



V T M U N C

est. 2024

**Under the Sea: Future  
Congress of the United States,  
2100 Specialized Committee**

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# Letter From the Secretariat

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**Dear Delegates of VTMUNC II,**

We appreciate your participation and dedication to the premier Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference's efforts to promote productive and civil discourse and conversation. Nevertheless, please be warned that some presentations, discussions, and or information found in the background guides may contain delicate or triggering material. At Virginia Tech, we prioritize fostering a safe and inclusive environment, so we want to ensure that you are prepared for the nature of the discussions to occur.

That being said, the following content areas may contain sensitive material:

1. **Conflict Zones & Human Rights Violations:** Some conversations may involve sensitive global problems including human rights violations, armed conflicts, and or other difficult themes.
2. **Sensitive Cultural or Religious Topics:** Some topics may raise sensitive cultural or religious issues for individuals.
3. **Violence and Trauma:** In their speeches or resolutions, delegates may reference incidents of violence, trauma, or abuse in real-world scenarios that may potentially be a sensitive topic to delegates in committee.
4. **Discussions about Discrimination and Marginalization:** Emotionally intense discussions concerning discrimination, marginalization, or inequity may arise during committee.

As you prepare for the conference, we encourage all of our delegates to approach these discussions with both respect and empathy for differing perspectives. If the content of these committees is something that you are uncomfortable with, we recommend that you take the appropriate steps to prioritize your well-being, such as seeking support from conference staff or Secretariat of VTMUNC II. Bound by the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), we serve to ensure that we will promote constructive and respectful dialogue during committee sessions. As you prepare and participate in the conference, we promise that VTMUNC I will stay committed to creating a space where all your voices are heard and are welcome. Thank you for your compassion and cooperation to our goal of respectful and intellectual discourse for all. We hope that as you progress with our conference, you continue to bloom.

**Sincerely,**

**Shriya Chemudupait, Secretary General of VTMUNC II**

**Anneli Sample, Under-Secretary General of General Assemblies of VTMUNC II**

**Holly Johnson, Under-Secretary General of Crisis Committees of VTMUNC II**

**Thomas Quinn2, Under-Secretary General of Specialized Agencies of VTMUNC II**

# Conference Guidelines

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The first iteration of the Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference, otherwise known as VTMUNC I, is committed to providing a safe and pleasurable experience for all delegates, advisors, and individuals involved with VTMUNC I. Although participating in Model UN is being involved in competitive activity, its fundamental purpose is to uphold and put into practice both the principles of diplomacy, collaboration, and cooperation. Any individual that violates the policies and procedures of VTMUNC I and the ideals of an open and inclusive environment will be subject to disciplinary action from the staff of VTMUNC I; disciplinary action may include a warning or being disqualified from receiving awards. Promoting an environment that is open to all by being safe, equitable, and exhilarating is our utmost priority. In order to ensure this, the following are prohibited:

1. Any pre-writing or working on committee content outside of VTMUNC I committee sessions (as described by the Schedule of Program).
2. Any speeches, directives, crisis arcs, or actions in committee that intend to create violence or promote a violent environment to a specific group of people, including mentions of sexual violence, graphic violence, and other behavior that is beyond committee guidelines.
3. Any hate speech, written documents, or behavior that uses language that is discriminatory and disrespectful, including but not limited to any language that is racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, antisemitic, Islamophobic, or language harmful to any specific group.
4. Any actions that are deliberate, both knowingly and intentionally, to bully, harass, or otherwise harmful behavior that may or has hurt other delegates' physical and or mental health.

# Overview of Specialized Committees

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This Committee focuses on the United States Senate in the year 2100 after cataclysmic climate events that caused the melting of the world's ice caps and a resulting rise in sea levels. This dramatic shift in both the climate and geography has caused a vast migration of Americans from coastal areas towards the more temperate interior of the continent to avoid further destruction by climate change. Predictably, new problems have arisen, such as cities seeing a dramatic increase in crime rates, a housing and food security crisis, as well as threats of secession from states who feel the reorganized federal government is no longer addressing their concerns. Delegates will have to work together to equitably allocate the government's resources and fight to keep the country united, or if it is the senator's prerogative, form a new country that more accurately reflects the state of the modern world.

This committee will be structured as a General Assembly with crisis elements. Delegates will work to complete a resolution in blocs by the end of the conference but will have crisis updates and joint private directives.

