

LIVING WITH THE EXECUTIVE

Senior Jake Page reflects on his experiences being son of a politician

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associate editor

Senior Jake Page, son of St. Louis County Executive Sam Page, pulls his phone out of his pocket and sees over 120 notifications. People he has never met before are requesting to follow his Instagram and adding him by username on Snapchat. He opens Instagram and clicks on an Instagram story. The story has his home address on it, announcing a protest against his father's Executive Order that majorly restricts youth sports. Four days later, Jake Page looks out his window to see and hear over 200 protesters chanting "let them play."

Jake Page has been surrounded by local politics for all of his life. His father, Sam Page, has held many government positions. He has been the representative for Creve Coeur City Council's 3rd Ward, Missouri's 82nd District and St. Louis County Council's 2nd District. He became the County Executive April 29, 2019 after former County Executive Steve Stenger was arrested.

"My dad [holding this position] doesn't feel that special to me because he's always been in government," Jake Page said. "I don't

think it's that cool, but I think other people find it cooler than I do."

Leading up to both the Aug. 4 Democratic Primary and the Nov. 3 general election, the Page family dealt with many attack ads and statements. For example, Jake Zimmerman, a Democratic candidate in the primary, claimed that Sam Page aimed to cut COVID-19 response funds. Additionally, Paul Berry III, the Republican County Executive candidate, campaigned with the slogan "Dump Sam Page."

"My family is used to the negative comments," Sam Page said. "It goes with the territory of public service. I am sure that some people will look back on some of the things that were said and done in 2020 and not be proud of their choices. I can only hope they make better choices in the future."

After Sam Page placed controversial restrictions on sports Sept. 9, threats were made on social media that got the attention of the police. For five days, over 200 people also protested the restrictions at the Page family's house. Jake Page even recalls Paul Berry III attending these protests to pass out signs and campaign.

"It's not really a normal thing for people to go protest at the government official's house," Jake Page said. "They protest at the buildings, his office maybe, but not his house. The protests were definitely free publicity

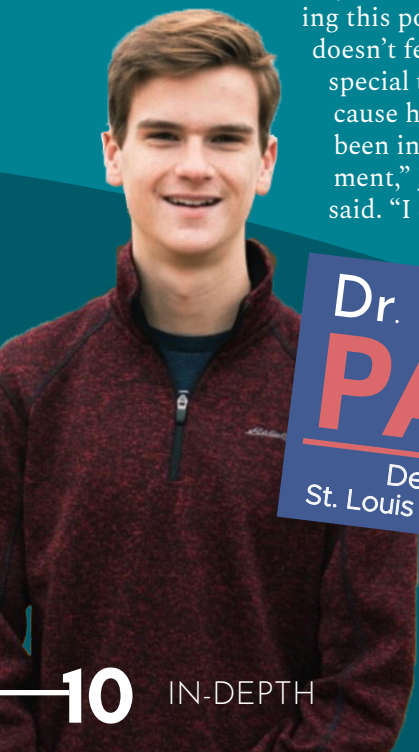
for Paul Berry III though."

Despite some of the negative occurrences that have happened, Jake Page and his mother, Jennifer Page, recognize that many positive things also come out of being the family of the County Executive. In addition to receiving an inside look to the workings of local government, they also get to watch a member of their family help to better the community.

"Jake has grown up with a rare opportunity to see firsthand the importance of community service and the value of having someone committed to the health and welfare of the community in office," Jennifer Page said. "I am very proud of Jake and our Ladue community for their civic participation and awareness."

As Sam Page begins his second term as St. Louis County Executive, he aims to address humanitarian, economic and public health concerns. While Sam Page understands the difficulties and challenges posed by the pandemic, he remains optimistic about the strength and unity of the St. Louis community.

"We are living through a difficult time in our history. You will be telling your kids and grandkids about 2020," Sam Page said. "We will get through this together. It will require sacrifice from everyone, but we are a resilient community. I have great confidence that we will make it through this together." ☐



Dr. Sam
PAGE
Democrat for
St. Louis County Executive

#LetThem
PLAY

FACE COVERINGS
REQUIRED



Saint Louis
COUNTY
MISSOURI

Political Perspectives

Panorama polled 154 Ladue students Nov. 5

Sources: Helen Petrofsky & Student Enrollment and Projections School Board Presentation

illustration by | SOPHIA LIU

POLLING
STATION
→

8% of students are
eligible to vote

34% of students approve of the
electoral college

25% of eligible students voted
absentee or mail-in

40% of students live in the
1st Voting District

55% of students live in the
2nd Voting District

86% of students approve of
mail-in voting