

Karsen Lee Wahal

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EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY Stanford, CA

Current GPA: 4.054/4.00

2021 – 2025

B.A., Economics; B.S., Mathematical & Computational Science (MCS); Minor in Poverty, Inequality, & Policy

- *Economics courses:* Micro, Macro, Econometrics, Decision Modeling & Information, Lin. Alg & Multivar. Calc., Price Theory
- *MCS courses:* Programming Abstractions, Math Foundations of Computing, Algorithmic Design/Analysis, Appl. Matrix Theory

EXPERIENCES

Stanford University (*Research Assistant under Prof. Avidit Acharya*)

Dec. 2021 – Present

- Co-authoring a game theory paper to study polarization in ranked choice voting versus the current primary system.
- Simulated ranked-choice voting and a primary, plurality voting system across any number of voters, candidates, elections, and vote distributions using Python.
- Wrote mathematical proofs on three and four-candidate elections to justify findings on polarization; conducted literature reviews.
- Previously conducted literature reviews on the historical background behind political polarization in the U.S.

Stanford University Graduate School of Business (*Research Assistant under Prof. Joshua Rauh*)

July 2022 – Present

- Studying the relationship between state/local debt structures and their relationship to state/local bond yield curves.
- Conducted data cleaning, analysis, and visualizations on state financial statements from 2002 to 2021 using Python (pandas).

End Poverty in California (*Policy Intern*)

July 2022 – Present

- Assistant to Chief of Staff Devon Gray and founder Michael Tubbs, researching poverty-related policy issues, tracking legislation, and studying the causes of poverty around California.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (*Economic Analysis Intern*)

June 2022 – August 2022

- Used Stata to clean Afrobarometer survey data, develop a cross-sectional pooled dataset, generate summary statistics, and create visualizations, to assist with constraint analyses using Hausmann, Rodrik, and Velasco's paper on development economics.
- Assisted with economic rate of return and cost-benefit analyses for MCC's Indonesia Compact, a developmental aid contract.
- Helped curate weekly reading list on developmental economic issues, sent to ~1000 professionals.
- Mentored and interviewed by Prof. Francis Fukuyama. Sole student selected for this Stanford-funded government fellowship.

United States Senate (*Intern for U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley*)

March 2022 – June 2022

- Wrote policy memos and assisted with legislative communications on housing, labor, gun control, immigration, and poverty.
- Corresponded with constituents and sorted legislative correspondences using the Intranet Quorum software.

California State Senate (*Intern for CA State Senator Josh Becker*)

Jan 2022 – March 2022

- Assisted with legislative research, lobbying, and content creation, focusing on the passage of SB 1407 (Employee Ownership).
- One of 17 Stanford students selected as a "BEAM Fellow," receiving funding to complete an unpaid internship during the year.

The Polling Place (*Co-Founder, National Director*)

July 2020 – Present

- Co-founded and led national nonprofit (20+ states, 300+ applicants) consolidating local election information for Americans.
- Coordinated research of thousands of political candidates, worked with national partners (e.g., Georgetown Institute of Politics).
- Received 320K+ page views, 56K+ unique visitors; featured by Boston Globe, Arizona Capitol Times, Scottsdale Progress, etc.
- Raised \$7K+, redesigned website using Squarespace and Wordpress, and managed organization.

SKILLS, AWARDS & ACTIVITIES

Skills

Technical: Python, Stata, C++, R, MATLAB, Wordpress, Excel; *Languages:* Chinese and Basic Hindi

Honors & Awards

Speech and Debate Ranking: #2 in U.S., #1 in Arizona. 3x qualifier to Tournament of Champions
Journal of Emerging Investigators: "Predicting Orbital Resonance of 2867 Šteins Using Yarkovsky Effect"
U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalist: Recognition from U.S. Department of Education as top 625 seniors
National Merit Scholar: Received \$2,500 scholarship, granted to the top 2,500 high schoolers (SAT: 1600)

Activities

Stanford Ctr. for Public Service – Peer Advisor: Advised & spread awareness on service opportunities
Stanford Econ. Review – Managing Editor: Oversaw publications for a leading undergrad econ journal
Stanford in Gov. – Dir. of National Fellowships: Organized 13 fully-funded public service internships
Stanford Daily – Contributing Writer: Authored most-read articles on inflation, Ukraine, and current issues