## Letter From the Chair

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Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you to Future United States Congress. I am thrilled to serve as your Chair for this exciting and challenging committee. Together, we will explore pressing global issues, engage in thoughtful debate, and strive for innovative solutions. I am confident that your passion, creativity, and diplomacy will make this a memorable experience for all. I look forward to seeing your hard work and collaboration come to life during the conference.

Best regards,  
Future United States Congress's Chair

## Letter From the Crisis Director

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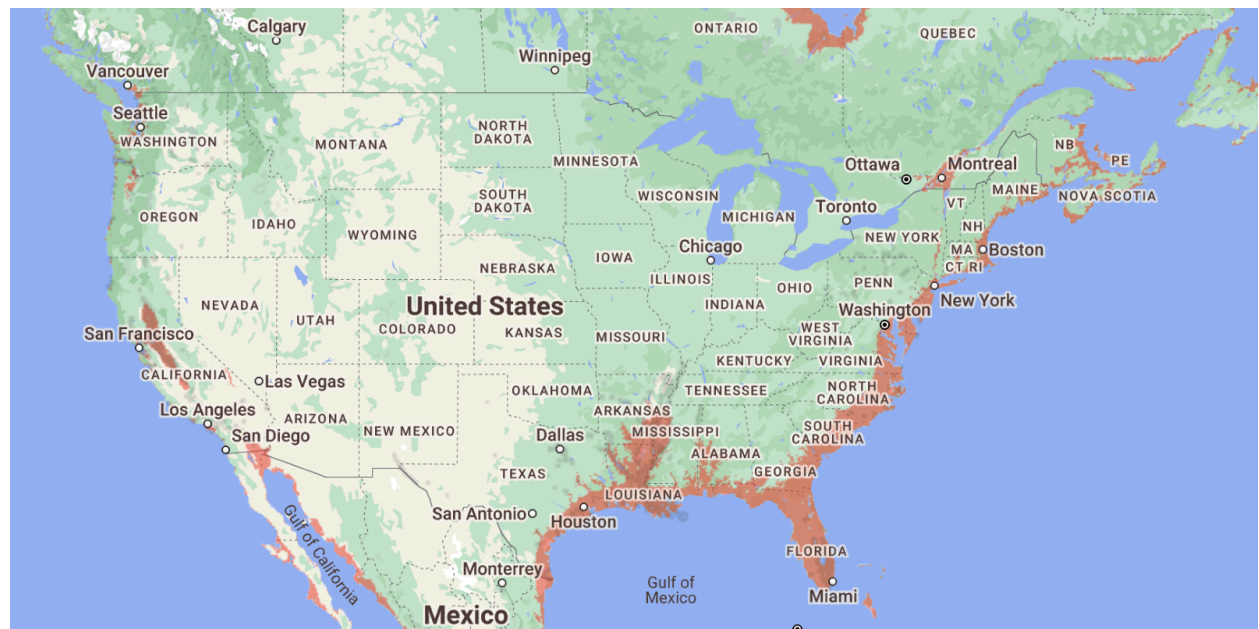
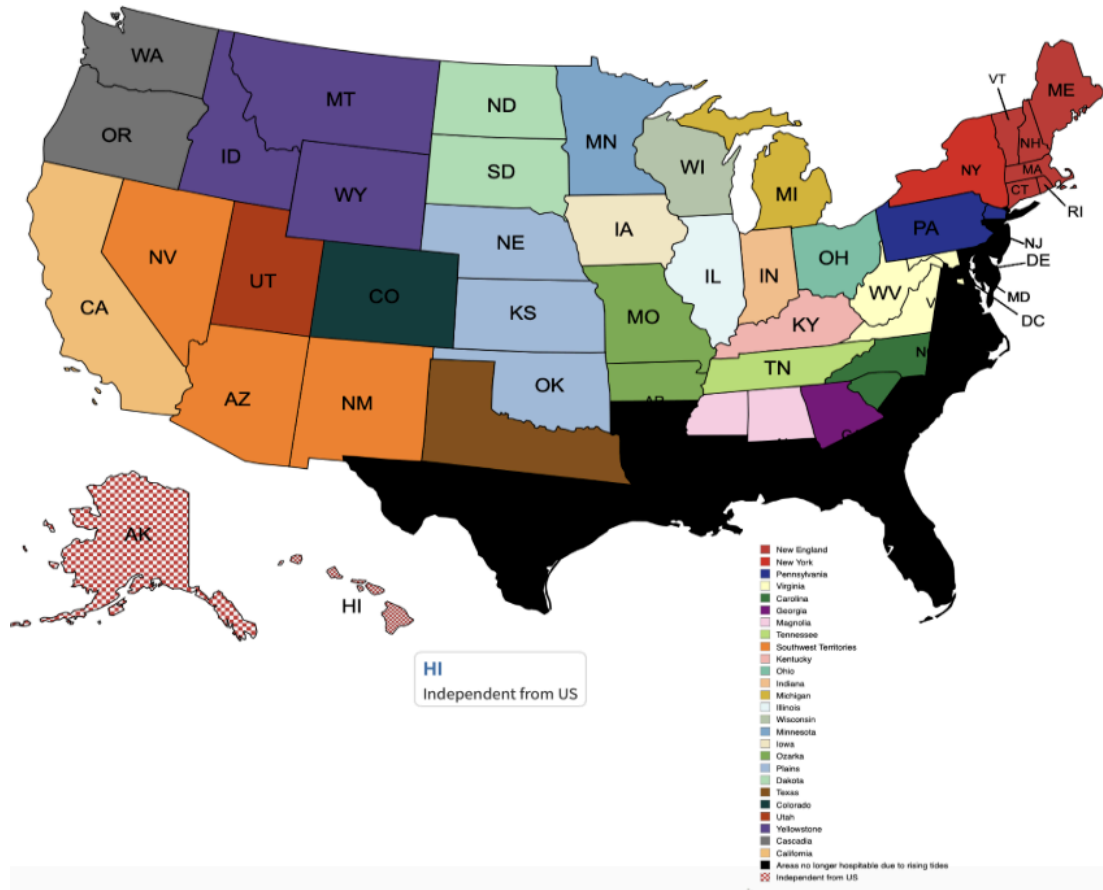
Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Future United States Congress at VTMUNC II! I am excited to serve as your Crisis Director. Prepare to face dynamic challenges, unexpected twists, and high-stakes decision-making as you navigate this fast-paced crisis committee. My team and I are eager to see how you respond to these evolving situations with strategy and creativity. We encourage you to think on your feet, collaborate effectively, and most importantly, have fun as you bring this crisis to life.

