

Election Commission rejects on-campus voting center proposal again

Elias Weiss
Staff Reporter
@ecweiss

Despite past failed attempts to introduce a voting center on campus, the Associated Student Government is still trying to have one in place for the 2020 election.

Washington County election officials rejected five ASG proposals in the last decade, including one that would bring a voting center to campus for the midterm election in November, but ASG representatives are hopeful for the future. There is still a possibility of a polling place on campus in 2020 after the Election Commission re-evaluates its Election Day locations, said Jennifer Price, the election coordinator for the Washington County election commission.

The three county representatives who make up the Election Commission are responsible for coordinating and administering federal, state and local elections in Washington County.

The commission is made up of two members of the

party that holds a majority of state constitutional offices and one from the minority party, Price said.

Election Commission officials did not provide a reason to ASG as to why they voted against bringing a polling place to campus.

ASG is very familiar with Washington County's rejections of their proposals to bring voting stations on campus, said Mariam Siddiqui, the ASG director of municipal relations. Former ASG member Ryann Alonso passed a similar proposal in an attempt to bring a voting center to the UofA for the 2016 primaries. The proposal was rejected in public meetings by city officials, who are not required to give a reason for voting either way.

"Our proposal for a pop-up voting center was rejected in a public meeting about a month ago," Siddiqui said. "By Oct. 5, we had exhausted every resource we could to see if they would be open to a voting center."

The Election Commission has continued to stress their decision is non-negotiable, Siddiqui said.

"This subject has been discussed at length, and at this time we see no



Fayetteville residents displaying campaign signs outside the courthouse for early voting on Nov. 2. There were 15 locations in Fayetteville people could choose from, according to Washington County Election Commission.

justifiable reason for the Commission to change its position regarding this manner," said Bill Ackerman (R), chairman of the Washington County Election Commission.

The commission has

rejected the proposal at least twice since Max Deitchler (D) has been on the commission, Deitchler said.

When Deitchler was a student at Hendrix College, there was a polling station on campus, he said. He

thinks the on-campus polling station was a huge benefit for students.

"I am strongly in favor of adding a location to vote on campus," Deitchler said.

The other two members of the Commission,

Ackerman and Renee Oelschlaeger (R), voted against the polling station both times, Deitchler said.

Registering more students to vote will be

See "ASG eyes" on page 6

Students cite apathy, ease of access as deterrents for voting in midterms



A group of UA students watches CNN on Nov. 6 during the station's midterm election coverage.

Drew Watzke
Staff Reporter
@thatwatzkeguy

Because of the inconvenience and lack of reward some millennials see in voting, many young people have chosen to not vote on election day.

In the last midterm election, just 16 percent of millennials cast a vote. The 2016 presidential election provided a more promising but still disappointing figure, around 40 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

For much of the country, local candidates do not attract large groups of voters, according to the Pew Research Center.

"I feel like a lot of people put a lot of stress on presidential elections like it's the deciding factor on how communities are affected," junior Jalen Jackson said. "We (millennials)

tend to focus on national news and not really our community's news."

Jackson, who was registered to vote in the 2018 election, uses social media platforms like Twitter and Snapchat to get news. Social media focuses on national news mainly, so he wants to do more research on his own community before heading to the ballots, he said.

"I don't find out about things typically until it pops up on Twitter's news feed, or even on Snapchat," Jackson said. "I've been trying to change that and actually find things that are happening daily and not just the top story of the week."

With millennials representing almost one-third of the country, young adults of America have the opportunity to make a significant difference at the polls this election. Yet despite challenging the baby

See "Millennials represent" on page 14

Leding wins Arkansas state senate seat

Staff Report
The Arkansas Traveler

After a heated campaign, Rep. Greg Leding (D) beat his Republican competitor for the 4th District Senate Seat on Nov. 6.

"We drove over 140 miles in the last week going door-to-door. It looks like the hard work paid off," Leding said at an election watch party.

Leding won about 61.42 percent of the votes, 18,305, beating out Dawn Clemence's (R) 38.58 percent, 11,496, according to preliminary election results.

With about 37 percent more votes than Dawn Clemence (R), Leding will begin work in the Arkansas State Senate in January, where he will advocate for working families, education, equality and universal healthcare, according to his campaign.

Leding spent election day reminding Arkansas residents to vote and finished his evening of tweets by saying, "Thank you. #ARsd4."

Throughout both candidates' campaigns, Leding and Clemence accused each other of lying about their motivations.

In a forum Oct. 10, Clemence accused Leding of manipulating news outlets and voters.

"Let's be clear: My opponent is pushing gun control bills to get his name in the news purely for election purposes," Clemence said at the forum.



Courtesy of Greg Leding

Leding stresses the importance of working-class families in Arkansas in his campaign.

During the forum, the opponents clashed over the red flag legislation, a law which would allow judges to issue to confiscate guns from those who are at risk of hurting themselves or others.

Clemence thinks that people could too easily exploit the draft bill, enabling abusive spouses to disarm their victims, she said.

However, Leding argued the bill included provisions punishing those who abuse the system, whether spitefully or falsely, he said.

Clemence and Leding confronted each other after the October forum and Clemence accused Leding of behaving aggressively toward her.

"You were pointing your finger and yelling at me, using vulgar language, intimidating me, blocking me and threatening me," Clemence said on her facebook page. "You choose to act this way, and it shows everyone in this district that when somebody disagrees with you, your response is to attack, it's not to listen, to find a solution, it's to attack. And that is unacceptable."

However, Leding did not let the campaign controversies affect him on election night.

"We have no reason to be worried," Leding said hours before the preliminary results named him the next state senator.

Voters Decide on State Ballot Initiatives



Arkansas residents voted in favor of all three issues on the state's ballot.

