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Editor's Introduction

Isaac Rubenstein

Illinois Wesleyan University, irubenst@iwu.edu

Emma Stroh

Illinois Wesleyan University, estroh@iwu.edu

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Editor's Introduction

Editors' Introduction

We are proud to present the 28th edition of *Res Publica*, Illinois Wesleyan University's Undergraduate Political Science Journal. Producing this journal has been a task which required great stamina and collaboration, but it seems like the perfect way to end our final semester at Illinois Wesleyan. Every submission we evaluated this year challenged and moved us and it was a privilege to get the opportunity to read so many pieces from our peers. Each piece that you will read presents a unique insight into the great political minds at Illinois Wesleyan, and it was an honor to work with them.

The topics addressed in this journal vary, but one common theme emerged: change. As students at IWU we are encouraged to be active democratic citizens that do good and make change in the world; a challenge each one of these writers rose to in their research. Our authors have confronted change with regard to challenging topics nationally and internationally. Topics include: reproductive rights, gender equality, religious equality, clean energy policy, and voting rights. Each of these writers demonstrates an awareness of change and activism coupled with the will to enter difficult conversations and advocate for a better world.

We are extremely grateful to our authors for their hard work and dedication to make this edition of *Res Publica* possible. Without their collaboration and courage to put their ideas out there, this journal would not exist. We also want to thank all the professors who encouraged their students to submit their research, allowing us the opportunity to work with many great writers. Thank you to Sami Curtis who created our amazing cover art. Finally, thank you to Professor Shaw and the rest of the Political Science Department faculty for offering us the amazing opportunity to work on this journal, and for your guidance along the way.

Thank you for reading, and we hope you enjoy this year's edition of *Res Publica*!

Isaac Rubenstein and Emma Stroh