Donald J. Trump claims victory as early results for the presidential election release. Carlos Barria | Reuters

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

DÉJÀ VU – ALL OVER, AGAIN?

As of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, the results of the 2020 Presidential Election still remain in limbo. Despite the uncertainty outcomes, President Donald J. Trump declared his victory against former Vice President Joseph R. Biden later in the night, when many key swing states previously predicted to turn blue, appeared in the Republican president’s favor.

Much of the night looked closely at the race between Biden and Trump in each major state, ten of which make up 193 of the 270 electoral college votes required to win. At 3:30 a.m., Trump held the majority of swing states. Many mail-in ballots are still being counted, so experts agreed it’s too early to call.

Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs stated that many Upper Midwest States could not count ballots until Election Day, meaning election results may be delayed for several hours if not several days. Biden stressed patience in consideration of the remaining mail-in ballots.

“We’re going to have to be patient,” Biden said, exercising caution during one of his Election Day speeches.

The former Vice President expressed optimism in mail-in ballots turning the tides for undeclared swing states.

Trump had a different take on the mail-in ballots still being counted, “Votes cannot be cast after the polls are closed!” Trump tweeted at 12:49 a.m. Trump followed up with a speech at 2:21 a.m. calling the mail in ballots “a fraud on the American public.” Trump promised to bring the issue of mail-in ballots to the Supreme Court of the United States as seven swing states had yet to be called.

Without any major news networks making a final call on the election, Trump declared victory in the same speech. “We will win this and as far as I’m concerned, we have won it,” Trump said.

The Biden campaign announced that they are ready for a legal battle to defend mail-in ballots. As of 3:30 a.m., Biden has not released any announcement detailing how he plans on combating Trump in the Supreme Court to defend mail-in ballots.

Three of the ten major swing states announced victory, with Biden winning Minnesota and Trump winning North Carolina and Georgia. Five of the remaining seven swing states are projected to favor Trump. The remaining swing states range from 72% to 95% of votes counted.

Political beliefs nest at home

Annabelle McCracken
Wilmington Wave

“Aware” and “open-minded”; these were the two most common words used by college students when asked how college has shaped their political beliefs.

In light of the 2020 election, several college students were questioned about how their college experience has shaped or changed their political views.

“My political views have kind of changed, but if anything I have just come to realize there is a lot more grey than white,” said Kameron Williamson, a senior biology major at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

According to Williamson, he has not strayed far from his original political beliefs while attending UNCW, realizing that, despite seeming primarily conservative, there are other individuals also on campus who have a more liberal mindset like his own.

“It was nice to meet those who attend that are more open minded,” Williamson said.

The idea of open-mindedness is something Tara Blevins, a sophomore nursing major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is familiar with.

“I have definitely become more open-minded. I am more okay with multiple types of views because I have seen them more now,” Blevins said.

Blevins also stated that she has more freedom to form her own political beliefs now that she is no longer under the influence of her family and friends from home. This seems to be a commonality for many college students.

“The exposure to others and what they believe has helped me not feel judged by others for having my own opinions now that I have the freedom to do so,” Blevins said.

“Freedom” was another word that was used often by college students when describing the transition from home-life to college.

Like Blevins, Abby Yount, a sophomore special education major at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, agreed that the freedom she was granted in college played a huge role in the shaping of her political beliefs.

“Growing up, my parents did not keep politics in the house so I never formed an opinion, moving to Charlotte and being around so many different opinions impacted how I was able to form my own along with the freedom to do so,” Yount said.

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see PRESIDENT on page 3
PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT

Twenty-two UNCW students, from two different sections of “Introduction to Journalism,” came together on Election Day (and Night, and the long, lonely hours before dawn) to create this paper on deadline. They’ve aptly named it the Wilmington Wave.

Our world is vast, and news of it, relentless. Stories crest and crash on readers, portents of hope and despair. These waves of information can be exhilarating, and they can feel dangerous. We’re drawn to the news, as we are to the sea, to watch, to listen, and to feel.

I’m not sure these students considered all of that when they signed up for this course. Few of them are journalism minors; most confessed to taking the course because it satisfied certain general education requirements. And yet they came together during a pandemic, during the most contentious, most vital election in the past 100 years, during the stress of quarantine and multimodal-learning to make a newspaper. To arrest, for contentious, most vital election in the past 100 years, during the stress of quarantine and multimodal-learning to make a newspaper. To arrest, for contentious, most vital election in the past 100 years, during the stress of quarantine and multimodal-learning to make a newspaper. To arrest, for content, most vital election in the past 100 years, during the stress of quarantine and multimodal-learning to make a newspaper.

To commit those stories to print, and to share them with their community. Our paper is 14 pages long, and those students are responsible for every element you are holding in your hands. They reported. They wrote. Our paper is 14 pages long, and those students are responsible for every element you are holding in your hands. They reported. They wrote.

They’ve also learned the realities of journalism. That it is steeped in professionalism, accuracy, and fairness. That “fake news” is a bogeymen designed to confuse, undermine, and sow conflict. They’ve learned that it’s hard to come up with story ideas, and call people out of the blue. It’s hard to sort through notes and write leads and keep subjective language out of a story. Headlines are hard. Deadlines are hard.

But it’s all necessary. It’s necessary because we live amidst a sea of misinformation and misdirection. Riptides of alternative facts, anti-science, and conspiracy theories—in other words: lies—threaten how we understand our world and how we understand each other. And it is the journalist’s job, it was the job of these students, to wade into those waters and separate fact from fiction.

Like all journalists, they cannot control how readers, listeners, and viewers use the information they provide, but they can control the rigor of the reporting and the fairness of their articles.

And so they came together, many meeting each other for the first time. They spread out across three classrooms, masked and socially distant. They synched via Zoom. They chatted across Slack. They committed themselves to a project of unknown depth, and here, at 6:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, they still have not touched bottom. There are still many unknowns about this election and what it means for the future of this nation. But journalists, including some of these students, will continue to be there, meeting those waves wherever they may take us.

Dr. Josh Rolland
Assistant Professor
Department of English
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#PRESIDENT
Registered Democrats made up a majority of mail-in ballots, leaving Republicans as the majority of in-person voters. While Democrat voters are predicted to make up the remaining ballots, it’s still too early to say if there’s enough ballots in support of Biden to pull him ahead.

Biden held Minnesota and is predicted to win Arizona and Nevada, leaving 26 electoral votes needed for him to win the presidency. If at least two states shift blue after all mail-in ballots are counted, there is a strong chance Biden could win the election.

The Biden campaign appears to have faith in mail-in ballots pushing Biden over Trump to secure the presidency. As stated by Biden, “It ain’t over until every vote is counted.”

According to Raymond, she has not taken any liberal arts style courses that could sway her beliefs and she tends to stick with like-minded individuals.

“I am a bleeding red conservative and if anything I have gotten stronger in my beliefs, there are a lot of people around here who believe the same and I’m not taking classes that would change my beliefs,” Raymond said.

Being influenced by their parents’ political beliefs is something James McMillian, a sophomore psychology major at UNCW, felt awareness was the vital aspect of her beliefs. She mentioned that her parents are both political science professors and have both traveled a lot.

According to Ashcraft, with her background and experiences, she has seen several different views and values, and as a result, she has become extremely aware of her political nature.

“I know in college, people become more aware of others and what they believe,” Ashcraft said.

“Being here, I have grown stronger in my political beliefs but I can see the difference in everybody else’s.”

