Dorinda Borer, CT Republican Party Chairman, Ben Proto, and even our own State Senator, Richard Blumenthal!



**WANTED IN GIRLS STATE!**

EARLY IN THE HOURS OF GIRLS STATE, A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF SARAH TRANSFERRED OUT OF GRASSOTOWN AND INTO LAMONT CITY. AS A RESULT, GRASSOTOWN HAS A DECLARATION AND AN ORDINANCE: SARAH IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT WITHIN THE BORDERS OF GRASSOTOWN, AS SHE IS A TRAITOR TO HER TOWN AND HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON.

IF SHE IS FOUND CROSSING THE BORDERS AT ALL (PROBABLY TO SCHEME), SHE WILL BE FINED AT LEAST \$100,000 AND BE TRIED AGAIN FOR HIGH TREASON AND CONSPIRACY.

THIS IS A MESSAGE TO SARAH, AND SARAH ONLY: YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID.

\*\*\*FOR ALL PURPOSES, THIS IS A JOKE, INTENDED PURELY FOR COMEDY, IF ANY COLLEGE THAT I'M APPLYING TO SEES THIS, IT IS A JOKE. ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED TO THEIR LIKENESS BEING USED.

---

**BREAKING NEWS!**

# Tension Rises Between Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Grassotown 🤪

By Paige Shepard

Proceeding the compelling campaigns from both candidates in the race for mayor of Grassotown, Mayor Caroline Cooper reigned victorious over her opponent - but not without conflict. Following the election, Mayor Cooper has been engaged in a fierce battle with her Deputy Mayor, Paige Shepard. With both politician's claws out, delegates from Grassotown have reported dirty looks, random bumps into each other, and extreme politeness in attempts to aggravate their opponent. "It's just mayhem," an anonymous source says. "Earlier I witnessed our Mayor kidnap the Deputy's sharpie," she continued, an event which has been confirmed after further investigation. Though it has been found that the sharpie has been returned to the desk of Deputy Shepard, this does not negate the urgency of this squabble. How will this heated grapple for power end? Stay tuned for updates.

# A Look into the History of our Cities Names

By Lily Luby

Grassotown is named after Ella Grasso, a symbolic proponent of feminist doctrine and a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame. Originally from Windsor Locks, Democrat Grasso started as a speechwriter and member of the League of Women Voters. She was later elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives and became its first female Floor Leader in 1955. She also served as the Secretary of the State of Connecticut from 1958 to 1971, followed by two terms in the United States House of Representatives from 1970 to 1974. Furthermore, she was elected Governor of Connecticut in 1974 and 1978, the first female governor not the spouse or widow of a former governor. Grasso resigned from her position as governor due to her battle with ovarian cancer in 1980. She is remembered as a trailblazing female politician and policy maker, about whom a biography was written by none other than Susan Bysiewicz.

Lamont City is named after the sitting Governor of Connecticut and Democrat Ned Lamont. Born in Washington, D.C. and the eldest of three children, Lamont attended Phillips Exeter Academy, followed by Harvard College and the Yale School of Management. Unlike many past governors, Lamont got his start in business. Immediately after college, he founded a weekly newspaper in a town recently hit by the loss of its biggest employer. While acting in that role, he brought transparency and advocacy to a recovering community. Not long after, Lamont started his own company, Campus Televideo, which grew to serve over 400 of college campuses and 1 million college students across America. Throughout these endeavors, Lamont continued to give back to his community as a volunteer teacher. He then served as an adjunct faculty member and chair of the Arts and Sciences Public Policy Committee at Central Connecticut State University, where he lectured and founded a business startup competition. Today he serves his second term as Connecticut Governor, an office he has held since 2019.

Bysiewicz City is named after the sitting Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut and Democrat Susan Bysiewicz. The granddaughter of Polish and Greek immigrants who came to Connecticut with dreams for a better future for their family, Bysiewicz had a childhood infused with values of determination and hard work. On the Middletown farm bought by her grandparents, Bysiewicz learned to persist through challenges and apply herself, as is evident in her impressive education at Middletown High School, Yale University, and Duke Law School. She also served three terms as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, elected in 1974, 1994 and 1996. During these terms, her legislation focused on proper breast cancer treatment and the ban of "drive-through" mastectomies. Furthermore, she served as Secretary of the State of Connecticut from 1999 to 2011, honoring veterans, growing businesses, and registering thousands of voters. Now serving her second term as Connecticut's 109th Lieutenant Governor, she aims to invest in jobs and the state's future.



Top to bottom. Ella Grasso, Ned Lamont,  
and Susan Bysiewicz.

## The History of Girls State

By Mary Dunn

In 2023, I'm sure we can all appreciate the importance of an environment which cultivates educational, respectful, and rewarding political conversation, as well as provides lasting memories and friendships. This community we've found here at Girls State reflects many others throughout the history of the program. In 1935, the first Boys State Program was founded at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, Illinois by two members of the American Legion - Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card. A similar Girls State program stemmed from this, offering students with hands-on opportunities in mock local and state governments. The first Girls State was conducted in 1937.