Looking forward to an unforgettable committee,  
Future United States Congress's Crisis Director

## Background Information

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Despite the warnings given to countries across the world, global levels of Carbon Dioxide have increased even past previous projections due to increased industrialization, with countries in the Global South adding to the already dire situation. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the projections for the global rise in temperature were between 3.6- and 7.2-degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100<sup>1</sup>. These projections assumed that the level of Carbon Dioxide would remain at the same rates as they were at the beginning of the century. With the rapid industrialization of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, the global levels of CO<sub>2</sub> increased beyond the worst-case scenario projections, leading to a cataclysmic rise in temperature of 15 degrees Fahrenheit, causing widespread crop failures, melting of ice caps and resulting sea level rises, as well as a massive loss of biodiversity that was not able to adapt to their new environments. Heat waves and water scarcity issues were exacerbated by the increase in temperature, leading to humanitarian crises not seen since the Second World War. Crop failures have become one of the most pressing issues in modern America due to the degradation of soil quality and the lack of regular rainfall<sup>2</sup>. The lack of rainfall has led to a reduction in agricultural yields of water intensive crops such as cotton, wheat, rice, and corn<sup>3</sup>. This reduction has also caused the livestock industry to collapse as corn is the primary feed given to livestock. Millions of Americans have lost their livelihood due to loss of opportunity in rural areas. This has caused the already small proportion of Americans who still lived in rural areas to move to the already overcrowded cities that are more resistant to the effects of climate change. Increased temperatures and an increased frequency of intense heat waves in the Southwest have reduced the viability of living there and leaves average people with a hard time justifying living there. Cities in the Southwest such as Phoenix, Tucson, San Antonio, and Las Vegas<sup>4</sup>. Millions more are fleeing the Southwestern United States and other hotter areas in favor of more temperate cities in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. The rise in temperatures has also caused areas that were food scarce to become even more so due to the lack of available healthy foods. The main groups of people feeling the additional stress are people in rural areas who live too far from anywhere that sells food and people in the densest parts of cities that have all available land taken by housing rather than somewhere to buy affordable, healthy food. Native American communities are also feeling additional stress due to much of the federal budget being used to rebuild infrastructure that has been destroyed by the rising sea levels. Due to the rise of both temperature and sea levels as well which have reduced the amount of food available and land to live on and the stagnating birth rates in the United States have caused a collapse of the United States population. Before the disaster, the United States population was 350 million people, in the current day, the population now stands at 200 million people.

