

# Karsen Lee Wahal

he/him/his | [kwahal@stanford.edu](mailto:kwahal@stanford.edu) | (404) 218 5291 | [linkedin.com/in/karsen-wahal](https://www.linkedin.com/in/karsen-wahal) | [kwahal.github.io/](https://kwahal.github.io/)

## EDUCATION

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY** Stanford, CA Current GPA: 4.081/4.000 2021 – 2025  
*B.A., Economics; B.S., Mathematical & Computational Science (MCS)*

- *Economics courses:* Micro, Macro, Price Theory, Stats, Econometrics, Decision Modeling & Info, Economics of Education
- *MCS courses:* Statistical Inference, Lin. Alg. & Multivar. Calc., Integral Calc. of Several Variables, Matrix Theory, AI: Principles & Techniques, Natural Language Processing w/ Deep Learning, Math Foundations of Computing, Programming Abstractions

## EXPERIENCES

**U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Consumer Policy** (*Incoming Spring Intern*) Jan. 2023 – May 2023

**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 current voting system with varying voters, candidates, 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.

**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.

**Stanford University Graduate School of Business** (*Research Assistant under Prof. Joshua Rauh*) July 2022 – Oct. 2022

- Studied 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).
- Assisted with the training of a machine learning model to analyze financial statements.

**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).

**The Polling Place** (*Co-Founder, National Director*) July 2020 – Present

- Co-founded and led national nonprofit (20+ states, 300+ applicants) creating profiles of local political candidates.
- Received 500K+ page views, 105K+ unique visitors; featured by Boston Globe, AZ Cap. Times, etc. Currently serving as advisor.

## SKILLS, AWARDS & ACTIVITIES

**Skills** *Technical:* Python (NumPy, PyTorch, pandas, Matplotlib), Stata, C++, R, MATLAB, Wordpress, Excel  
*Languages:* Chinese, 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"  
*Presidential Scholar Semifinalist:* Recognized by U.S. Dept. of Education as top 625 seniors (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* – Staff Writer: Authored most-viewed articles on inflation, Ukraine, and current issues