Many factors go into determining one’s political beliefs, like family and regional influence, exposure, and awareness. The act of attending college itself does not determine a change in one’s political beliefs; it is the individual experience one encounters while attending college that does.

BELIEFS
The exposure and freedom that is granted with the college experience are largely at play when it comes to the reformation of political beliefs. However, this is not true for everyone. Some individuals remain firm in their views. This can be a result of family member influence, regional influence, or the lack of branching out one in college.

For Jackie Raymond, a freshman nursing major at Averett University her parents and the town in which she was raised have had a huge effect on her political beliefs.

“My parents are both extremely conservative and I grew up in the church,” Raymond said. “There are very few Democrats in my hometown. You would see rebel flags on the way to school.”

#BELIEFS
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Students for Trump Leave a Mark

Anna Mohr

Monday night, student supporters of President Trump covered University of North Carolina Wilmington sidewalks outside of the Fisher Student Union with chalk messages criticizing Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

These denunciations were often supported with pro-Trump statements, as well as tagged with the social media handle @sft_wilmingt, which stands for Students for Trump.

The topic and tone of the anti-Biden screeds had a juvenile air. Many focused on Biden sniffing children’s hair.

“Hunt Biden trafficked kids and women so Joe Biden could sniff them,” one message read, referring to false accusations put forth by the far-right conspiracy theory group QAnon.

QAnon emerged in American political discourse earlier this year, with their main message being the United States contains a “deep state” filled with Satan-worshipping pedophiles who are plotting against Donald Trump. Political experts have largely debunked all of their claims.

Nonetheless, those messages found their way onto UNCW sidewalks on the eve of the election.

Other writings included, “Biden simps for China” and “Trump survived corona, Biden hides.”

Not everyone appreciated these postings. Three students, Marcus Mudd, Stuart Mitchells, and Akira Collins, came together to “replace hate with love.”

“It’s just hearsay and slander, it’s not productive at all,” said Collins, a UNCW junior in Studio Arts.

Mudd, Mitchells, and Collins erased multiple messages around campus and replaced them with “Black Lives Matter” and pro-LGBT statements.

The students also spray-painted the rock outside of Fisher Student Union, which previously displayed “MAGA” multiple times and encouraged people to “Vote red.”

“We were upset,” Collins said, “we didn’t feel safe.”

The rock now sports a “Black Lives Matter” fist and a jab at Trump, saying “Love Trump’s Hate.”

Like many college campuses, political tensions are high among students as this historical election nears its end. These overnight messages may be the first of many in the following days.

On-Campus Voting: Another Casualty of COVID-19

Ian Higgins

The University of North Carolina Wilmington’s campus precinct on election day was located at the Burney Center, opening at 6:30 a.m. and closing at 7:30 p.m.

Turnout at the Burney Center never managed to hit the usual election day marks expected of the precinct. Voters arrived steadily throughout the day, but at no point was the precinct out of its depth.

“We’ve had relatively low voter turnout, haven’t had too many people, not much of a wait,” said Zoe Wilcox, a volunteer with the bipartisan group Democracy NC. “Not very high turnout, but it was consistent throughout.”

According to Wilcox, this consistent turnout of one to two voters every minute began taking a significant downturn at 6 p.m.

According to Nadine Gibson, Assistant Professor of Public and International Affairs at UNCW, by Oct. 31, New Hanover county already had 63.4% voter turnout and North Carolina had a statewide turnout rate of 53.8%.

This significant increase in early voting methods during COVID-19 significantly reduced pressure on election-day precincts.

According to members of the UNCW College Democrats, early voting turnout for the 2020 election has matched or exceeded the 2016 voting turnout. North Carolina.

Another factor reducing the number of election day voters at the Burney Center is the lack of on-campus residents still present at UNCW. “Students aren’t on-campus anymore, they all went home,” said Gibson.

Students residing on-campus make up a large portion of voters designated to the Burney Center precinct, but many of these votes are being cast from their family homes.

Black Student Union Focuses On Presidential Election

Canvas Pegues

Chris J. Neal, UNCW senior and president of University Of North Carolina Wilmington’s activist group Black Student Union, shared his and the BSU’s thoughts and feelings towards this year’s election.

“This year’s election is crucial and I do believe it is a turning point for America,” Neal said. “We are at a crucial decision making point.”

The BSU is a strong on-campus activist group that encourages the overall rights and opportunities of African American people at UNCW.

According to the BSU’s constitution, the purpose of its existence is to “observe and improve the general welfare of black students as well as race relations on the campus of the University of North Carolina Wilmington.”

“BSU is living true to our purpose, constantly improving and observing the general welfare of black students at UNCW,” Neal said. “Speaking on their behalf included.”

Neal admits many may not agree with BSU’s values or his right to speak on their behalf.

Although, he believes that he is fighting for black voices and the expansion of multicultural environments that encourage opportunities for predictive, peaceful interactions.

Described as the most important election in history, it is important that people know what’s at stake as Americans and especially as students since we are the future of our country, according to Neal and BSU’s democratic standpoint.

When asked who he voted for Neal said, “the candidate who stood for BIPOC rights … the one who stands for women’s rights.”

Neal’s strong political stance aligned with BSU’s preamble statement. “I voted for the person who stands with my brothers and sisters.”

“As BSU, we ask that people use their right to vote in order for their voice to be heard,“ Neal said, when asked what efforts he and his group are making to get people on board with them casting votes that progress towards their goals.

“We ask for everyone to remember who and what they are voting for,” he said.
Classroom Opinions in Higher Education Mirror Divided Election Discourse in General Public

Grayson Toal
Wilmington Wave

Mixed feelings arise from both University of North Carolina Wilmington faculty and students surrounding political discourse and election talk in class.

Major divides in political parties and views present a dilemma to many students and teachers on the importance of political discussion and its place in the classroom.

“Political science classes are always political, students have strong feelings about things,” said Dr. Aaron King, a UNCW Associate Professor in Political Science. “I really try to approach things from a scientific perspective and students are good at that too.”

It’s clear that discourse around elections is not reserved for just political science classes, as a variety of UNCW courses present environments where students and faculty can engage openly in political discourse and discussion.

Despite this environment, the subjectivity of these discussions is widely ridiculed in American politics. “Pundits and lawmakers sometimes accuse professors of being liberals who indoctrinate their students,” said Colleen Flaherty, who is an Inside Higher Ed faculty issues reporter.

“Higher education is often criticized by the Right for indoctrinating our students into liberal or even Marxist ideology,” said Dr. Bill Bolduc, UNCW Associate Professor of Communication Studies. “I call BS on that criticism.”

Experts on higher education faculty political leanings note that “faculty members’ political beliefs do run left.” Although, according to Flaherty, “even conservative students don’t generally feel pressured to think a certain way.”

“In the past I’ve tried not to wear my political beliefs on my sleeve in the classroom,” Dr. Bolduc said. “I encourage students to create substantive and meaningful content … and we spend time discussing what that means.”

According to one UNCW student, this stance is not embraced by all teachers.

“English professors for discussion boards … every single one he’s put is election based and biased,” said Ashley Stew- art, a UNCW sophomore in marine Biology. “He’ll put articles baying pick a side of it, but all the article’s are towards his view so we only get to see one side of it.”

Though some believe in political discussion’s misplacement in the classroom, Kelly Siegel-Stechler, PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, thinks that students and faculty experience certain benefits from these conversations.