### **Rise in Sea levels**

Due to the increased temperatures, the ice caps have melted, causing a massive rise in global sea levels. As a result of the melting of the Antarctic ice caps, the sea levels have risen around 200



feet. An estimated 40% of Americans live within 100 miles of a coast, around 80 million<sup>5</sup> Americans who have had their lives drastically changed in the past 50 years. The current population of the United States is around 200 million people. The rise in sea levels led to the submersion of many cities along the American Atlantic coast as well as entire US States, such as Florida, Louisiana, Delaware, and New Jersey, as well as prominent metro areas, such as New York City, Houston, Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington DC<sup>6</sup>. People who once lived in these coastal metropolises have moved to the interiors of their states, and those who lived in states that are now underwater dispersed across the United States to wherever they could find. The rise in sea levels have also caused a drastic change in the top 10 most populated cities in the United States. In 2000, the most populated cities were New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas, San Antonio, and Detroit<sup>7</sup>. Due to the aforementioned climate disasters, all but Chicago, Dallas, and Detroit are uninhabitable. The new list of the most populated US cities now includes Chicago, Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, Columbus, Charlotte, Indianapolis, Seattle, Denver, and Oklahoma City.

### **Session Movement**

States in the Western part of the United States separated from the rest of the country by the vast Rocky Mountains have felt a disconnect from the rest of the country. The rising sea levels did not affect the states on the Pacific coast as severely, and they feel that the federal government is too focused on the needs of those who live on the coasts while they face hardships of their own with increased temperatures and failing crop yields. California is feeling the brunt of the crop failures as it is the top agricultural producer in the country. Additionally, nearly all tourism has been eliminated due to the environmental damage of travelling and the breakdown of infrastructure across the country. Other states such as the new formed states of Yellowstone and Cascadia have felt similarly neglected by the federal government and the rest of the country and feel that they could address the needs of the people in the Western half of the country more effectively if they had their own government that was closer and felt more responsive to their needs.

### **Moving the capital**

Due to the rising sea levels, Chicago has been acting as a De Facto capital with all three branches of government moving to the city. Chicago has become overcrowded with the influx of employees from the federal government and other government organizations. Like other cities across the country, Chicago has not been spared from overcrowding. There have been protests happening around Chicago criticizing the federal government's lack of initiative in rebuilding infrastructure across the country. Chicago has seen massive amounts of investment from major financial institutions to help run essential government functions.

## **New States in the aftermath of the disasters**

Due to the loss of large populations in coastal states and broader concerns about access to goods and services, some states have reorganized themselves and combined. The remaining states and areas of states that are not underwater in New England have aligned themselves into the state of New England. The capital of this new state is Worcester, Massachusetts. The state comprises what is left of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Similarly, due to the loss of coastal areas, the Carolinas have combined into one state of Carolina, with the capital shifting to Charlotte as it is centrally located for population centers in both of the former states. The remnant of New Jersey is now under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. Similarly, the remaining portion of Maryland has been given to Virginia. West Virginia also rejoined Virginia due to the ability of Virginia's government to help provide desperately needed services to the comparably poorer regions in West Virginia. The state is still known as Virginia and changed its capital to Lynchburg. Mississippi and Alabama have combined to create the new state of Magnolia, with Montgomery serving as the state's capital. Due to major loss in territory along the Mississippi River, Arkansas has joined Missouri. This new state is called Ozarka and Kansas City serves as the capital. North and South Dakota have also agreed to become a single state with Pierre becoming the capital. The State is aptly named Dakota. The states of Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma have also formed into one state due to the dramatic decrease in crop yields and the increased summer temperatures that are stretching the state government's budgets and ability to provide for its people. The new state is called Plains and Oklahoma City will serve as the capital. Similar to the Dakota's Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana have become one state to have more power as a bloc rather than as individuals in the US senate. The name of the new State is Yellowstone with Boise serving as the capital city. Due to mass migration from Arizona and Nevada, they have been reorganized into the Federal Southwest Territory. Oregon and Washington have also formed into the state of Cascadia with Eugene serving as the capital. They were two of the states at the forefront of the secession movement and feel that their position will be respected more if they work as a coalition. Both Alaska and Hawaii have already declared independence from the United States with Alaska becoming the newest province of Canada and Hawaii becoming a territory of the United States rather than a state.