Students Campaign for NWA Politicians

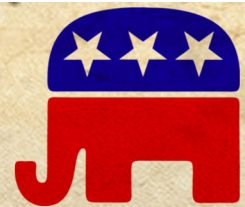


UA students experienced the election process first-hand while working for Democratic and Republican candidates.

Candidates Endure Election Night Frenzy



Democrat and Republican candidates turned two Fayetteville restaurants into watch parties during midterm elections.



Editor's Note

Midterm elections reach students, campus



Chase Reavis Managing Editor @dcreavis

regionally and nationwide. While the primary focus of our issue is Northwest Arkansas, we also looked into how students from other states vote despite being far from home, especially students from Texas where the Senate race has garnered national media attention.

Beyond reporting on the results of the midterm elections, we have also spent this month researching how certain demographics think they are represented in politics and how they decide how they will cast their votes. Within these demographics, we paid extra attention to students and how they feel about

the political climate. Also, we got a close look at how some students have joined local candidates' campaigns and what their day-to-day workload looks like.

Though this is the most breaking news special issue we have done this year, we still devoted all month to researching these stories to make them more in-depth looks at candidates, issues, ideas and how these midterm elections will impact campus directly. Among these campus-specific issues is campus carry, which was campaigned both for and against by different candidates. Other issues of importance to students

included in this issue are minimum wage, voter identification and casinos in Arkansas, which are the three remaining issues still on the ballot following the removal of two other issues, which regarded term limits and civil lawsuits.

In addition to the breaking news side of this issue, we also have devoted a page to our opinion writers' thoughts on the midterm elections and a section to our movie critic who looked into politics in film. Although these ideas do not represent the newspaper as a whole, they provide a few different students' points of view on the topics discussed in the paper.

The November issue of The Arkansas Traveler focuses on the midterm elections, both

UA women share concerns of Republican majority



Morgan Strickland Staff Photographer

Dr. Anne O'Leary-Kelly (left-center) discusses her views on bystander intervention at the Women's Empowerment Panel on Oct. 23, 2018. It was the first student-led event put on by the Women's Commission.

Karen Sue Mckenzie Staff Reporter @ksuemck

In January 2017, she watched as President Donald Trump was inaugurated. As she watched him speak, she could not help but feel that the outcome of the election was a slap across the face of women's rights. The results upset her, and this feeling has resurfaced recently with the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Junior Mariam Siddiqui spent last summer in Washington, D.C. She attended multiple protests there to speak up about women's rights, a topic that Siddiqui thinks that US government-elected officials will threaten, she said.

The current political climate has publicized the topic of verbal, physical and sexual abuse, offering more platforms to discuss these issues, junior Mariam Siddiqui said.

Although Siddiqui has noticed women becoming more energized and involved in politics, she still fears that at an institutional level they won't be taken seriously, she said.

"The entire systematic oppression of women is more acceptable now," Siddiqui said.

This is why Siddiqui votes in elections and participates in protests, she said. She also has worked on a few local campaigns, like one

for Nicole Clowney, who won Fayetteville's District 18 House seat in May and will take the seat in January 2019.

Blanca Estevez, a co-host of the 2018 Fayetteville Women's March, thinks the current political climate is something trendy to be involved in, but involvement is more than wearing a shirt that reads "feminist." She hopes the trend sparks a long-term commitment in people, she said.

Professor Janine Parry studies gender and politics, and thinks that Kavanaugh's confirmation was fairly predictable, even after three women accused him of sexual misconduct, she said.

Kavanaugh denied the allegations and claimed that the Christine Blasey Ford, one of the accusing women, was misidentifying her sexual assaulter.

But Siddiqui thinks Ford was credible and does not think that Kavanaugh should have been confirmed into court as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court to hold one of the highest judicial positions in the U.S. because of the allegations, she said.

Siddiqui is concerned that having a conservative U.S. Supreme Court may put women's abortion rights in danger, which could allow states to impose new restrictions on women's access to abortion. She also fears that the Office of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Education will loosen its restrictions under Title IX, and if either happens, both would be

catastrophic to women, she said.

Republicans dominate the federal government with more seats than Democrats in Congress and Trump as a conservative president since 2016, so the Republican Party is thriving, Parry said.

Estevez, thinks the next couple of years will be an especially difficult time for women because society is not set up to protect them because of the male domination in Congress, she said.

"Until there are nine women on the Supreme Court, I don't think we can stop working or talking about these issues," Estevez said.

The confirmation was an unfortunate thing to Autumn Tolbert, a co-host of the 2018 Fayetteville Women's March, but she thinks that it has motivated more women to work to campaign for progressive or women candidates in elections, she said.

Tolbert thinks the current political climate has made women realize that if they do not demand what they want now, they are never going to get it, she said.

"I guess some people might call us impatient," Tolbert said.

While Kavanaugh's confirmation was distressing for millions of people, it is expected to increase women's voter turnout, Parry said.

Parry has studied recent public opinion polls and noticed an expansion in the gender gap between voters, she said. After Kavanaugh's confirmation, more than

60 percent of women said they intend to vote for the Democratic Party, Parry said. This number is around 50 percent in high-profile races like the presidential election, which usually has an increase of young voters, she said.

Historically, women have higher voter turnout than men, according to the Center for American Women and Politics report on gender differences in voter turnout.

In 2016, roughly 63 percent of eligible women reported that they voted compared to 59 percent of eligible men. The number of female voters has exceeded the number of male voters in every presidential election since 1964, according to the report.

The current political climate affects both Democrats and Republicans and is a stress factor for more than half of Americans, according to the American Psychological Association's report, Stress in America: Coping with Change. Sixty-six percent of Americans say they are stressed about the future of the nation, according to the report.

