

What does your ideal America look like?



THE CHANNELS
SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE

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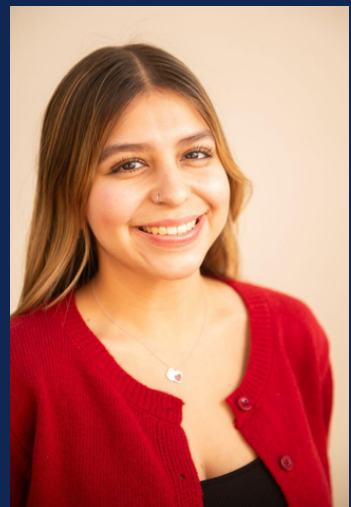


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Editor's note: The Channels' spring 2026 staff contributed to this project.

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Editors' Note

With the recent political climate, we understand everyone has different views. Therefore, we wanted to give students, community members, faculty and staff the opportunity to answer:

What does your ideal America look like? We wanted to know what changes people hope to see and how they thought the U.S. could get there. Whether it was a policy, law or something one wanted to implement, we were interested. The Channels received responses that touched on a variety of issues, big or small, from national matters to things that impact people's daily lives. The following pages are a multimedia package by The Channels Editorial Board.

THE CHANNELS

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE



What's Your Ideal America?

Reimagining America On Video



Trinity Chancellor, Student, 20

**Nicolas Medina,
Maintenance Specialist**

Russell Huff, Student, 20



Reimagining America



Vaughn Thompson, 18
Luigi Dal, 20

Delilah Bonneau, Sociology

Eoin Sullivan, Sociology



Reimagining America



Through Audio

Sophia Hoffman, Student

**Jasmine Barba,
2nd year Electrical Engineering**

**Liam Flanagan, 19
Communication**



Reimagining America



Mira Grover, 19
Business and Fashion

Elle McCormick, 19
Film Production

Alex Morcen, 19
Film



Reimagining America



Beatriz Moran, Student, 18

“My ideal America is one where I don't have to fear for my family being taken just because of their skin and ethnicity or race. It's a place where we live in peace and unity. My America is where things are affordable and we have the money to afford what we need.

It's not where my family is treated like 'aliens,' or my grandparents are fearful and won't leave their house. My America is where I can confidently say it's fair to all races that come here for a better future, for their children, for a better chance of life. It's where families can have their medical care and don't have to worry about paying out of pocket.”



**Marc Wilder, Student,
Photography, 26**

“My ideal America would either be the United Socialist States of America or a balkanized version of America where the West Coast secedes from the United States as a socialist republic. A system in place which uses our taxes to provide us with healthcare, education, universal basic income, housing, etc.

A country that is not involved in any imperialist conquests anywhere. Remove all 800+ military bases from the countries that they are stationed in. We need to be more like China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Vietnam.”



**Bruce Boschke, Student,
Mathematics, 22**

“My ideal America looks like a lot of solarpunk, honestly. People work together with their neighbors and the community. No one freaks out over sexuality or lack thereof, gender, ethnicity, mental health, etc.

People would maintain a symbiotic relationship with technology and the natural landscape around them to enjoy a high level of comfort, preferably on average higher than now. There would be significantly fewer cars. A solved climate crisis. No wars, especially wars that have utterly no reason to be happening, like Iran, Ukraine, Palestine and Israel. There would also be no ridiculously rich people.”



**Juno Farshchi, Student,
Psychology and Criminology, 19**

“I believe America was built on the ideals of freedom and liberty and those ideals have been historically refused by people in power. America is a place for everyone; it is made beautiful by the fact that it isn't defined by one single culture. In my ideal America, people are given equal opportunity and access to what they need.

Housing, food, justice and healthcare should be a God-given right to anyone on American soil. No matter how they got here, no matter what they've done to or for the country. A country is only as well off as its citizens, and right now, Americans are suffering. I want America to be the place it promised to be in the Constitution and I think it has strayed from those promises because of such deep-rooted wealth and abuse-based corruption.”



**Mimi Yamasuga, Student,
Business, 21**

“An ideal America is a country that values freedom, where people respect one another and where international students feel welcome.”



**Aly Campos, Student,
Graphic Design, 27**

“An ideal America would be a place with less hate and more understanding. A better education system for everyone about our history and how to correct our mistakes to create a better future.

A place where no one feels unsafe to leave their home or unwelcome in a different area. A land that is built up by the combination of cultures we have, rather than tearing those cultures down.”

**Alexis Renteria, Student,
Film Production, 19**

“My ideal America is a nation in which there is a collective effort to constantly strive for progress and prosperity for all. My ideal America prioritizes free education and healthcare for all as well as high government spending on public resources.

An America that moves in the direction of sustainability, inclusivity, fair systems and united governance.”

**Ruben Lopez, Student,
Nursing, 31**

“My ideal America is BBQ at the beach, working, staying productive, volunteering a few hours to the community and always working to keep the economy moving.”