### **Subtopic one: Humanitarian Crisis**

Due to the massive changes in climate in the past century, millions of people have had to flee coastal areas to move inland or to areas with higher elevation. Many states have become unlivable due to the increase in temperatures. States in the Southwestern United States have become too hot in the summers for permanent human habitation. Much of the infrastructure in the southwestern region of the United States have fallen into disrepair, creating a rift between the Eastern and Western halves of the United States. Global supply chains have been greatly affected

due to the destruction of all ports. Around 75% of oil is transported on ships leading to a massive energy crisis. The Humanitarian crisis has left housing shortages and food insecurity, especially for those who are in lower socio-economic classes. How can the Senate reduce the burden of the climate crisis and allow for easier access to housing and food.

### **Topic two: Increased Crime and Radical Language**

Overcrowding in cities has led to increased crime and disease in densely populated areas. This has caused new urban ghettos to sprout, which are hotbeds of gang-related activities such as drug smuggling, kidnapping, extortion, and increased murder rates. More and more people are moving to cities each day to have easier access to government services, easier access to education, more job prospects, and perceived social mobility. The increase in violent crime has caused politicians to use increasingly radical rhetoric in their proposed solutions to deal with the issues. Some of these proposals include enacting martial law, curfews, and heavier police presence in cities where crime is especially prevalent. The sentiment is not felt across the United States, as some areas such as those in New England and the Midwest have not seen the same growth in crime and feel that radical rhetoric in the Senate is leading the country down a dangerous path. How can states find a middle ground in dealing with the rise in crime without restricting the rights of their citizens?

## **Questions to Consider**

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Given the drastic changes to shorelines, millions of people have been displaced. How will you as a committee deal with the massive influx of migration into other cities?

Due to the recent rise in sea levels, Washington DC has, along with many other major cities, been flooded and is now underwater. It is up to you as a committee to determine a new capital for the United States.

After a cataclysmic event, is it still feasible to operate the United States as one united country?

How will you, as an individual Senator, accurately portray the interests of your constituents?

# Character Dossier

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## 1. New England

Due to much of New England being low-lying, major population centers have been swallowed by the waves. Being the biggest remaining population center in New England, Worcester has become the capital of the combined former New England States. Many of the New Englanders feel a strong connection to the union of the United States and are willing to work towards a collaborative future for the country.

### **Maurice Colby:**

After spending nearly 20 years working as a lawyer, Maurice Colby was exhausted by insurance companies denying claim after claim from their customers after numerous people lost their houses due to rising sea levels. He is new to the world of politics and is only in his second stint as a senator.

## 2. New York

**Sharon Smedley:** Sharon Smedley is a career politician who started her career as a city councilor for New York City and climbed up the political ladder including one term as governor of New York. New York has fared worse than almost any other state in the Union. Due to rising sea levels, all of Manhattan and the other boroughs of New York City have been taken by the sea. New York has been scrambling to house people and develop enough infrastructure for the millions of people who lost their homes.

## 3. Pennsylvania

**Reed Irving:** Being one of the youngest senators in the country, Reed Irving is optimistic about the future of the country. Being a former business owner, Reed believes the way to rebuild the United States is through investment.

Due to Delaware and New Jersey being low in elevation, Pennsylvania has incorporated the remaining territory of both states. Similarly to New York, Pennsylvania's main population center, Philadelphia, has been destroyed. Infrastructure remains a major problem for the people of Pennsylvania. Harrisburg remains the capital of Pennsylvania but is seeing an influx of people coming from the eastern side of the state.

## 4. Virginia

Due to its proximity to the former capital, Washington D.C., many military installations still exist within the state. Similarly to Pennsylvania, Virginia has incorporated the territory of both Maryland and West Virginia to become one united Virginia again. Research and development of weapons has continued even though much of Northern Virginia was heavily affected by rising sea levels.

**Anthony Speight:** Anthony Speight has served his country for decades. A West Point graduate and aspiring one-star general, he wants to continue the military tradition of Virginia. He believes that the continuation of the military-industrial complex will propel the United States into reclaiming its position as the global hegemon. He has overseen the construction of new ports along the new coastline of Virginia, continuing the strong military presence in the state.