In January, Fayetteville commemorated the city's first anniversary of the women's march. The 2018 Fayetteville Women's March brought residents together to stand up for equality, justice and inclusion, according to the Facebook event page.

Tolbert hopes that the next march, if it happens, will be more of a celebration, she said.



THE ARKANSAS

TRAVELER

The Arkansas Traveler is a public forum, the University of Arkansas' independent student newspaper and all content decisions are those of the editors.

Contact

203 Kimpel Hall University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72701

Main 479 575 3406

Fax 479 575 3306

traveler@uark.edu

facebook.com/uatrav

twitter.com/uatrav

Editorial Staff

Alex Nicoll Editor-in-Chief traveler@uark.edu

Michael Spendio Opinion Editor travop@uark.edu

Chase Reavis Managing Editor travmgr@uark.edu

Grant Lancaster Campus News Editor travnews@uark.edu

Shelby Evans Multimedia Editor travmgr@uark.edu

Beth Dedman Campus News Editor travnews@uark.edu

Katie Serrano Social Media Editor travpoll@uark.edu

Halie Brown Lifestyles Editor travlife@uark.edu

Antonio Tinajero Sports Editor travsprt@uark.edu

Kevin Snyder Photo Editor travpix@uark.edu

Layne Blank Video Editor

Design Staff

Emma Wilson Lead Designer

Copy Editors

Claire Hutchinson Andrea Johnson Carly Consor

Advertising

To advertise with The Arkansas Traveler, email travad1@uark.edu.

Professional Staff, Advisers

Robyn Ledbetter** Student Media Director 479.575.6420 rledbet@uark.edu

Cheri Freeland** Business Manager 479.575.3408 freeland@uark.edu

Bret Schulte** Faculty Adviser 479.575.6659 bjschult@uark.edu

** All content decisions are those of the student editor and his or her staff. Professional staff and advisers serve to administer certain business operations and offer advice, guidance or technical assistance as requested by the student staff.

Letters

Letters should concentrate on issues, not personalities and must be fewer than 300 words, typed and signed by the author(s). Letters will be edited for accuracy, space and style. Students must list their majors and classification. To submit letters, e-mail travop@uark.edu.

Columnists' and cartoonists' opinions

Columnists' and cartoonists' opinions are their own and not necessarily the views or opinions of the editorial board.

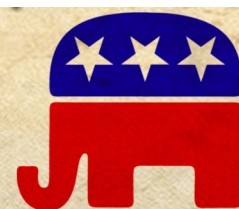
Memberships

The Arkansas Traveler is a member either institutionally or through individual memberships of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Associated Collegiate Press, The Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the Arkansas College Media Association.

Corrections

The Arkansas Traveler strives for accuracy and clarity in its reporting and will correct all matters of fact. If you believe the paper has printed an error, please notify the editor at 479.575.8455 or e-mail the editor at traveler@uark.edu. All corrections will be printed in the space below each week. ■





Democrat wins state house District 84 seat over Republican incumbent

Riley Kelley
Staff Reporter
@rileykelley_

The result of the tight race for Arkansas' 84th District House seat puts the details of campus-carry legislation in question after the bill's lead sponsor lost the election Nov. 6, according to preliminary election results.

Denise Garner (D) defeated four-term incumbent Charlie Collins (R) with 55.3 percent of votes, 7,456, over Collins' 44.6 percent, 6,016, according to the general election results.

"This is a proud moment for me and especially for my team," Garner said. "We have folks that are 15-year-olds who can't drive and 95-year-olds who can't walk and everyone in between and they have all worked on this campaign. They've done everything they need to do to make this happen and I'm thrilled."

Dustin Seaton, Garner's campaign manager, thinks that the greatest contrast between Collins and Garner is that she is a strong advocate for listening and responding to her constituents, he said.

Garner emphasized listening to constituent concerns in her campaign after her opponent received backlash after passing Act 562, which legalized the act of carrying a handgun on a college campus.

"I think the place we have to start is the place that our constituents have been very

vocal about, which is we have to get guns off campus," Garner said.

Garner thinks that because she is a gun owner, she understands the need to revise campus-carry legislation that her Collins passed, she said in a statement on Facebook on Oct. 30.

"I'm a gun owner, and I have my concealed carry," Garner said. "But I understand the need for common-sense gun safety policies, like universal background checks. District 84 didn't want the law, but Rep. Collins wrote it anyway. It's a radical law that defies common sense, and District 84 is demanding a fix."

Junior Mariam Siddiqui was an organizer for Garner's campaign and spent the campaign visiting 200-300 houses each week along with helping other students campaigning, she said.

Siddiqui thinks the campus-carry law passed by Collins made UA students and faculty feel less safe, she said. Garner will work on new legislation to respond to these concerns, she said.

"She understands the importance of having safer schools and safer public institutions, so she's definitely going to be in favor of revisiting that bill and writing it in a way that is inclusive of our voices and our concerns," Siddiqui said.

Passing what Garner refers to as common-sense gun legislation would mean cleaning up misunderstandings caused by



Liz Green Staff Photographer

Denise Garner (D) beat four-term incumbent Charlie Collins (R) in the midterm elections Nov. 6. She will take office Jan. 1, 2019.

the campus-carry law passed by Collins and making gun legislation less confusing for those who are impacted by it, Seaton said.

Because Collins passed campus-carry legislation with disregard to stakeholder opinion, Garner is committed to listening to all sides before making any legislative moves, Seaton said.

"Denise's biggest attribute is that she is accessible and she is willing to listen to all stakeholders before she passes any legislation," Seaton said. "I think having her be a

collaborator to bring principals, teachers, parents and students together to make sure their voices are being heard and listened to is the biggest impact that you would see from day one."

Siddiqui thinks Garner's campaign focused on reaching out to students by getting involved on the UA campus and attending events for students, she said.