“When students aren’t able to engage in these conversations, they often end up drawing stereotypical conclusions about those who are different from them,” said Siegel-Stechler. “Diving into these conversations is well worth it.”

Although political discourse is worth delving into, it’s crucial that the “discussion is about exchange of ideas, not a battle royale to find out who is the most ‘right’,” Flaherty said.

“I wouldn’t say anything we have discussed has been biased, it has informed me more,” said Georgie Anastasie, UNCW senior in anthropology. “Anthropology really dissects social inequalities so indirectly we have been discussing the election when we speak about policies that have negative effects on one group of people.”

Some students, due to the nature of their class modality, do not feel it’s necessary for political discourse to exist.

“I don’t have any real contact with my professors,” Kenny Hildaabram, UNCW senior in environmental studies, said. “It would be very inappropriate for them to say anything, so I don’t feel that I’ve been exposed to it in my classroom.”

In addition to the situation of classrooms, COVID-19 effects on universities have factored into the relationships between teachers and students. Without the face-to-face interactions and classroom chatter, election conversations may be harder to come by.

“It’s exhausting … navigating the pandemic and also trying to figure out what the hell is going on with politics,” Dr. King said. “But I’m glad I study something that’s so relevant.”

One more obstacle for UNCW voters this election

Hannah McDonnell
Wilmington Wave

As new University of North Carolina Wilmington voters began figuring out who to vote for and where to vote, despite having many different alternative options to vote, they had one less option than the general public: early voting.

Although other universities have provided early voting on campus, former Chief of Staff Max Allen points out that UNCW never has. UNCW is the largest four-year, enrollment-wise, without an early voting location.

In past years, according to Allen, the university did not have space available for early voting. However, according to a letter written in 2012 by UNCW Professor of Hispanic Linguistics, Dr. Amanda Boomerish, if the university did hold early voting, more than 14,000 students, faculty and staff would have more accessible means of voting.

Even though the university does not provide early voting, UNCW’s Office of Student Leadership and Engagement has encouraged students, faculty, and staff to vote and provided answers to any questions they may have when it came to voting and the election itself.

OSLE has provided access to election forms and materials including registration forms in English and Spanish, absentee ballot request forms, and a voter guide for UNCW students. They can also help voters fill out and submit forms and ballots.

Along with providing forms and ballots, OSLE holds Civic Action Workshops, virtual chats with election experts and other resources for students.

Although conventional early voting was not an option, UNCW students still had other early voting alternatives. One of these alternatives was through absentee ballots via the United States Postal Services in the Fisher University Union on campus.

“UNCW has been using their postal services as an alternative method to vote for many years, however, they have not considered a polling place but rather a service that mails packages and ballots through the USPS,” said Andy Kosch, a Postal Vote Associate at the Seahawk Mail.

One more obstacle for UNCW students to have virtual chats with experts to further their election education.

These 30 minute Q&A webinars started in early September and were held each week up until election day. These virtual chats discussed absentee ballots, the importance of voting, different policies, social injustice, and health care.

Since the election has come to an end, OSLE will be holding one more Beyond The Vote workshop on Nov. 10, at 3:30 p.m.

This workshop is going to be focused on activism and accountability, which will provide students with additional ways to make their voices heard. It will cover information on how to hold elected officials accountable through letter writing, petitions, and participating in boycotts or protests.

Tyler Earles
Wilmington Wave

The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement, located in the Fisher Student Center, is the “Election Hub” at The University of North Carolina Wilmington. With their guidance, students had the access to get all the information they needed to vote for their preferred candidate.

Given that most students enter college at 18 years old, voting in the upcoming election was new to them. They may have no idea where to start, who to vote for, or what political issues top the agenda.

OSLE shares a 2020 Candidate Resource voter guide that helped students make their voting decisions. This voter guide shares information about North Carolina and national candidates alike. It goes over each of their parties, websites, backgrounds, favorite endorsements, and more.

OSLE also offered a series of workshops to educate students on election basics, such as how to register, how to vote, where to vote, and what to expect once casting your vote.

After students had the opportunity to get the election and voting basics, their next step was the Politics of Policy workshop. This was available for students in late October to learn about the types of policy decisions that are made at the local, state, and federal level.

Besides civic action workshops, OSLE allowed students to have virtual chats with experts to further their election education.

UNCW campus shows support for BLM.

OBSTACLE
Quick and Easy: Election Day in Wilmington

Dylan Saunooke
Wilmington Wave

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing Wilmington residents to either vote early or mail-in their ballots, many polling locations did not see as many Election Day voters as years prior.

Electioneers at Lifepoint Church, Mosley Performance Learning Center, and Wilmington’s Senior Center agree that the rise in early voting and mail-in ballots have helped in-person voting run more smoothly and more efficiently.

“It has been a little bit lighter than we have seen in years past with all the extensive early voting” said Pete Wildeboer, the Republican candidate for New Hanover County’s Board of Education.

“I understand 70% of this precinct had already early voted so that was to be expected” said Linda Murphy, Republican election poll lead at the Lifepoint Church polling location.

Voting at the majority of the polling locations in Wilmington was a very quick and easy process with little to no line.

“Zero, no wait at all,” Murphy said, when asked about the wait time at her polling location.

According to Todd Godbey, a Democrat election poll lead at the Lifepoint Church polling site, COVID-19 has played a huge role in people voting early and mailing in ballots in order to not come in contact with too many people. This, in turn, has caused less people to vote on Election Day.

“I think that, because early voting has been intense, it has lessened the volume of people trying to squeeze in on Election Day,” Democrat Thom Ballis said.

“Voting at this precinct has been very slow, right now there are 215 people who have voted all day long,” said Godbey. “Turnouts across the county, turnouts across the state have been phenomenal, but voting today in New Hanover County seems to be relatively low.”

While voting at the Lifepoint Church location saw little turnout, voting at the Mosley Performance Learning Center was much different.

“It’s been great, we’ve had a fair number of people come through here, never got backed up too much, and it was steady throughout the day, no problems, no one shouting, no one getting upset, everybody just coming, voting, and leaving,” said a Democratic veteran who asked to remain anonymous.

Whether they voted two weeks ago, mailed in their ballot, or voted on election day most Wilmington residents had similar Election Day voting experiences this year.

“It was very peaceful, it was very civil, we had a nice turnout,” Murphy said.

“I voted a couple days ago, I voted at the government center and I was in and out in 15 minutes, maybe less than 15, it was quick and easy,” said Chris Scholer, Republican election poll lead at Mosley Performance Learning Center.

“Voting today was very easy, I was in and out in about 15 minutes with no hassle at all,” voter Anthony Grant said.

Voters, electioneers, Republicans, and Democrats all had similar sentiments toward voting. Election Day in Wilmington was quick, easy, and painless.

Wilmington: The Swing City

Anna Ross Simpson
Wilmington Wave

With the 2020 election underway, University of North Carolina at Wilmington Political Science Professor Aaron King, explains why Wilmington is the City to win this election year.

North Carolina is a crucial swing state within the 2020 election. Furthermore, the city of Wilmington, the biggest city in New Hanover County, has become a swing city in itself.

According to North Carolina voter registration statistics as of election day 2020, New Hanover county has 52,987 registered democrats and 55,122 registered republicans. Both of these figures though are overshadowed by the 67,589 voters who chose to avoid party labels and registered ‘unaffiliated.’

