

Sophia Gomelsky

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EDUCATION

University of Wyoming

Expected December 2025

B.A. Political Science | *Minors: Honors, Interdisciplinary Pre-law, Spanish, Arabic*

B.A. International Studies | *Concentration: Governance & Conflict Resolution, Middle East & North Africa Region*

Activities and Involvement

- Model Arab League Vice Chair, Middle East & North Africa Club, Inaugural Middle East Film Festival, Students for International Experiential Learning, Collegiate Policy Debate, Political Science Club, Women's Law Forum, Queer Community Coalition, College Democrats, UW Freedom of Expression Working Group, Wyoming Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Awards and Recognitions

- **Outstanding Delegation (1st place), National Model Arab League Competition** 2025
- **U.S. Senate Youth Delegate**, United States Senate 2023
- **Young Women in Public Affairs Award**, Zonta International 2023
- **U.S. Ambassador, Dubai Global Youth Summit** 2025
- **Youngest-Ever Elected Student Senator x2**, Associated Students of UW 2023, 2024
- Student Rotarian, Laramie Rotary Club 2023
- Honors Colloquium Excellence Award, UW Honors College 2024
- **Nominated Outstanding Delegation**, Regional College Model Arab League Conference x2 2023, 2024
- **Wyoming Girls State Governor**, American Legion Auxiliary 2022
- Full Ride Scholarship to Harvard Undergrad IR Scholars Program 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Legislative Aide, *Wyoming Senate Minority Leader*

Apr. 2022 - Present

- Actively track 400+ bills during the legislative session; Participate in year-round hearings and committees.
- Produce research and reports on policy areas such as gun violence prevention, reproductive freedom, healthcare access, education, LGBTQIA+ rights, criminal justice, and cryptocurrency.
- Work directly with other legislators, government officials, and state-wide stakeholders toward bipartisan cooperation; Develop independent passion projects and garner support.
- Created and manage Wikipedia page as well as social media (1k+ followers); Constituent communications.

International Human Rights Clinic Intern, *UW College of Law*

Aug. 2024 - Dec. 2024

- Attended weekly seminars on international human rights law, with emphasis on state responsibility, refugee protection, and border governance.
- Conducted legal research and policy analysis on proposed U.S. asylum and immigration legislation, using international legal frameworks as comparative standards.
- Co-authored a policy report recommending humane and legally sound reforms to the southern border crisis, incorporating bipartisan insights and international human rights principles; findings shared with Congressional Delegation.

Student Diplomat, *Global Center for International Experiential Learning (CIEL)*

May 2023 - May 2024

- **Israel, Palestine (West Bank) Program (July-Aug 2023):** Participated in a faculty-led dual-narrative educational and field engagement in Amman, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Haifa, Qalqilya, and Ramallah; Met with Israeli and Palestinian officials, bereaved families, youth, NGO leaders, diplomats, and UN representatives (including UNHCR and OCHA); Visited Aida, the Tent of Nations, the Separation Wall, the Cave of the Patriarchs, Yad

Vashem, and historic neighborhoods in East and West Jerusalem; Explored grassroots peacebuilding, trauma response, and reconciliation initiatives.

- **Vietnam & Cambodia Abroad Program (Dec-Jan 2024):** Explored the political narratives of colonization, indignation, genocide, memorialization, and active reconciliation efforts; Investigated political prisons, sites of the Cambodian Genocide, and spoke with historical witnesses.
- **US-Mexico Border Program (May 2024):** Examined border and immigration issues through fieldwork and guided tours; Engaged with US Border Patrol, activists, migrants, NGOs, and political representatives; Assisted in placing water stations on desert migration routes; Visited migrant and asylum seeker shelters.
- **Türkiye Program (Dec-Jan 2025):** Studied Turkish political identity, civil society, and state-society relations; Engaged with local scholars, NGOs, and policy experts to examine regional governance, memory politics, and Türkiye's evolving role in the Middle East.

Alternative Break Volunteer, *Border Servant Corps*

Mar. 2024

- **NM/TX Immigration and Border Issues Travel Program-** Gained a comprehensive understanding of immigration and borderland issues by engaging with first-gen immigrants and local orgs; Studied immigration law and economic policies.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Director of Governmental Affairs, *Associated Students of the University of Wyoming*

Aug. 2024 - Present

- Represent ASUW and UW student interests to university upper administration, city, and state governments.
- Led successful lobbying efforts during the 2025 Wyoming Legislative Session, securing the passage of a Good Samaritan Fatal Overdose Prevention Law and killing a Student ID Voter Restriction Bill.
- Designed and conducted individualized lobbying training for over a dozen students, equipping them with advocacy skills and accompanying them to the state capitol to testify on ASUW-backed legislation.
- Planned and executed a 2024 Candidate Meet & Greet event for students to speak directly with candidates running for local, state, and national offices.

Council Member, *Wyoming State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice*

Aug. 2024 - Present

- Gubernatorial appointment; Contribute youth insight and perspective on critical juvenile justice issues.
- Collaborate with experts to develop and annually review prioritized recommendations for juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and youth services programs.
- Serve on the Outreach & Youth and Legislative Committees.
- Public relations and raising awareness with juvenile justice stakeholders, as well as the general public.

Wyoming State Director, *March For Our Lives (MFOL)*

May 2021 - May 2022

- Spearheaded grassroots action and political advocacy, which consisted of lobbying, volunteer recruitment, community service, and non-partisan voter registration.
- Fostered relationships with community and local organizations.
- Wrote and edited grant proposals; received funding for food drive and rent relief initiative.
- Scheduled, and oversaw projects and regular meetings; Managed social media accounts.

Featured Activism

- [Organized Capitol Die-In Protest](#); Testified Against [Guns in Schools Bills](#), [Repealing Gun-Free Zones](#), [‘Show Me Your Papers’ Bill](#), [Banning DEI Instruction](#), [Prohibiting DEI Funding](#), [Anti-Trans Bathrooms Bill](#), [Anti-Trans Athletes Bill](#), [Student Voter Disenfranchisement](#), and more.