## **5. Carolina**

**Jordan Coupe:** Jordan Coupe worked as a public defender before becoming the senator for the now united Carolinas. Coupe has remained a strong supporter of individual freedoms and promotes the free speech of her constituents. Coupe has some common ground with the more progressive senators in the Senate but also has allies on the pro-business side of the aisle. She has become one of the most influential senators due to the power of her State.

Charlotte has become one of the largest cities in the country due to its importance to the financial world and its geographic position in the western half of the Carolinas. With New York City and other financial hubs of the United States being destroyed, Charlotte has taken over the mantle as the financial capital of the United States. Due to this massive influx of business, Carolina has become one of the most influential states in the union. Additionally, Carolina has taken many climate refugees from Florida due to overcrowding in urban areas of Georgia.

## **6. Georgia**

Georgia has become one of the most densely populated states after Florida was completely reclaimed by nature. Atlanta has become one of the most populous cities in the country and has recently gone through a housing crisis. Infrastructure has remained a major problem for Georgia, with the cities becoming overly congested with people. Sanitation has become a problem in the major cities of Georgia.

**Casey North:** Casey North is the former president of the University of Georgia. North believes that access to education is crucial for the future of the United States and the survival of the United States as one country. She has pleaded with local government officials to continue to fund education in all areas of Georgia to ensure that young people in Georgia have better access to higher skilled jobs in the future. North is in the minority in the senate arguing for better access to education while other senators claim that infrastructure is the most pressing issue.

## **7. Magnolia**

**Robert Berry:** Robert Berry is a former member of the United States Army, in which he was a field combat medic who saved multiple lives. After his career in the military, he used the G.I. bill to attend Vanderbilt University for biology, from which he graduated with honors. After his undergraduate education, he attended Duke University Medical School and worked as a trauma specialist for 8 years. After his time as a doctor, he ran for office with a platform advocating for a reform of the American healthcare system. He is especially concerned with the plight of people in densely crowded urban areas who are at greater risk of contracting communicable diseases and viruses.

With the main economic artery of Mississippi and Alabama being severed with the rise of the Mississippi and the destruction of the Gulf Coast, the remnants of the states combined to form the state of Magnolia.

## **8. Ohio**

**Keiran Vasquez:** With the destruction of ports along the East and Gulf coasts of the United States, the ports along the Northern Coast of Ohio have seen a resurgence in use and a flood of new workers to the areas. It is a crossroads for the western Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean and serves as the main cargo hub for the Eastern part of the United States. Vasquez was the CEO of a prominent shipping company that many people in Ohio, which had brought back life to an area that was once referred to as the “Rust Belt”. Before his time in the Senate, Vasquez served as the governor of Ohio and was massively popular. He has stated that Ohio is open to all those who want to share in its recently found economic prosperity and believes he can leverage Ohio’s newfound wealth to keep the union together and inspire economic growth in the states bordering Ohio.

## **9. Indiana**

**Kendall Archer:** Like other states in the Midwest, Indiana has faced hardships due to decreased rainfall. They still grow a large number of soybeans and have shifted much of the land that was used for corn to other, less water-intensive crops. Archer was a prosecutor in Indianapolis and had notable cases taking down large-scale drug operations and other gang-related activities. She is in favor of addressing crime in cities first but is not as extreme as some of her counterparts. She also recognizes that the best way to prevent violence is to stop it before it starts and is thus in favor of expanding access to education, especially for people in the increasingly crowded cities.

## **10. Michigan**

Michigan has become one of the major shipping locations for the United States due to its proximity to Chicago and access to the Atlantic Ocean. Michigan has emerged as one of

the most prosperous states due to the auto industry. Ford and General Motors have been leaders in producing increasingly sustainable cars for the future.

**Lily Sanderson:** After being an engineer for General Motors for nearly a decade, Lily Sanderson decided to switch to a political career. Her main objective in the senate is to further fund research and development for sustainable automobiles. Her strategy has its critics, yet other senators are worried about making enemies with the senator who oversees the largest manufacturing of automobiles in the country.

### **11. Tennessee**

Tennessee has fared better than other states in the union following the climate crisis, with none of its land being affected by rising sea levels. However, the agricultural portion of the state has been suffering due to the increase in temperatures. The cotton industry has survived, albeit to a smaller extent than it once was. Crime has become an increasingly pressing problem in Tennessee's cities, much to the dismay of the general population.