Going from beach, to campus, to city life in Wilmington, these three factors that make Wilmington, as King explained, the in-between city that it is for presidential elections.

“If it’s the case that Trump is favored in the rural areas, and Biden is favored a lot in the urban areas, Wilmington is sort of somewhere in-between that,” King said.

“We are not nearly as rural and as large as Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Durham,” King said. “In our area, New Hanover County, President Trump won by about 3 to 4 points in 2016. Just over 50% of the vote.”

Managing to collect enough votes in 2016, President Trump had won in Wilmington and furthermore in North Carolina.

“I guess I am safe to say, if Trump wins, Trump can’t win North Carolina without winning New Hanover County,” King said.

Wilmington, while still upholding its current value as a crucial city in the swing state of North Carolina, hasn’t always been so politically stable.

In 1898, a mob of 2,000 white men had overthrown the elected Fusion government. This went on to be referred to as “The Wilmington Massacre.”

Citizens in Wilmington originally said the event was a riot started by the African-American residents in the city, while others say it was seen as a coup.

Buildings and businesses run by black citizens all over Wilmington were destroyed. Black citizens were also harmed in this event, having an estimated 60 to 300 people killed in the coup.

Wilmington holds a unique historical value, and when juxtaposed to the current balance of power held between democrats and republicans within the county it further highlights the importance of this swing city.
The Wilmington Political Divide: A Chasm Manufactured by Imagination

Ian Higgins
Wilmington Wave

As the 2020 election season ran its course and constituents avidly voiced their opinions, the political divide continued its apparent growth which highlighted the 2016 election.

Wilmington emerged as one of the most highlighted locations displaying this divide, juxtaposing a deep racial history dating back to 1898 with the importance of the swing state within the election.

According to North Carolina voter registration statistics, New Hanover County currently has 52,884 registered Republicans and 54,942 registered Democrats. Mass signage within county lines as well as various other forms of candidate-advertising has flooded Wilmington, displaying the heated status of the battleground region.

Despite these outpourings, unaffiliated residents made up the most populous group, with 67,372 voters registered in New Hanover County.

“I don’t want to say there is necessarily a growing divide as much as very competitive politics in New Hanover County,” said Nadine Gibson, Assistant Professor of Public and International Affairs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

According to Gibson, New Hanover County has one of the closest registration figures between parties within the state of North Carolina, but the difference will be made by the efforts of those parties to convince the unaffiliated voter.

“Everything is a toss-up for New Hanover,” Gibson said. A major indication of this political competition in New Hanover County has emerged through sign-stealing.

According to Will Knecht, Chairman of the New Hanover County GOP, their campaign has estimated approximately $20,000 in stolen ‘Trump’ signage throughout the 2020 election.

In addition to this theft, the defacement of larger political signs for President Donald Trump and Dan Forest have highlighted the current tangible political tensions within Wilmington.

These conflicts are not universal though, as Knecht went on to express his appreciation for New Hanover County Democratic Party Chairman Richard Poole.

Poole is an “old school democrat” who understands the “spirit we need in the country,” Knecht said. “We’re both trying to make that the way of life at least here in New Hanover.”

On average, constituents of either party actually hold many of the same political views. According to Justin Holloman, a member of the UNCW College Democrats, there is a more significant difference of opinion between older voters than younger voters. Younger voters tend to be more agreeable upon issues such as gay marriage which highlight the overall progressive shift of American politics.

“A good way of conceptualizing polarization is not people getting further away, but people not agreeing on anything,” said Gibson. The political theory of partisan sorting dictates that the extremes of each side become more centralized, turning liberals to democrats and conservatives to republicans.

What causes our greatest political divides are the issues that are binary, with definitive solutions on each end of the spectrum, Gibson said. These issues include topics such as abortion and gay marriage.

Many of these same binary issues are also cleavage issues for many voters. According to Gibson, a cleavage issue is a political issue upon which an individual is willing to vote against their own party in order to accomplish. This cross between cleavage issues and binary issues which divide voters, create an even deeper segmentation between constituents.

The rise of the far-left and the democratic-socialist movement has presented a lead issue between the two parties.

“I think that Biden is a moderate candidate, I think that is a serious fear when all we’re trying to do is give the American people healthcare,” said Wendy Hunt, a volunteer for the New Hanover County Democratic Party.

“I believe that one reason is the breakdown of the American family, the encroachment of government programs on the lives and families of individuals,” said Knecht, pointing to one of his leading catalysts for the divide between parties. “The more we make people dependent on the government the more we go away from who we are as a nation, we become enslaved to a government welfare system that traps people.”

Although parties have become more distanced in their views whilst their voters continue to grow together, there is an alternative force driving the wedge between party lines. Numerous sources ranging in demographics and political affiliation, all pointed to the influence of major media as responsible for the political divide.

“It’s the media, we have in this country ‘freedom of the press,’ but now that has turned into suppression by the press,” said Bryce David, a Republican voter.

“I put more blame on the media and human nature, we don’t like to hear information we disagree with,” said Gibson.

“Now that we have thousands of channels, why would we force ourselves to listen to something we disagree with?”

Gibson pointed to the media as the reason for the divide because of their focus on ratings and revenue. “We had two competing town halls. NBC said no, we want some of that money too so we’ll hold a competing town hall so ABC doesn’t get as many viewers,” Gibson said.
### STATE

**Gov. Cooper retains seat; Tillis, Cunningham still too close to call**  
Shaun Edwards, Connor Ryan, Annabelle McCrackens  
*Wilmington Wave*

As of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, 95% of the precincts reported showing Governor Roy Cooper in the lead at 51.5%, 24% of the precincts reported Rep. Senator Thom Tillis in the lead at 48.7% in the Senate race, not too far behind was Dem. Cal Cunningham reporting at 46.9%.

In the North Carolina Senate race, all 50 seats were up for re-election this year. Republicans ended up with more control of the senate with a difference of only five more senators than Democrats.

There was a similar victory for the Republicans in North Carolina's State House of Representatives race. Republicans won 67 seats, while Democrats only won 49. New Hanover County, falling under District 7, saw a Republican win by candidate Winslow.

House Representative Yvonne Lewis Holley ran against political newcomer Mark Robinson in the Lieutenant Governor race. Republican Mark Robinson won at 52%. He will be the first African-American to hold the position for North Carolina. Likewise, in District 7 of the U.S House race Republican David Rouzer took the lead over Democrat Christopher Ward. Resulting in yet another Republican win for New Hanover county.

One remarkably close position was the Attorney General with Josh Stein narrowly beating Republican candidate Jim O'Neil by a margin of 2%. Stein spoke earlier, commenting that he was confident about his re-election despite some outstanding ballots according to a tweet from reporter Ruben Jones of Spectrum News 1 CLT.

North Carolina, despite being a swing state, continued to follow its previous trend of casting more Republican votes.

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**Voters unaffected by sexting scandal**  
Dylan Sanneoke  
*Wilmington Grand*

In mid-October, it came forth that U.S. Democratic Senate candidate Cal Cunningham had an extramarital sex scandal with Arlene Guzman Todd, a public relations strategist from California.

Messages between Cunningham and Guzman Todd characterized a close relationship that was more than just texts. This scandal hardly affected Cunningham in the polls. “Polls are only as good as the votes that go after the polls,” said Todd Godbey, a Democrat election poll lead at Lifepoint Church, “it would appear in polling that the sex scandal hurt Cal by 2 or 3 points with voters, but when the polls opened this morning he was still relatively far ahead.”