"Denise has come (to campus) and she spoke to Young Democrats last week," Siddiqui said. "She has been involved in a lot of events that students go

to and more than half of her campaign are students and not even just UofA students. I was just talking to ninth graders yesterday phone banking for her. She's really promoted this sense of inclusion- that she's not working just for a certain demographic. She's working for everyone."

As an owner of many businesses in Northwest Arkansas, Garner has experienced the value of paying workers more than the current minimum wage, which was an issue that passed on the midterm election ballots she

said.

"We found that when we pay our workers more than minimum wage-a living wage-we get much better workers," Garner said at the Fayetteville Public Library candidate forum on Oct. 8.

Garner thinks that it is morally responsible to make sure that every Arkansan can access quality healthcare, according to her campaign.

"Everyone in Arkansas, no matter where they live or what their zip code is, should have access to safe and effective healthcare," Garner said.

Students cross state lines to cast their vote in midterm elections

Katelyn DUBY
Staff Reporter
@KatelynDuby

Fiddling with the "I voted" sticker in his hand, a student walks wordlessly out of the small church to his car. It is a Saturday afternoon and he has just cast an early ballot for his chosen candidate; all he has to prepare for now is the five-hour drive back to Fayetteville.

Sophomore Henry Schuelke drove 314 miles to vote in his home state of Texas before the early voting deadline, he said.

Schuelke is devoted to the democratic process and especially to voting corrupt politicians out of office, he said. He cast his vote for Texas senatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke (D).

"Not only because O'Rourke is the best fit, but because Cruz is the absolute worst," Schuelke said.

Schuelke thinks Ted Cruz (R) only votes in favor of the interest groups that can offer him the most money, he said.

"He's a politician for sale," Schuelke said. "He's the poster boy for the excesses of corporate lobbying"

Schuelke likes O'Rourke because he is honest and does not accept money from large political action committees, he said.

A political action committee is a group formed to raise and contribute money to the campaigns of candidates likely to advance the group's interests,



Morgan Browning Staff Photographer

Freshman Olivia Gammill holds up an "I Voted" sticker Oct. 31. Early voting began Oct. 22.

according to the Merriam Webster dictionary.

"All of his funding is done through grassroots organizations," Schuelke said. "He makes it clear that all of his opinions are his own. He doesn't just echo the voices of rich lobbyists."

The election should be important to younger voters because the legislators they elect will have the ability to regulate quite a bit of the issues that will affect college-aged voters in the future, said Curt Sullivan, a UA political science professor.

"The Trump Administration has proposed eliminating

student loan forgiveness plans for public servants," Sullivan said. "Under the current system, teachers, social workers, police officers and others can have a substantial chunk of their loans forgiven based off their work for a government agency after 10 years."

Registered voters in Arkansas will also be able to vote on ballot initiatives that could have a significant and, in some cases, immediate impact on students, he said.

"(Arkansas voters) will have a chance to approve or reject voter ID laws, which will shape the requirements students will have to

face when voting," Sullivan said.

The outcome of the midterm election will have a large impact on the next two years, Sullivan said. If Republicans retain control of Congress, it will likely embolden the Trump administration to pursue more controversial elements of his agenda, he said. If Democrats take control of one or both congressional chambers, they will try to prevent him from passing any meaningful legislation, he said.

Freshman Meredith Wilson is registered to vote in Missouri and sent in an absentee ballot, she said.

"It's my first time voting in a major election and it makes me feel fulfilled and like I am contributing to our democracy," Wilson said.

Freshman Olivia Gammill is also registered to vote in Missouri. She voted absentee as well, she said.

"This is my first time voting, and it's awesome," Gammill said. "It is so important and a civic duty. Women and minorities fought for the right to vote and we should honor that fight by voting."

Gammill wants to see more equal representation in Congress and keep people in

office who can empathize with their constituents on a genuine level, she said.

"(This election) is important to me because I disagree with a lot of aspects of the current political climate," Gammill said. "I want to see more politicians who care about things larger than themselves."

Sophomore Hanna Ellington, from Kansas City, Kansas, registered to vote just in time for the primary election this year. She drove home to vote in the primaries and voted absentee in the general election, she said.

"This was the first election I was old enough to vote in, and I wanted to take advantage of that," Ellington said. "I think voting is a privilege that we shouldn't take for granted, and, as cliché as it sounds, I wanted my voice to be heard."

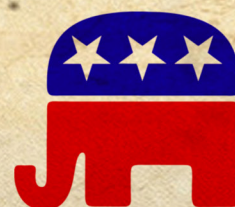
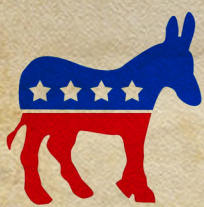
Junior Carl Svensson, from Plano, Texas, did not register to vote before the Oct. 9 deadline, he said.

"I forgot to register online before it was too late," Svensson said.

Svensson would have felt more compelled to vote in this election if it were more convenient for him to do so, he said.

"Texas is too far away to drive to just to vote, and the absentee system is ancient," Svensson said. "I don't have time to send letters back and forth and get them notarized and everything. They don't make it easy for students to vote."





Arkansas Midterm Ballot Issues

Clara Davis
Staff Reporter
@claradavistrav

Voters made the decision to raise the minimum wage in Arkansas after Issue 5 was passed by voters Tuesday night on the Arkansas ballot.

Issue 5 will increase the state minimum wage from \$8.50 to \$9.25 per hour on Jan. 1, 2019, to \$10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2020, and finally to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1, 2021, according to the Arkansas Secretary of State. More than 67,887 Arkansas voters signed a petition to put the proposed state law on the ballot.

The issue passed with 68.4 percent of Arkansas voters supporting and 31.6 percent opposing it, according to preliminary election results.