This state program spread to a national level in 1947, when Boys and Girls Nation was first introduced. This now established tradition consists of the appointing of two candidates from each Boys and Girls State to continue their experience in Washington, D.C., where they can explore the workings of the federal government.

The effectiveness of Girls and Boys State is perhaps most apparent in its notable alumni; Neil Armstrong, Dick Cheney, Bill Clinton, Jon Bon Jovi, and Chris Murphy have all been in the same place we have. Ultimately, learning the history of this program help us further appreciate the value of this experience.

### Meet our Mayors!

By Mary Dunn

On Saturday, each town elected a wonderful mayor to represent and lead them. On Sunday, I interviewed them all. Here's what they had to say!

Lamont City-

Margot is from Madison, CT, and she was elected the mayor of Lamont City. Margot has loved her experience so far at Girls State: "Everyone's willing to get to know other people, and get involved," she explained. Margot has proved herself as a strong and reliable leader. The most rewarding part of the experience for her has been to watch everyone find their voice.

Grasso Town-

Caroline, the mayor of Grasso Town, plays field hockey and lacrosse in her hometown of Westport, CT. As a leader, Caroline has fun helping facilitate meetings. Although she admitted the Parliamentary Procedures were an adjustment, she is doing a great job leading Grasso Town and thinks the experience will be fun and rewarding for her overall.

Bysiewicz City-

The mayor of Bysiewicz City is Swaha from Darian; she overlooks policy making and facilitates discussion. So far, the most rewarding part of her experience has been the connections she's made: "Genuinely, all the girls are so sweet." Although the late nights and early mornings are an adjustment, Swaha knows the value of her experience at Girls State will be determined by the connections she's made, making for an overall rewarding experience.

## Laurelette Horoscopes 🍷:

By Elizabeth Eng

Libras: you will develop closer connections with your suitemates in the coming days.

Virgos with brown hair: take time for yourself and disconnect from other people.

Scorpios born in November: be sure to keep your anger in check...can't be making any enemies!

Aries: don't let your temper get the better of you, be rational.

Aquarius: Taylor Swift is now your new best friend, appreciate her music.

Sagittarius: take an extra cookie at dinner.

Gemini: you may be stressed and overwhelmed, take a deep breath and relax, not everything goes to plan...

## Cafeteria Food Reviews! 🤔

By Elizabeth Eng

I admit, I had to do a cop-out for this article, as I couldn't eat all of the food. I asked some of my friends, and here are everyone's opinions on the food!

Pasta: it was hard to mess up, I mean it's pasta. It was pretty good though, I haven't heard a complaint.

General Tso's chicken: everyone seemed to enjoy this one.

Chicken strips: I've heard mixed reviews, I think it truly depends on when you get there, I personally liked the crispiness and thought it was pretty good, my friend said it was dry.

Grilled chicken: this was SO dry. I felt bad for not eating mine because I took the last one, but it was really dry. I haven't seen anyone eat it again.

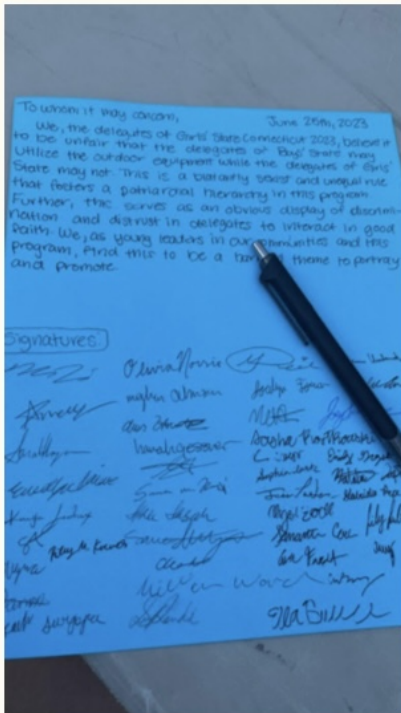
Breadsticks: I love the breadsticks, I won't shut up about them.

**HOT TOPIC** 🔥

# Petition for Equal Equipment Use ♀

By Mary Dunn

Upon noticing the Boys State members using outdoor equipment, members Margot, Sasha, and Ikma of Girls State decided to take action, as that same equipment had been prohibited for the girls. On Saturday, they made a petition which reads:



These girls rallied members of both programs for their cause, including staffers, by getting people to sign their petition during recreation time.

### Survey!

Please take a moment to fill out this survey on your experiences so far in the Laurel Girl State program. You can fill it out as many times as you would like throughout the duration of the program and it is ok for your answers to change based on the day and experiences within them. Please note that this is not run by the Laurel Girls State staff but by a fellow participant in the program. I can make the promise to all that help in filling out the forms that any information used will be done so in an anonymous manner and anything said within the document will only be used to help better the program in the future for generations to come. Thank you all so much!

<https://tinyurl.com/alagssurvey>

## Credits

Writers: Mary Dunn, Paige Shepard, Morgan Brimecombe, Lily Luby, Elizabeth Eng, and Sara Alarjawi

Editor: Morgan Brimecombe

Social Media Manager: Paige Sheppard