According to Godbey, although this scandal hurt Cunningham’s character, he is not worried about losing votes to opposing Republican Sen. Thom Tillis.

“There may be people who decide to not vote for Cal, but most people who support Cal would not vote for Tillis, they would have just not voted for that race” Godbey said.

Although this is a personal affair, Godbey still believes it has a place in an electoral situation.

“Absolutely, I think character matters and I think that is one of the biggest reasons we need to change who is in The White House today,” Godbey said.

Tillis used this scandal against Cunningham in campaign ads.

“I think you’d be a stupid politician to not use it, but I think it’d be better if he didn’t,” voter see Sexting on page 12

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**Violence, threats impede democratic process**  
Malachi Dansby  
*Wilmington Wave*

As voting came to a close in the 2020 elections, North Carolina voters were put under pressure when it came to their vote.

On Oct. 31, Reverend Greg Drumwright’s “I Am Change Legacy March To the Polls” march was met with police force.

Drumwright led a group through the streets of Graham, N.C. where they protested for black lives and the black vote.

The group started at Wayman Chapel AME Church and headed toward the Graham County Courthouse.

According to Drumwright, the march stopped to pray in the street for 8 minutes and 40 seconds while blocking traffic.

Police announced they would disperse the crowd with tear gas at the nine minute mark.

When the crowd of over 100 attendees could not disperse in the 20 second time limit, the police began shooting tear gas at the ground toward the crowd.

Once the tear gas was released, the group’s leaders lost control of the situation. Eight citizens were arrested, seven of which were arrested on the grounds of Resist Delay and Obstruct and Failure to Disperse.

Drumwright expressed his distress that those who were arrested lost their opportunity to register and vote.

While Drumwright is angry about this use of police force, it’s a great example of the issue at hand.

“We’re seeing that certain communities are not being engaged in the electoral process,” Drumwright said.

The march did not end on Oct. 31.

The crowd took to the streets again Tuesday night to continue the protest. Lieutenant Dunn arrested 21 protesters.

The precinct asked Dunn to remove his firearm.

The precinct asked Dunn to remove his firearm because many voters found his circling of the precinct to be intimidating.

Dunn’s actions may come as no surprise for those who watched the first Presidential Election where President Donald J. Trump urged his supporters to “go into the polls and watch very carefully.”

Though Trump has made claims on supposed rampant voter fraud throughout our nation, these events show the more relevant issue is voter intimidation and suppression, which pushes away potential voters.
### Relationships strain under election weight

**Brendon Dorrance**  
*Wilmington Wave*

As the 2020 election approached, differing political opinions caused ripples in many relationships between college students with their family members and friends during the election.

According to Kayla Maloney, a conservative student at Catholic University in the District of Columbia, relationships with several people that she knows as well as family members, are facing difficulties due to the political tensions of the election.

“She was there for [her sister] through every up and down,” Maloney said, when describing the relationship between her mom and her aunt. “All of the sudden because she voted for Trump... she’s a bigot to them.”

Maloney said that members of her family such as her aunt are “constantly attacking” her mom due to politics.

While being a strong conservative herself, Maloney said that she does not let politics come between her relationships with other people.

“As far as friendships go... the nasty people get tired of being nasty... and I think that’s just a beautiful thing,” Maloney said.

Social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram are major battlegrounds between differing views during the 2020 election.

“I’ve pretty much filtered out anyone who hates and ridicules me,” Maloney said when talking about her social media accounts. She also said that one of her favorite pastimes is to engage in civil discourse with those who disagree with her.

Maloney said that her family members who disagree with her and her mom will say curses, slurs, and direct insults when discussing politics.

“I am close with them... I love them alot [and] they love me alot,” Kayla noted. However, they told her that they’re, “allowed to be rude to [her]... you stand for see STRAIN on page 12

### Counselors brace for post-election uptick

**Ava Reed, Sierra Reynolds**  
*Wilmington Wave*

As the 2020 Presidential Election approached, counseling centers saw a need to take preparatory measures as they anticipated a spike in the number of people seeking therapy.

Counselors saw an influx of patients, even weeks prior, as the unparalleled stress of the election had put a strain on many people’s mental health, especially those who already had mental health conditions, according to Dr. Stacey MacGregor, a clinical social worker.

“The uncertainty and the social climate has been brutal and has exacerbated pre-existing conditions and dysfunction,” MacGregor said.

MacGregor, who has been a clinical social worker for six years, is a generalist practitioner in psychotherapy. She first began practicing at her nonprofit organization, and now currently works at her own private practice. She said that the 2016 presidential election was a “very significant point” in her career as she noticed a lot of people, primarily college students, seeking therapy for Election Day anxiety.

Macgregor said that the 2020 election was projected to lead to a greater spike in patients than the 2016 election due to the extensive “divisiveness” it had created between people. This divide primarily stemmed from recent social injustice protests, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the coronavirus pandemic.

Though she added that political matters surrounding the election alone aren’t what have made this election harder on people’s mental health. She said that shutdowns from the coronavirus pandemic were the most detrimental factor.

“People have lost jobs, businesses, and have been forced to remain home, not to mention how people have been treating each other in both of these other national crises,” MacGregor said.

### Advocates work to help homeless vote

**Connor Ryan**  
*Wilmington Wave*

One of the least represented populations in elections are those experiencing homelessness. Neil Donovan, the executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, which helps provide affordable housing to those individuals.

According to The North Carolina State Board of Elections, if a person’s residence is not associated with a real property. “The location of the usual sleeping area for that person is the residence of that person,” it says.

“Residence is broadly construed to provide all persons with the opportunity to register and to vote,” NCBOE said. With this information about voting not being widely known to the homeless population, some national agencies. The National Coalition for the Homeless promotes this knowledge and help local shelters with aiding those who wish to vote.

Donald Whitehead, the current executive director of the NCH, talked about creating downloadable cards so that others can help make the information known to the homeless population.

Kyle Abrams, the Assistant Director of the Good Shepherd Homeless Shelter in Wilmington, discussed how may they make it known that homeless people can vote and the actions they take to aid them in the voting process.

The shelter helps guests with obtaining IDs, providing transport to the voting site, and registering to vote. The hope that homeless voters have to jump through to vote aren’t as difficult as you’d think.”

Abrams stated that some of the people were still registered at their old location, making the process less complicated. According to Whitehead, one core disadvantage of the homeless population is that they don’t have access to voter information.

The NCH encourages local shelters to hold their own forums and support access to printed media to give the homeless population more information.

When asked whether he had noticed homeless people voting more towards one party, Whitehead said that “they are not a monolith” and that there is the same divide among homeless voters as there is among other voters.

Whitehead noted that while he had not noticed any pressure for those experiencing homelessness to vote a certain way, there is discrimination at voting sites due to their appearance.

Whitehead stated that both voters and workers at the election sites would discriminate against them due to the typical attire of homeless people, some even being turned away from the site because of their appearance. Whitehead talked about the importance of voting for the homeless population with the increased criminalization of the population from police and government leaders.

“They have a right in the decision,” Whitehead said, regarding who decides the allocation of resources. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, the homeless population made up 552,830 people in 2018, homeless people are poorly represented in their votes.

Abrams noted that, while the news is on much of the time in the shelter, discussions of politics are kept at a minimum to focus on housing and employment for the guests.