**Nico Young, Student,
Nursing**

“My ideal America is a country that is happy!”

**Maria Carrillo, Student,
Chicano Studies, 18**

“My ideal America is very equal and everyone gets along mostly, while also not anyone getting treated differently based on where they come from, who they are friends with or based on their race.

It'd be a place where nothing makes one feel different from others and everyone has the same opportunities.”



**Honey Guzman, Student,
English and Spanish, 21**

“Being a first-generation college student is hard. You’re not just trying to succeed as a student; you’re also navigating a system that was not built with you in mind. At the same time, you are competing with students who have had very different opportunities and resources. This is where the difference between equality and equity becomes very real.

I see these challenges every day through my work in Enrollment Services and with Raíces First Year and Beyond. There are many barriers that students face when they are trying to continue their education. Many are capable and motivated, but the system makes it difficult for them to move forward.”



**Jackson Bullington, Student,
Mechanical Engineering, 19**

“My ideal America is one where everyone is accepted. People should be accepted regardless of their heritage, personality, expression or anything else.

People should be celebrated in all ways to make sure that everyone feels accepted for being who they are.”



**Guillermo Sanchez,
Student**

“My ideal America is a place where I can make a living working a 9-5.”



**Leo V. Smith, Student, Political
Science, 46**

“In this country, this land that we call home, it is my endeavor that this land is truly the home of the free and the land where the brave do live together in peace, joy and harmony. I desire an America where the Constitution is held and where it is specified that all persons being treated equally actually means all persons thereof, all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. In my

America, the police are our actual friends and the lawmakers actually care more about the people than their very own selves. In this country, my country, we shall have overcome all racial and tribal tensions developed over the years. We’d prefer to help one another, denouncing the dishonor of bigotry, greed and hatred of humankind. We would believe in the benevolence of the highest powers, the power that effectuates honor, morality, peace, and blessings. True life would be promoted and life more abundantly for ALL. In my America, we choose to love, we choose kindness and charity above all.”



Gail Eisen, Staff member

“A country in which Civics Education still plays a major role in both the middle school and high school curricula, in which two texts by Orwell are required reading in the 8th grade like Animal Farm first, then 1984, in the case of the Los Angeles City School District during earlier decades.

History courses that focus on the U.S., European, African and Latin American regions cover themes and pay attention to identifying reliable and factual news sources. I would like to see voting become mandatory, as it is today in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Uruguay and a few other nations. I would also like to see efforts made to protect voting rights, rather than restrict access to the ballot.”



Solutions



How do we get to an Ideal America?

**Calista Hoskins
Psychology**

**Aldo Cruz Medina
Flim & TV Production**

Lloyd Patterson, Staff



Video Solutions



Otto Tierney, Political Science

Skye Finucan, Nursing

**Oliver Jones, 19
Construction Management**





Spoken Solutions



Jasmine Barba
Electrical Engineering

Elle McCormick, 19
Film Production

Liam Flanagan, 19
Communication



Spoken Solutions



Luka Speciale, 20
Political Science

Sophia Hoffman, Student



Written Solutions

“The quickest way to get to this point would be to remove the corrupt, capitalist, Epstein regime and replace it with a leader whose for the working people. The longer, more peaceful way would be to try to vote in as many socialists into office, similar to Zohran Mamdani and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), with clear socialist policies.

Reallocating funding from the military industrial complex and police departments and injecting that funding into other departments such as the Department of Education and the Department of Health. Everyone involved in war crimes, from the Clintons, Bushs, Obamas, Trumps and everyone involved in the Epstein files should be put on trial.”

**Marc Wilder, Student,
Photography, 26**

“Some solutions are strengthening our government’s checks and balances as well as properly taxing the wealthy.”

**Alexis Renteria, Student,
19, Film Production**

“Some ideas include strengthening systems to reduce discrimination and prejudice, increasing opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to communicate with each other and ensuring completely equal opportunities for everyone.”


**Mimi Yamasuga,
Student, Business, 21**

“Some ways to get to that ideal America are I wouldn’t cut off the resources so many need, like medical, food benefits (SNAP or food stamps) and housing. I wouldn’t cut off school funding because that’s helping kids stay in school. I would keep food banks open and other resources available for families in need, keeping routes open for families that need to get things without fear and safety for themselves.”

Beatriz Moran, Student, 18

“Some solutions are more taxes on the rich and more government transparency.”

Guillermo Sanchez, Student



“Solutions would be it’s time to review the current middle and high school curricula in relation to civics, history and literature. Introduce mandatory courses on identifying factual, well-researched news stories. It would also be ideal to offer challenges to the electoral college.”

Gail Eisen, Staff member

“We need more support systems. In the Raíces program, students often don’t qualify for programs, but still need support. It is difficult to come to work not knowing what will happen next, especially with funding cuts that threaten programs like Raíces. Therefore we need more programs like EOPS and Raíces, while focusing on the newer generations. They are the future of this country and they need better opportunities, stronger support systems and a fair chance to succeed.”