"I feel that increasing the minimum wage is a good step forward especially because we do have a lot of people in Arkansas who would really enjoy to see a higher amount of money in our paychecks," Junior William Motazedhi said. "The fact that it passed means that there are people who need that money in their pockets. I think it's a good move for Arkansas. I'm glad that Arkansas can follow the rest of the nations lead."

Approximately 67 percent

Arkansas residents vote to increase minimum wage

"The fact that it passed means that there are people who need that money in their pockets. I think it's a good move for Arkansas."

-junior William Motazedhi

of Arkansans were in favor of raising the minimum wage, according to the 2018 Arkansas Poll.

"The cost of living far exceeds the amount someone working on minimum wage would make in a year, so I'd be for raising that," sophomore

Alexandria Henry said in a direct message.

The current state minimum wage is \$8.50 per hour, which is \$1.25 above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, according to the US Department of Labor.

"Issue 5 might help college students by increasing the wages they bring home from jobs they might hold while they are in college," said Andrew Dowdle, a UA political science professor, in an email. "While some economists might argue that it makes job scarcer in some areas, it would probably have less effect in an area with low unemployment like Fayetteville."

A rise in minimum wage could cause a rise in the price of services, Dowdle said.

Sophomore Kevin Tran works as a barista at the Starbucks on campus, he said, in a direct message.

"If minimum wage was raised, I would feel that many retailers and food establishments would definitely raise their prices on items," Tran said.

Tran thinks it can be hard for people who make minimum wage to support themselves, he said.

"Young people tend to be

heavily represented in the lowest wage jobs, so this will directly and immediately affect many college students," said Janine Parry, a UA political science professor, in an email.

Arkansans for a Strong Economy filed a lawsuit against Issue 5 in an attempt to remove Issue 5 from the November ballot Sept. 4, but the Arkansas Supreme Court rejected the court challenge on Oct. 18, 2018, meaning votes for Issue 5 were counted on Election Day, according to the UA Division of Agriculture.

"I feel strongly about increasing the minimum wage in Arkansas," junior Brandon Turner said in a direct message. "For many people in the state, they aren't classified as a salaried employee, therefore many of them still work 40 plus hours a week but rely on the viability of minimum wage to help support their families."

Turner thinks that no one should work full time and still have to worry whether they can keep the lights on, he said.



Lobbyist group derails term limit proposal, term limits remain

Chase Reavis and Alex Nicoll
Arkansas Traveller

The Arkansas Supreme Court struck an issue from the midterm ballot Oct. 19, which would have set stricter limits on House and Senate terms.

Arkansas Issue 3, the State Legislative Term Limits Initiative, would have imposed a six-year term limit on representatives and an eight-year term limit on senators.

This would have allowed representatives to serve no more than two three-year terms and senators to serve no more than two four-year terms. The issue also called for a 10-year limit to any member of the state general assembly.

Representatives can serve three two-year terms, and senators can serve two four-year terms. Both can serve up to 16 years in office throughout their life, according to the issue.

Hendrix College and Talk Business & Politics conducted a survey Sept. 5-7 to ask Arkansans their opinions on the issues on the midterm ballot. Of the respondents, 39 percent were between 45 and 64 years old, 83 percent were white, 38.5 percent were Republican and 52 percent were female, according to the

survey. Of the 1,701 survey respondents, 67 percent indicated they supported the issue, while 18 percent were against it and 15 percent did not know, according to the survey.

Family Council Action Committee Term Limits, U.S. Term Limits and Arkansas Term Limits supported the issue by raising over \$500,000 and garnering over 84,000 petition signatures, according to Arkansas Term Limits.

"It's great corporate censorship aided and abetted by our legislature," said Matt Mendenhall, regional coordinator for Northwest Arkansas for Arkansas Term Limits.

Mendenhall was not surprised when the issue got struck down but was upset by the fact that signatures were thrown out from the petition, he said.

"Look at what our governor has done in four years," Mendenhall said. "People might even look at the president to see what he's done in one term."

An opponent of the issue, Arkansans for Common Sense Term Limits, raised \$60,000 exclusively with donations from the Arkansas Farm Bureau and Nabholz Construction to oppose the issue, according to Arkansas Term Limits.

"We think it's bad government policy because it would have given us the most restrictive term limit

rules in the country," said Randy Zook, president and CEO of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas.

Zook thinks if Issue 3 had been on the ballot and passed, the number of qualified, long-term candidates would decrease because people would not have the proper knowledge to do the job efficiently. He also thinks it would be difficult for candidates to build relationships in the state legislature, he said.

His group also took issue with the 10-year term limit for general assembly members, which is too short in their opinion, he said.

"What job is going to give you six years to figure out



what's going on?" Mendenhall said.

If voters had proposed a 12- or 14-year limit, Arkansas for Common Sense Term Limits might not have opposed the initiative, Zook said.

"You need people to know what the heck they're doing, and that doesn't happen overnight with part-time legislators," Zook said.

Issue struck from midterm ballot, ruled unconstitutional

Elias Weiss
Staff Reporter
@ecweiss

Arkansas Supreme Court justices eliminated an issue Oct. 12 from the midterm ballot that would have limited the amount of money attorneys could collect from their clients in civil lawsuits.

Under Ballot Issue 1, beginning in 2019, Arkansas attorneys could have only collected one-third the amount of money a client wins in a civil lawsuit. The issue would have also established penalties for collecting fees higher than one-third, which the issue defined as the "net amount of recovery," according to the Arkansas Secretary of State. A lawsuit was filed July 12 in an attempt to remove Issue 1

from the midterm ballot. The Arkansas Constitution requires that all of the sections of an issue be directly related to each other. The Pulaski County Circuit Court judge, in response to the lawsuit, ruled that the two sections of Issue 1 were too unrelated to meet that requirement, according to the Arkansas Secretary of State. The Arkansas Supreme Court evaluated an appeal of the judge's decision. The court ruled Oct. 18 that they would not count any votes that voters cast for Issue 1.