It is important for the homeless population to be aware of the fact that they can vote and have an influence over the people deciding the allocation of resources, such as the Houston, Bond in North Carolina, which helps provide affordable housing to those individuals.
Black Lives Matter at UNCW

Brendon Dorrance  
Wilmington Wave

It’s no secret that the students of the University of North Carolina Wilmington have been leading the charge in activism around campus. Over the summer, students and faculty put up Black Lives Matter banners all over campus.

Despite this rampant activism, Chancellor Sartarelli ended up ordering that all these banners be taken down and turned into an art exhibit amid his statement of support for All Lives Matter, which earned him an understandable amount of backlash.

In his statement, he failed to recognize that ALM was only created to be in opposition of BLM, a human rights movement meant to defend all Black Americans from racism.

Since Sartarelli’s order, student organizations such as UNCW’s Student Government Association and the Black Student Union have openly opposed him. Both student organizations utilized social media to relay their message to students.

BSU used Instagram to criticize Sartarelli’s statement that All Lives Matter and his decision to take down BLM banners across campus. A powerful statement from their post says, “We are not an art exhibit. We are not an art exhibit. We are art to be seen from glass windows through a white lens. We are not a political statement. We Matter.” They Matter.

Turning a human rights movement into an art exhibit is not only disrespectful for the lives it advocates for, but also racist. “Keeping up the BLM banners…is the bare minimum,” another slide on the BSU post says. To elaborate, they’re saying that UNCW has not gone out of its way to advocate for the well-being of its students, especially those who are Black.

Student organizations have done all the heavy lifting when it comes to advocating for the well-being of UNCW students. If it wasn’t already clear enough, they stated later in the post, “WE ARE NOT AN ART EXHIBIT WE ARE NOT AN ART EXHIBIT WE ARE NOT AN ART EXHIBIT.”

As the 2020 election began approaching at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester at UNCW, the Chancellor finally sent out a statement that Black Lives Matter after many discussions with student leaders.

However, just as BSU stated in their post, this is still the bare minimum. While I do believe that Sartarelli has shown progress, he has not made any statements on what he’s actually going to do for black UNCW students in a society that continues to put them down.

I interviewed Bri Ramirez, Head of Diversity and Inclusion of SGA previously, who told me that there were about 20 or so student organizations that continue to help them sponsor BLM banners outside of the Fisher Student Center.

Even though Ramirez told me that Sartarelli has “always expressed support for students,” I have trouble finding where he has shown this support through his actions.

He’s sent out many statements saying that he advocates for his students, but has not implemented policies that help them.

As an advocate for Black Lives Matter at UNCW, I would like to see more actions being taken by the administration to stand up for my Black peers. To make it clear, BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Here at the Wilmington Wave, we stress the importance of journalism in our country during an age of misinformation and fear mongering. People in power have an agenda and use their political power to lead us astray. The purpose of journalism is not to change people’s minds, but to present truthful information so people can form their own opinions about current events. Politicians will try to lead people to believe that journalists have an agenda, or are trying to push their readers towards a certain opinion, but true journalism is about finding the truth. It is a journalist’s obligation to hold politicians, institutions, and others accountable for their words and actions.

Americans have relied on journalism to receive information about the world for centuries. Journalists are the bridge between the people and what’s happening in their communities and the world. However due to the rise of parajournalism, social media, and mass media, many have grown to distrust journalists. Now, information that has been manipulated on social media, by spokespeople, and mass media outlets is the information that many Americans are using to form their opinions.

This year, Instagram is combating the spread of misinformation by removing the recent page in hashtags. The company tweeted that this would make it harder for people to come across misinformation.

In 2016, social media sites like Instagram and Facebook were used to spread misleading posts on the day of the election, warranting this removal.

Twitter has also joined the war on misinformation alongside Instagram. They’ve begun to ban accounts for spreading misleading information regarding the election such as conservative host Charlie Kirk. Kirk tweeted, “Pennsylvania just rejected 372,000 mail-in ballots. One voter was said to have submitted 11 duplicate ballots. Pennsylvania might be the key to winning the White House. “What’s going on?” He notably left out that Pennsylvania rejected requests for mail-in ballots, not actual ballots.

President Trump has perpetuated many times throughout his presidency that news media creates “fake news” that is meant as an attack on his credibility. When the New York Times released his tax returns, Trump denied any allegations despite the documentation showing he only paid $750 of taxes in 2017. His agenda is clear in his denial of the truth. Although this may not necessarily indicate any tax related crime, it may prove that Trump had lied about the success of his business, which had losses amounting in over $900 million over the past four years.

Fox News has been President Trump’s cheerleader throughout both of his campaigns and his presidency. Fox is infamous to Americans, from both Democrat and Republican backgrounds, for spreading biased information.

On the other hand, CNN is notorious for being anti-Trump, and is known for criticizing his every move. Both heavily use value judgement in the reporting that they present as “news.” These media outlets are not representative of Journalism as a profession, whose goal is to spread the unbiased, objective truth.

In the age of “fake news,” Americans need to keep up with non-partisan fact checkers such as Politifact or Snopes. These organizations provide the unbiased truth behind statements or accusations made by media outlets, politicians, and news organizations and are a good source for journalists and the public alike.

We must place even more importance of understanding what journalism is and why it’s so important. We cannot allow ourselves to lose faith in journal-
A Solution to the Imperfections of a Two-Party System

Ian Higgins
Wilmington Wave

American politics have become a highly-polarized battlefront encompassing only two major political parties. After two recent elections in which voters felt they were choosing the lesser of two evils, the American people need a third option.

Ever since the inception of American democracy, the landscape has been dominated by some combination of two major political parties. The first of these iterations was the Federalist vs Democratic-Republican parties which were founded in 1789 and 1792 respectively.

As time passed, these parties have evolved and become the Republican and Democratic parties we know today. On the outskirts of the American political arena though, sit three ulcero options to the two-party system.

The Libertarian Party stands as a challenge to the outcomes of small government and an economic system of laissez-faire capitalism. Between the alternate parties within American politics, which became the most popular of the three and given the designation of a 'protest vote' because of their lack of status within American politics.

What if this group could be more than a protest vote? According to a Gallup Poll on party affiliation, 36% of individuals polled between Oct. 16 and 27 identified themselves as “Independent.” This portion of voters outnumbers both the Republican and Democratic Party affiliation percentages, and the last polling in which one of the two major parties outnumbered independents was from Dec. 19 to 22, 2012.

The idea of a middle-ground party has become a point of discussion with the recent radicalization of political parties and candidates alike, and the Libertarian Party has an opportunity to fill a void that voters are eagerly searching for.

Individuals from both sides of the aisle are attracted to the idea. Democratic party volunteer Wendy Hunt said, “I would like to see a third party meet the middle ground.”

“The problem with our system now is how extreme the two sides are,” said Bryce Davin, a Republican voter. “It would be nice to have a middle ground party.”

So what can be done to bring the Libertarian Party to the forefront of American politics? The solution which shines brightest is opening a third slot to the preferred third candidate of each presidential election. The Libertarian Party, being the most popular of the three alternatives, would likely inherit this spot on the podium.

By presenting American voters with three different sets of political opinion, the divide between Democrats and Republicans can be surmounted by a party which holds views appealing to either side of the current political spectrum.

The American political system is a steadfast apparatus which requires fundamental infrastructural changes in order to be reorganized. “We need structural change in our government or constitution to make the change from a two-party system to a multi-party system,” said Kayley Medlin, a member of the UNCW College Democrats.