**Wade Walters:** A former state trooper, Wade Walters is worried about the breakdown of law and order that has been plaguing the United States since the climate crisis ramped up. Walters is one of the leading figures of the growing movement to make the United States safer. However, this movement has its critics, many claiming that the measures proposed will violate civil liberties.

### **12. Kentucky**

**Mary Anne O'Donnel:** Kentucky has become the main factory of the United States and produces much of the automobiles, planes, trains, and microchips. O'Donnel was part of the Kentucky state department of commerce and encouraged companies to move into Kentucky due to its low cost of living and low cost of doing business. O'Donnel grew up in a small, former coal town in Eastern Kentucky and earned merit-based scholarships to attend the University of Kentucky. She recognized the importance of government assistance to those in need and decided to give back by dedicating her life to a career in public service. O'Donnel is in favor of having people move to Kentucky to ease the burden of more populated cities. She also wants to keep the union together because she does not want to have to reestablish technology deals with other states and fears that a different country would provide the cars to the west at a comparably cheaper rate without US subsidies.

### **13. Southwest Territory**

**Mica Hackett:** Being a former board member of a major oil corporation, Mica Hackett wants to continue major drilling operations in the oil-rich Southwestern region of the country. Even though much of the Southwest is now uninhabitable due to excessive heat, Hackett wants the operations to continue to generate some much-needed income for a now sparsely populated area of the country. Mica is also an advocate for the rights of

Native Americans, as the Southwest territory has a large population of them, and she sees that their livelihood is being disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

#### **14. Dakota**

**Bianca Edwardson:** Bianca Edwardson is a major advocate for the rights of Native Americans. As a former social worker, Edwardson has first-hand experience helping support the mental health needs of indigenous communities. She is a strong supporter of providing more affordable housing to those in need and to provide government services to people in need.

#### **15. Yellowstone**

**Kristin Beck:** A former National Park Ranger and Secretary of the Interior, Beck is fearful that her state's natural beauty will be destroyed by the increase in temperatures. Tourism is a major part of the economy of Yellowstone and employs thousands of people, the loss of which would cripple the state's economy. Her state does not have as many large population centers and is largely free from the rise in crime. It is in the interest of her state to diversify the economy by allowing people who are displaced from coastal areas and those who moved to areas that became too hot to move to her state and help create a prosperous future.

#### **16. Plains**

Once one of the largest food-producing regions of the country, livestock and agricultural production have been nearly eliminated in this region. Livestock were unable to adapt to the higher temperatures, and the fields dried up, causing massive crop failure. The plains states, including Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, agreed to become one state to avoid economic collapse. The reorganization of these states has saved them from economic failure, yet their economies are still in a delicate state.

**Gerald Conners:** Gerald Conners was a former Governor of Kansas before Plains was established as a state. Due to many of his constituents being former farmers, he is a proponent of government-subsidized programs to support small-time farmers. He is a small-time farmer himself, raising a small herd of cattle. Like Iowa, the plains have seen a decline in population due to the loss of industry.

#### **17. Utah**

**Nicole Hodges:** Hodges is a former elementary school teacher and the wife of a prominent Church of Latter-Day Saints preacher in Salt Lake City. Her platform is focused on instilling "traditional family values" into the youth of America and has a defined sense of right and wrong, which adds to her rhetoric on the Senate floor. She is one of the strongest proponents of increased police control of cities and has even proposed sending in federal troops to help quell the violence. She has argued that traditional values have directly kept the crime rate in Utah low compared to other states.



## **18. Colorado**

**Lindsay Turner:** Turner is a former Secretary of State and US ambassador to the UN who is leading her state in the time of an identity crisis. The state government of Colorado is in favor of seceding from the United States and joining other Western states who were not affected as much by the climate disaster. Unlike her state government, Turner wants to keep the union united as negotiating new treaties and trade agreements with other countries in the wake of succession would be a logistical nightmare that she feels would cripple the new country in its infancy. She is also concerned that in the event of succession, Colorado would be the site for future conflict as it shares a large, flat land border with the states east of the Rockies.