"I have been following (Issue 1) since it was known as 'Senate Joint Resolution Eight' and thought it was unconstitutional from the get-go," said senior Katie Dean, who is majoring in political science and has extensively studied Issue 1 as the subject of her honors thesis. Dean chose to pursue this topic because she thought the issue was unconstitutional and would

impede on a jury's power to make decisions, she said.

"The section of the ballot that refers to the Arkansas Legislature's power to overrule an Arkansas Supreme Court decision by three-fifths vote, I think, violated the separation of powers doctrine," Dean said. Dean thinks the proponents of Issue 1 will bring it up again in the future but will be more well-organized when they do, she said.

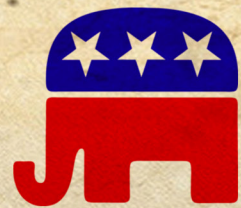
"Overall, I am glad that it was thrown out," Dean said. "But I also believe that all of the issues will separately be brought forth in a constitutional manner next election season."

Because the Arkansas Board of Election Commissioners printed ballots before the Arkansas State Supreme Court struck the issue, voters still saw Issue 1 on the ballot Nov. 6. Votes for or against the issue were not counted.

Struck from the ballot Oct. 12 and ruled unconstitutional.

Ballots were printed before the issue was ruled unconstitutional and still appeared on the ballot.

The issue wanted to establish a limit on the money an attorney could collect in a lawsuit.



Voters must show photo ID following midterm elections



Clara Davis
Staff Reporter
@claradavistrav

Arkansans will be required to show a photo identification card when voting in person after voters passed Issue 2 on the Arkansas ballot in the midterm election Nov. 6, according to preliminary election results. Issue 2 passed with 79 percent of residents, 685,710, voting for the change and 20 percent, 176,850, voting against, according to preliminary results. Voters without photo identification will need to follow state regulations to certify their ballot

prior to voting, according to the Arkansas Secretary of State. "Tightened voter restrictions in any form tend to reduce turnout among the least experienced, lowest income and/or lowest education voters," said Janine Parry, a UA political science professor, in an email. People who are not able to drive, for example, and have not been able to receive an official driver's license from the Department of Motor Vehicles, will not be able to vote, Parry said. Restrictions on voting limit the ability of the poor and young from being able to reach the polls. This greatly affects college-aged people who already are the least likely to participate in elections, Parry said. "I think it is important for people to have some form of identification/proof of residency in order to show they are a U.S. citizen,"

sophomore Katherine Port said in a direct message. "But I don't think that someone should need to have a license in order to voice their opinion."

Prior to the election, about 73 percent of Arkansans were in favor of requiring voters to provide photo identification cards, according to the 2018 Arkansas Poll. "I agree with having some sort of ID or something that identifies you in order to vote," sophomore Kevin Tran said, in a direct message. "In this day and age, technology has grown very rapidly, and it can be easy for someone to impersonate you." Issue 2 will require legislators to establish what photographic identification voters may use and require the state to issue proper photo identification at no charge, according to the Arkansas Secretary of State. "Issue 2 probably will affect college students less than their peers since a college ID is an acceptable form of identification," said Andrew Dowdle, a UA political science professor, in

an email. Residents voting by way of an absentee ballot are required to enclose a copy of a valid photo identification with their ballot. The will stop instances of fraud in which a person impersonates another voter, according to the UA Division of Agriculture. "How are they going to know if you're over 18 if they can't see your ID?" sophomore Lora Castleman said, in a direct message. A person without photo identification will be able to vote using a "provisional ballot," or a special ballot used to record a vote when there are questions about a voter's eligibility, according to the UA Division of Agriculture. "Voter ID disenfranchises the most vulnerable members of society by putting yet another arbitrary barrier in front of voting," sophomore Kennedy Spencer said in a

direct message. "Voter fraud is virtually nonexistent in U.S. politics, and voter ID law is unnecessary." People opposed to the issue say there are not many documented instances nationally of in-person voter fraud, so this is a costly solution to a nearly nonexistent problem, according to the UA Division of Agriculture. "Voter fraud isn't as much of an issue as people make it out to be," sophomore Alexandria Henry said in a direct message. "I feel like there are other ways we could go about it." When Arkansas' Constitution was passed in 1874, Article 3 originally allowed voting only by men who were U.S. citizens or planning to become citizens and had lived in the state for at least a year, according to the UA Division of Agriculture.



Tightened voter restrictions in any form tend to reduce turnout among the least experienced, lowest income, and/or lowest education voters.

- UA political science professor Janine Parry

Arkansas voters welcome in-state casinos, gambling

Sabrina Godfroid
Staff Reporter
@sabinagodfroid

Residents decided to bring four new casinos to Arkansas by passing Issue 4 in the midterm elections Nov. 6, according to preliminary election results. Issue 4 focuses on the creation of four casinos located in four counties, Jefferson, Pope, Garland and Crittenden, affecting the local economies and communities due to the influx of gambling and businesses to support the casino visitors. The issue passed with 54 percent of voters, 463,369, supporting it and 46 percent, 392,905, voting against it, according to preliminary results. The four casinos are allowed to operate 24/7 and serve alcohol, even if they are located in a dry county. Pope is the only completely dry county out of the four, while Crittendon, Garland and Jefferson are wet counties with dry areas, according to the