Although American voters might search for a candidate who covers the middle-ground, as said by UNCW College Republicans member Jordan Schobet, “I don’t see a third-party developing anytime soon.”

The implementation of a third party into the American political landscape is an immense venture which significantly higher if caught early. If STDs or HIV are left untreated or undiagnosed they can have severe damaging outcomes. The most common side effect of an untreated/undiagnosed STD is infertility. However, this does not dismiss cervical cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, or bladder problems.

In regards to birth control, it is used for many more medical reasons beyond a simple contraceptive. Many young girls are put on birth control to regulate irregular menstrual cycles, aid severe acne, help with aggressive cramps, balance hormones, and treat Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) symptoms.

It is quite obvious that President Trump has not performed his diligence duty as a man to inform himself of the many struggles women experience. If he did, then he would not be threatening to remove the services that aid with these struggles.

Planned Parenthood has dedicated its program to serving the community by offering affordable services, but also keeping patients informed.

They offer information about treating STDs, birth control, and what is best for you and your body. They also give away condoms and pregnancy tests, and they teach young adults and teenagers how to uphold a safe and healthy sex life.

If President Trump is re-elected for four more years, then women like myself, who utilize Planned Parenthood’s services, will be denied our access to safe reproductive exams and information that have the potential to save our lives.

Not quite “Pro-Life” if you ask me.

Impending Disaster: An Attack on Women’s Rights

Annabelle McGlacken
Wilmington Wave

In a letter addressed to “Pro-Life Leaders and Activists” President Donald Trump proceeded to list the several accomplishments they together have made for “unborn children” during his first term.

In this misogynistic letter, Trump adds how he plans to “stop taxpayer funding of big abortion industries such as Planned Parenthood.” How does he plan to do this you might ask? By forcing them out of the Title X plan.

Title X is a program that allows low-income individuals access to birth control and reproductive health care. Forcing Planned Parenthood out of Title X would deprive millions of people from affordable health care.

President Donald Trump closes his letter with a promise to “fully defund the big abortion industry such as Planned Parenthood.” Most people assume that Planned Parenthood is only utilized for abortions, but this is simply not true.

Reproductive rights go beyond abortions, they include wellness exams, STD and HIV testing/treatment, contraception education, and cervical/ breast cancer screenings. All of these services have life-saving potential.

As a woman and a future health care provider, defunding Planned Parenthood is one of the worst decisions President Donald Trump could make.

According to the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, in 2016 alone about 1 million patients had a breast exam conducted, and 4 million STD tests were administered. Breast exams are the number one way to detect signs or the presence of breast cancer. Chances of recovery or remission are The Divisiveness of The Nation

Connor Ryan
Wilmington Wave

Politics have never been as divisive in the United States as they are in 2020. I frequently come across statements on social media along the sentiments of “If you vote for Trump you’re racist,” or, “I hope the Republicans dominate the evil Democrats.”

Politics in this nation feel less like the coming together of citizens to share how we think the nation should be led, and more like inflight of a fragile society. The discussion lately has fostered little understanding of opposing viewpoints and dismisses them as evil, racist, or even fascist.

Both Republicans and Democrats demonize each other to an extreme. I felt conflicted voting in this year’s election due to harassment I felt from others. People would say that I’m either a racist or an idiot either way I voted. Threats were directed at me saying that I would be unfollowed on social media depending on who I voted for. I was more worried about what other people thought about me based on my vote rather than my own thoughts on issues and who I thought would be a better President.

In this time it’s a welcome refresher to see things like the candidates Spencer Cox and Christ Peterson for the position of governor in Utah coming together to create a joint ad.

Both Democratic and Republican candidates appear in one political ad that asks the viewer to vote for them and also makes a statement that they support civil discourse. They

see TWO-PARTY on page 12

see DIVISIVENESS on page 12
Both the election and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have brought forth changes within the nation. Tozour, a mental health counselor, believes that there had been an increased expression of need for mental health counseling in comparison to the 2016 election because of the abruptness of COVID-19 and its effects on people's lives. "I have experienced a spike in phone calls and appointments within the last few months. I believe that this spike is likely attributed to the more permanent change associated with COVID-19 as well as the uncertainty of the upcoming election," Tozour said.

Tozour, who currently specializes in counseling young adults, expressed that her spike in sessions was mostly a result of new patients seeking counseling rather than existing patients scheduling at a greater rate. "The stigma associated with therapy in 2020 is essential minimum at this point. People are encouraged during this time to attend therapy," Tozour expressed when discussing new patients.

This particular shift to online classes was a rapid and drastic change for students, according to Tozour. She added that the stress associated with a change in course load has affected many students and called for adjustments to unforeseeable circumstances. "I think that COVID-19 has been extremely difficult for those seeking an academic career in 2020," Tozour emphasized.

The public as well.

Brown also described that, as an East Carolina University student, he has faced wrongful accusations at the hands of white Americans who "profiled them because of the color of their skin." He says his brother was accused of stealing from a store by an employee despite "no real proof." During this confrontation, another employee checked the security cameras and there was no suspicious activity.

Brown is also in an interracial relationship, and when going out with his girlfriend, who is white, he says he receives "awkward looks" from Caucasian people. "Conservatives have continuously invalidated the Black Lives Matter movement, whose goal is to advocate for the well-being of all black Americans against racially-motivated acts of violence and suppression. "Especially in this election... it feels like people that are Trump supporters are supporting racism, sexism, homophobia," Brown said.

In anticipation for a spike in patients, therapists took preparatory measures to ensure that patients got the help they needed. Similarly to MacGregor and many other therapists and counselors, Tozour said that the increase in calls and appointments from the last few months.

She offers online sessions, as well as in person sessions with new safety protocols. "I reached out to certain community entities to extend an invitation if needed for those in need of therapy and have provided resources to navigate this unusual time," Tozour said. MacGregor said her therapeutic treatments and modalities have remained the same but recommended that other therapists "practice self-care." She said that remaining mentally healthy during this time would be the best way to help their patients and "not succumb to burnout."

Tozour said as she acknowledged "This particular shift to online schooling for the collegiate level has been the safest and easiest, yet a potentially unavoidable damaging decision." Tozour said of the election the intense impact that the shift to online education has had on students on the collegiate level.

"There will be a descriptive vote in the upcoming election," Tozour said. "I have experienced a spike in phone calls and appointments within the last few months. I believe that this spike is likely attributed to the more permanent change associated with COVID-19 as well as the uncertainty of the upcoming election," Tozour said.

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Media stick to familiar narratives during election coverage

Carter Hartgrove
Wilmington Wave

Media coverage kicked off early Tuesday afternoon as the controversial election between President Donald J. Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden began to reach its end. At the beginning of election coverage, news kicked off the evening by taking a look back at results from the 2016 election and how the voting outcomes played a role in deciding a winner.

With over 100 million early votes already in, news sources expected one of the largest voting turnovers in election history. Key focuses early into the election involve critical swing states such as Florida, Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Soon after polling sites began to close, The New York Times began declaring the results of each state. News sources such as CNN and MSNBC waited for more sufficient voting results to come in before making decisions. While many news sources delivered the same information, the time different results were announced varied. Some sources, such as Fox News, broadcast results earlier than others.

CNN, MSNBC, and The Associated Press released results later in the night. As voting results for swing states such as Florida, North Carolina, and Texas began rolling in, election coverage began to intensify. Around 12 a.m, Fox News, a right-leaning media projected victory for Trump in Texas and Florida.