Honey Guzman, Student, English and Spanish, 21

“Empathy is very important and needs to be implemented more in education. Empathy is something that is hard to teach because it’s learned from real-life experience. If we’re able to have more examples of empathy around us as we grow up, then we can be more understanding and accepting of one another.”

Jackson Bullington, Student, Mechanical Engineering, 19

“America needs to be a place where people think individually, rather than based on political parties. How we can do that is it starts at home and to raise independent thinkers to think for themselves.”

Nicolas Medina, Staff

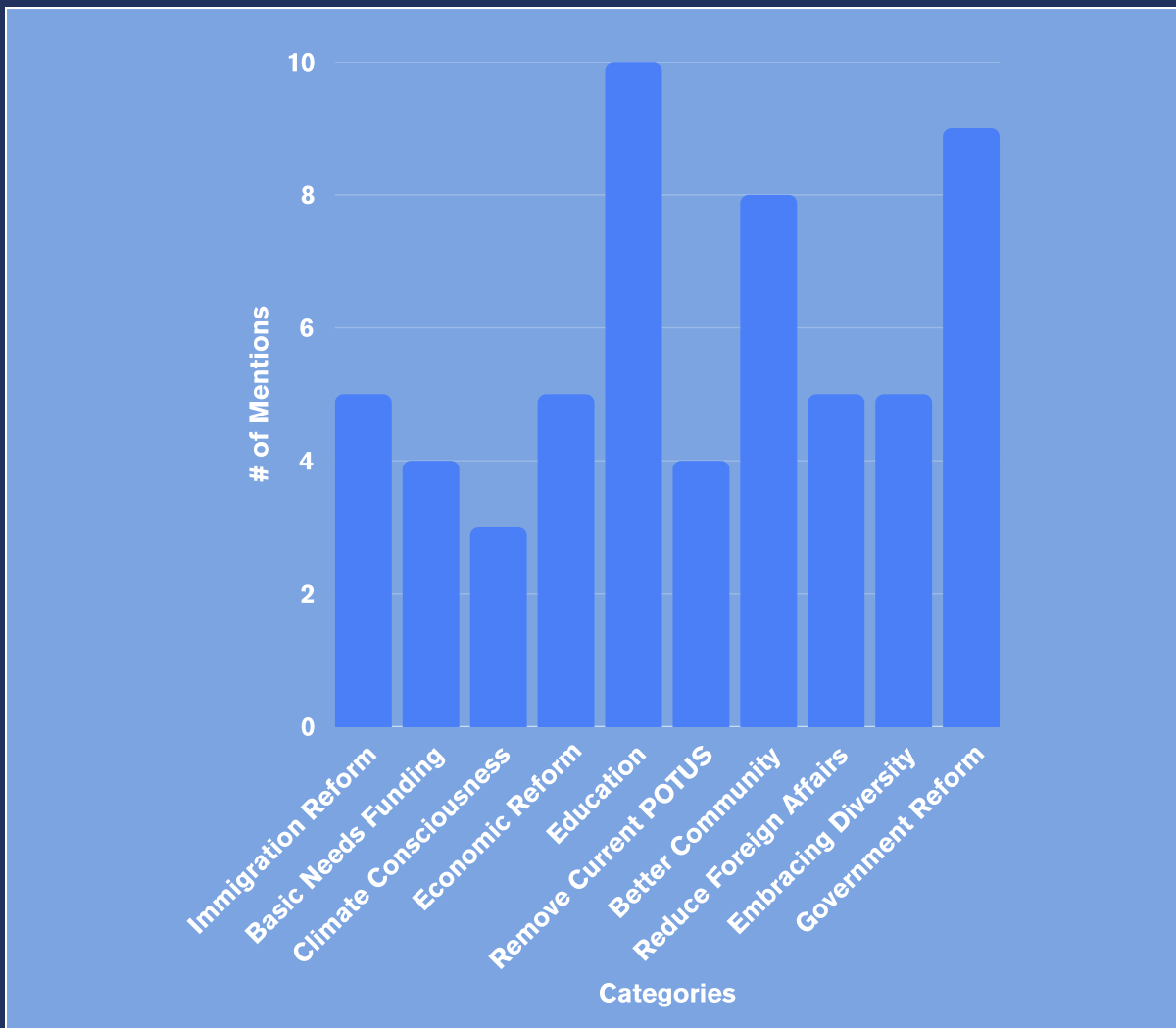
“Better education throughout America that is standard and non-biased or a better system for fact-checking and news. Another solution is sources should be reliable. We need people to share their stories and understand more than their own perspective.”

Aly Campos, Student, Graphic Design, 27

“My solutions would be fewer wars, less AI data centers and less social media!!”

Nico Young, Student, Nursing

Solutions by the Data





Thank you



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