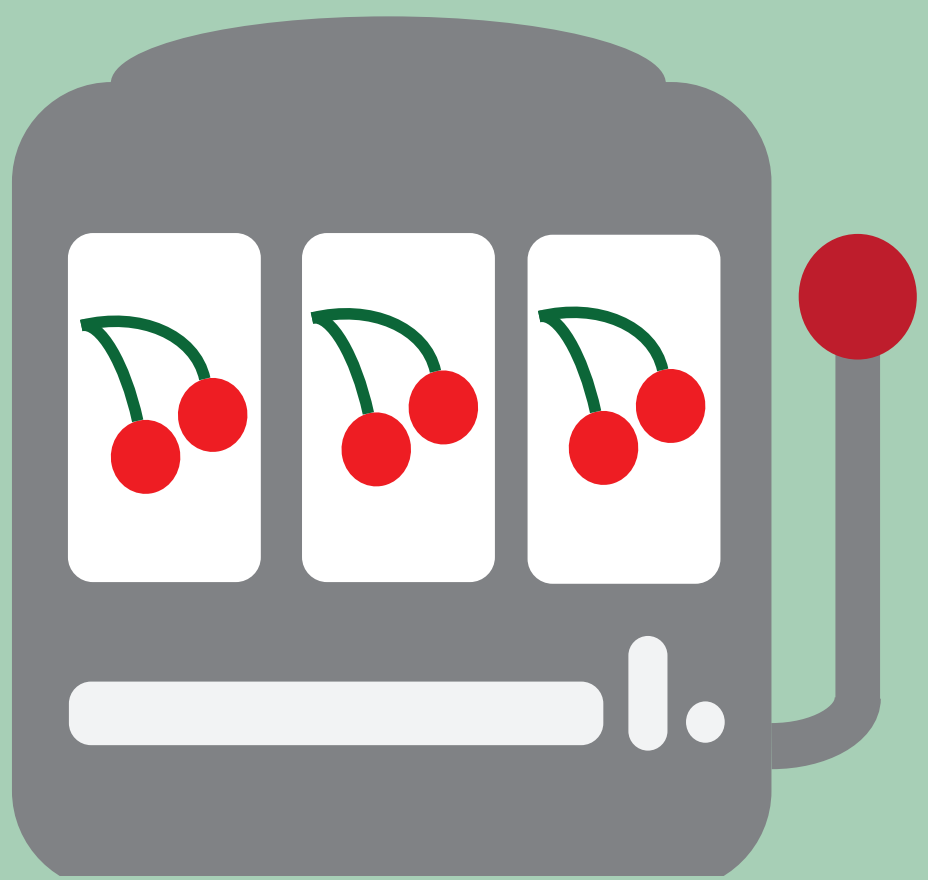
Encyclopedia of Arkansas, which details the alcohol laws for each county. Issue 4 proposes that four land-based casinos be allowed to operate in Arkansas, one of which would be located at Oaklawn Race Track in Garland County, and another would be located at the Southland Race Track in Crittenden County, according to the UA Division of Agriculture. More than 84,859 Arkansas voters signed the petition to put the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, according to the UA Division of Agriculture. Sophomore JT Holiman signed the petition because he thinks casinos helped local businesses, he said. "People visiting boost town economies," Holiman said. Although many signed the petition to implement casinos in Arkansas, not all support the notion, citing some of the negative effects of gambling as concerns. Freshman Sabrina White is from Kansas, where casinos are allowed, and spent a lot of time near Oklahoma where there are many casinos, she said.

"(Casinos are) good for the economy but bad for the culture," White said. An estimated 10 million Americans had a gambling addiction in 2016, according to the North American Foundation for Gambling Help. "I have spent time in Oklahoma and seen what casinos have done for local economies, but I also see the effect of gambling on families," White said. Kansas has nine casinos within the state and its neighboring state of Oklahoma has 60, according to Online U.S. Casinos. "I think (casinos) might increase tourism, but most people that come to visit Arkansas come for nature. Casinos would definitely attract a different population," said Arkansas resident Haley Montgomery. Approximately 46 million people visited casinos in 2015, including almost 19 million out-of-state visitors, a four million person increase from 2014, according to the Statewide Economic Impacts report from the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association.

The issue promotes the creation of casinos in four counties:

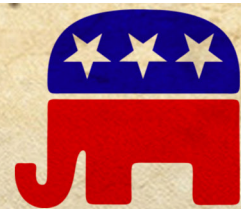
- Jefferson
- Garland
- Crittendon
- Pope

Casinos are allowed to operate 24/7 and can serve alcohol, even if located in a dry county.



I think (casinos) might increase tourism, but most people that come to visit Arkansas come for nature. Casinos would definitely attract a different population.

- freshman Haley Montgomery



Number of Latino voters increases, still underrepresented in politics

Andrea Johnson
Hill Editor-in-Chief
@andr3afaitb

Despite the number of eligible Hispanic voters reaching 29 million, the highest in decades, a UA Latino politics professor thinks that their impact on U.S. politics remains unrealized.

Xavier Medina Vidal, a UA political science professor who specializes in Latino political identity, describes the potential impact of Latino voters as a sleeping giant: Their numbers are growing, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're seeing political results in their favor, he said.

The number of eligible Hispanic voters has been on the rise for decades, reaching 29 million this year – up 4 million from 2014, according to the Pew Research Center.

The idea that Latinos have a greater potential to affect this election can empower some to “come out and vote and feel like they're a part of something,” Vidal said. But others feel discouraged when they don't see change in political representation or policies like immigration.

In 2016, 67 percent of registered Latino voters indicated they had given “quite a lot of thought” to the elections

that year, according to the Pew Research Center. This year, 52 percent indicated that level of interest in the midterm election.

“A lot of Latino voters are feeling directly affected by the political climate created by the president, and that's probably the motivator for a lot of people (to vote) – not just Latinos,” Vidal said. “They still favor the Democrats, but the faith that they have in Democrats representing their interest is also decreasing, so they're losing faith in both parties.”