Other sources, such as the New York Times and CNN, a left-leaning media, delayed confirmation of results. It was later broadcasted that Trump won both states. Following the results of swing states Texas and Florida, Trump held a press conference in which he addressed the remaining mail-in ballots, saying recounting votes “is a fraud on the American Public.”

After Trump’s press conference, news sources began to focus on Trump & #39;s statement claiming he had already won.

“We are getting ready to win this election,” Trump said, “Frankly, we did win this election.” News sources such as MSNBC and the New York Times quickly pointed out that there may be millions of uncounted votes and Trump is prematurely calling victory.

As of 5:00 a.m., most media sources maintain that it’s still too early to call the election.

Swing states still up for grabs

Joseph Giltinan
Wilmington Wave

As of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, results for the 13 swing states’ electoral votes presented a majority lead in President Donald Trump’s favor over former Vice President Joe Biden.

The 13 swing states hold 199 out of 270 electoral votes in order to win the presidential seat. Voting to determine the results of each state proves troublesome for the nation due to absentee voting and mail-in ballots.

Mail-in ballots present voters the opportunity to vote early with polls showing a majority being democratic voters. This year’s increase in mail-in ballots, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, presents a dilemma as some states will take more time to count every ballot for the state.

With the ballot count tallied some states returned democratic votes early that gave Biden an early lead in states such as Florida and Texas.

The total balloting later revealed that Trump won Florida and Texas, mirroring his 2016 election against Democratic nominee Hilary Clinton.

States such as Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are the major tossups due to the nature of mail-in ballots. These states total up to 46 electoral votes.

According to The New York Times, the states that are declared for the Democratic Party are New Hampshire alongside the ones that are projected such Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada which totals 37 electoral votes.

The Republican Party had a strong hold over the swing states with Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Ohio.


“We believe we are on track to win this election,” Biden declared Tuesday night in Wilmington, Delaware where he is confident in the mail-in ballots.

Biden felt confident on the mail-in ballots possibly making a comeback in Pennsylvania and Georgia.

With North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania to count their remaining ballots over the following week projections show a near sweep for the swing states to Trump.

Celebs stay mostly quiet

Canvas Pegues
Wilmington Wave

In recent years, social media has become a platform for celebrities to express their political views.

Big name celebrities and star athletes have been involved with this presidential election. There have been many tweets, Instagram posts, and Facebook posts by these well known athletes and entertainers regarding this election and what stance they are taking.

NBA star Lebron James of the Los Angeles Lakers posted an Instagram picture on the eve of the presidential election of former Vice President Joe Biden and his current running mate Kamala Harris.

“We need EVERYTHING to change and it all starts tomorrow,” James captioned the post. Charlotte rapper DaBaby took it upon himself to drive locals to polls so that they could vote.

“They the people that need to push,” Da Baby said when asked how much it means for minority communities to vote.

“Them the people that need to be excited to go out and vote,” Da Baby said. Popular comedian Kevin Hart posted a video to his Instagram encouraging residents.

“Get out and vote, understand your rights” Hart said. “Your vote counts, message!”

It is clear celebrities, athletes, and entertainers are taking it upon themselves to encourage people to get out and vote and make their voices be heard to make a difference.

WNBA players have been expressing their political views this entire season. WNBA star Chiney Ogwumike has gotten very involved with this election.

“It is important for people to exercise their constitutional right to vote,” Ogwumike said. “We are creating our own future,” she added when discussing the importance of voting.

Famous people have used their social media platforms to convey how they feel about this election and emphasize the importance of voting.
North Carolina Key Part of High Profile National Races

Bryce Rush
Wilmington Wave

The 2020 Congressional Elections returned some major results along with key upsets in battleground states.

Before the election, Congress had a fairly even party split with a Republican Senate and Democrat House majority.

Most states held true to their predictions, but key races in Colorado, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Maine, Kentucky, Arizona, and New York yielded noteworthy wins.

In Colorado, the Democratic former Governor John Hickenlooper flipped an important seat for Democrats against first-term Republican Senator Cory Gardner. This result follows Trump’s diminishing approval ratings in the state, which has progressively turned blue in recent years.

Hickenlooper promised to address several issues including healthcare, climate change, and social justice on Facebook live following the initial election results. He also plans to support small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic according to his campaign website.

Alabama showed an upset victory from former Auburn University football coach, Rep. Tommy Tuberville over incumbent Dem. Doug Jones. Tuberville pledges to support veterans when they return, lowering taxes, and taking a strong stance on gun rights.

Rep. Senator Lindsey Graham won his fourth term in the South Carolina senate race. In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, Graham created the MADE act, which ensures all PPE is manufactured in America. He believes this will help bolster the economy during this crisis. He managed to keep a crucial seat during this surprisingly tight race running against Dem. Jaime Harrison.

Georgia is expected to declare a winner by Wednesday day according to the Secretary of State, but with 86% of expected votes reported, incumbent Rep. David Perdue managed to retain his position against Dem. John Ossoff despite the recent controversy following his withdrawal from the final debate and his derogatory campaign ads.

With 85% of votes reported in Maine, Rep. Susan Collins retained her incumbent position in the senate going against Dem. Sarah Gideon. Mitch McConnell repeatedly declare his victory in the 2020 Senate race.

In Arizona, Mark Kelly unseats Republican Martha McSally. This victory is significant for the Democratic Party as this highly contested seat will help push the Senate toward a more balanced majority.

In the House of Representatives, notable wins included Dem. Richie Torres and Dem. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York, as well as Dem. Nancy Pelosi, who maintained her position in California.

While the Senate still has a Republican majority, the gap between parties is smaller. The House projects, as of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, maintains its Democrat majority.

Anna Mohr contributed to this report.

Presidential election in limbo: Now what?

Jay K. Byrd
Wilmington Wave

President Donald J. Trump took the stage at 2:21 a.m. to prematurely declare his victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.

However, an official victory is still a long way off as of 5 a.m. Wednesday morning.

“We will win this and as far as I’m concerned, we have won,” Trump said.

Trump also endorsed the idea that voting should be stopped in certain states that are leaning in his favor claiming that his opponents can not catch him in the polls.

Although it does look as if the Trump campaign is nearing victory, mail-in ballots still pose a lot of confusion surrounding the election’s outcome.

With many of the remaining states being labelled as ‘too close to call’ there seems to be an ongoing conflict about whether or not ballots that come in later should be counted.

The pandemic has directly affected most U.S citizens’ voting style and caused a significant increase in absentee votes.

According to the New York Times, mail-in balloting doubled this election compared to the 2016 election. This unprecedented increase in ballots may cause problems counting votes.

This has left many asking the question, what’s next?

The Biden campaign stated that they believe the mail-in count will shift the election in Biden’s favor.

Biden tweeted at 12:53 a.m.

“Keep the faith, guys. We’re gonna win this,” referencing the fact that not all votes had been counted.

Trump’s administration stated that they believe Biden will try to steal their victory away from them.

There’s a possibility that this year’s election will mirror the 2000 race in which the Supreme Court had the final say in the outcome of the election.

It’s possible the Supreme Court will have to determine whether or not ballots after Election Day should be counted.

If the votes are counted, it may have a great impact on the results of the election.

What happens with mail-in ballots will be touched upon in the upcoming days, mail-in ballots very well may be the tipping point between Trump and Biden.