## **19. California**

**Trisha Dedrick:** Trisha Dedrick is a former Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of California. During her time as secretary, Trisha witnessed the federal government's lack of initiative as large swathes of farmland in the central valley of California were destroyed by flooding and excessive heat. Due to coastal flooding and rising sea levels, the capital of California was moved to Fresno due to its higher elevation. Due to the growing divide between the Eastern and Western sides of the country, Trisha is one of the leading members in the increasingly popular secession movement in the Western United States.

## **20. Cascadia**

To form a more closely integrated region of the United States, Oregon and Washington joined together to form Cascadia. Oregon and Washington shared similar cultural values and felt more connected to each other than the federal government. Cascadia lost smaller amounts of territory compared to states on the eastern side of the country. However, their major population centers were heavily affected by the rise of sea levels. Cascadia is one of the leading voices in the secessionist movement and strives for independence away from the out of touch federal government.

**Max Jones:** Max Jones worked at a non-profit and as a mayor for his hometown of Bend, Oregon, before becoming a state representative and now state senator for Cascadia. He, along with a large portion of his constituents, is an environmentalist who wants to try to preserve what is left of the natural world. Due to the lack of commonality between the progressive Cascadia and the status quo attitude of the federal government, Jones has emerged as one of the leaders in the growing secession movement in the Western half of the United States.

## **21. Minnesota**

**Elaine Comstock:** Minnesota has emerged as the leading technology innovation hub of the United States due to the widely available space and its proximity to the new, temporary capital. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people have moved from California and Arizona who once worked in tech into what is now known as Silicon Lake, referencing the claim that Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes. Comstock was a state representative, mayor of Minneapolis, and member of the House of Representatives before being elected to Congress. She proposed landmark bills regulating Artificial Intelligence and thinks it is the key to helping solve the humanitarian crisis in the United States.

## **22. Wisconsin**

Wisconsin has suffered from a severe decline in dairy farming due to increased temperatures. The dairy industry still exists in Wisconsin but in a much lower capacity than before. There are many small-scale farms in Wisconsin, yet they have had to move most of their operations inside to better accommodate the needs of the cows.

**Natasha Bannerman:** Natasha Bannerman has served dutifully as a senator for four straight terms. She is beloved by the people of Wisconsin due to her advocating heavily for the rights of dairy farmers. After attending the University of Wisconsin, Bannerman became a congressional staffer and quickly became well-connected. After being in Congress for three decades, she has become very well connected and respected as a public servant.

## **23. Iowa**

Similar to California, Iowa has been ravaged by the increase in temperatures. Nearly 90% of Iowa's land was used for corn farming or other agricultural practices. Due to the loss of livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people, many Iowans moved to far more prosperous Illinois. The remaining population of Iowa are small-scale farmers who are trying to reignite their identity as a state.

**Elliot Clifton:** Being a former farmer himself, Elliot Clifton is the strong voice of his relatively small constituency. He is one of the leading figures on the senate floor who is arguing for the rights of farmers and for solutions on how to combat rising temperatures while continuing to farm. Elliot is a proponent of the use of GMOs to try and create crops that are more resilient to heat.

## **24. Illinois**

Compared to other states, Illinois has fared much better. With the national capital moving to Chicago, thousands of young professionals and wealthy government employees have moved to the city. Illinois was able to mitigate much of its agricultural losses with

massive amounts of direct investment from the federal government. Illinois has emerged as the most powerful state in the union.

**Keegan Young:** Keegan Young served as the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois before becoming a senator. He moved up the ranks in the judicial system, starting as a Cook County state attorney. After Chicago became the de facto capital of the country, Young became incredibly influential in the Senate.

## **25. Ozarka**

What now remains of Arkansas has been incorporated into the territory of Missouri and renamed Ozarka. The majority of former Arkansas farmlands along the Mississippi River have been flooded and destroyed. Missouri incorporated the rest of Arkansas into their territory. Missouri has been left unaffected by the rising sea levels. However, the increase in temperature has left the fields of Missouri barren. Ozark has become one of the major industrial powerhouses of the country thanks to Walmart and its proximity to the capital city of Chicago.

**Alyssa Palmer:** For 15 years, Alyssa Palmer worked on the Board of Directors for Walmart. Walmart has continued as one of the major grocery chains and major retailers in the country. She has a knack for business and has continued to keep wages relatively consistent in Ozarka, even after multiple major climate crises. Palmer is an advocate for the expansion of industry through sustainable measures to ensure the continued success of Ozarka.

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