The Pew Research Center found that 32 percent of Latino voters think there isn't a difference between the Democratic and Republican parties when it comes to representing their community's concerns, but they're still more likely to lean Democrat, according to a 2018 report.

Junior Esmeralda Verdin Gomez thinks most people in the Latino community agree that Democrats handle their status in the U.S. best, she said. She thinks Latinos might vote for a conservative candidate if they were Latino and were to share the community's beliefs.

“Even though lots of Latinx are socially conservative, they're more likely to vote Democrat,” Gomez said.

About 37 percent of Latinos reported that they voted in the 2014 midterm election based on issues affecting their community

rather than candidates' overall platforms, according to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. The association polled 4,200 Latino voters and found that 1 in 4 did not identify with either major party.

Despite being a large minority group, Latinos are underrepresented politically, Gomez said. As of July 1, 2016, people of Hispanic origin make up the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority at 17.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Political representation hasn't caught up with this demographic growth. Vidal thinks substantive representation is most important, meaning that Latinos want politicians who represent their interests regardless of the politician's ethnicity, he said.

Senior Yvonne Dominguez knew she wanted to vote for Democratic candidates in the midterm and did more research on ballot issues than on individual candidates, she said. She voted for people she thought would support Arkansas as a whole rather than a specific majority, she said.

“Every election matters, whether it's big or small, because they also hold an influence on what carries on afterwards,” Dominguez said.

Dominguez thinks legal status and a misunderstanding of eligibility deters some Latinos



Jake Halbert Staff Photographer

Senior Esmeralda Gomez thinks it is especially important to cast her vote as a naturalized immigrant citizen. She hopes that by doing so, the government can reform to meet the needs of her family, she said Nov. 5.

from voting, she said. “My vote matters, especially since my parents aren't able to vote because they're not citizens,” Dominguez said. “I could use my vote to push for what I want to see.”

Gomez thinks Latinos tend to vote as a unit on certain issues or candidates, but senior Colin Gonzalez disagrees. Each generation prioritizes different issues, so Gonzalez, who has a Latina mother and non-Latino father, thinks it's more accurate to look at voting trends across various

generations rather than ethnicity. “A lot of people are more conservative, which comes with the idea they don't want to ruffle any feathers. My grandparents, for example, want undocumented immigrants to migrate legally,” Gonzalez said.

Latinos in the U.S. vary in ethnic backgrounds and legal statuses, which influences some to vote differently than others depending on their individual needs, Vidal said.

Dominguez grew up

consuming political news from Mexico and the U.S., but she didn't know how to vote until her friends explained the process, she said. Since registering, she has reached out and helped her own friends do the same.

“I've talked to some people who have that mindset of, ‘How can my one, singular vote change things?’” Dominguez said. “Using your own voice to encourage others is always very important.”

Social media divides friends, family come midterm election season

Megan Lenzen
Staff Reporter
@MeganLenzen

While some students think it is important to exercise their freedom of speech on social media, others find it puts a strain on their relationships.

Around 59 percent of Americans find it frustrating and stressful to discuss politics on social media with people about things they on which they disagree. Around 64 percent of people have also said their encounters with people that have different opinions leave them feeling like they have less in common than they thought, according to the Pew Research Center.

Senior Bree Barnes thinks having conversations through social media is important for political acceptance. She also thinks social media can be a good way for candidates to reach voters, she said.

For Barnes, social media is an avenue through which she can advocate for candidates and have political conversations, she said.

Barnes encourages people to fact-check her statements and use their voice just as much as she uses her own, she said.

“I am not NPR. I am not The New York Times,” Barnes said. “Do not use me as your one resource. Take the research I have done and do your own.”

While Barnes thinks that social media is an important tool for politicians to use, she also thinks it is important.

“It is important for (politicians) to have access to social media, but it is also important to have boundaries and etiquette,” Barnes said.

For junior Bryn Bostad, everything on social media seems to be a competition, she said.

“People aren't thinking about the country as a whole,” Bostad said. “They are just thinking about their side. Some people feel so strongly that they would rather simply see the other side lose rather than fight for what is right.”

Thirty-seven percent of Americans are worn out though of political posts and discussions they see on social media compared to 20 percent who enjoy seeing them, according to Pew Research Center.

Junior Hailey Bunda thinks that freedom of speech on social media is a good thing, but it can put a strain on real-life relationships, she said.

“I feel that people should keep their political opinions



Layne Blank Video Editor

off of social media,” Bunda said. “Everyone has a right to their own opinions, but not everyone needs to know.”

Half of people who

use social media think that political conversations think that the political conversations on social media are less respectful to others at

53 percent, less civil at 49 percent and are angrier at 49 percent. A small percentage of people think that political debates on social media are more civil at 7 percent and more focused on important policy issues at 10 percent, according to the Pew Research Center.

Junior Macy Davenport thinks that it is all about how feelings are portrayed online. Even if she agrees with that opinion, she thinks it is best stated in a cordial manner, she said.

“Politics is impossible to avoid on social media,” junior Sarah Curry said. “It's everywhere. I have to take a break sometimes from (social media).”

Curry also thinks that social media can benefit society in effective ways, she said.

“People have a right to post their opinions,” Curry said. “I have a right to do the same. It's about respect.”

The average American spends about two hours on social media everyday, which adds up to five years and four months over the course of a lifetime, according to Social Media Today.

Society has never been more dependent on social media, with two-thirds of American adults occasionally relying on social media to get their news, according to the Pew

Research Center.

With so many people depending on social media, there are new opportunities for anyone to express their political opinions. As more people go to social media as an outlet to express their feelings, a partition in society formed between Republicans and Democrats. Contradictions have infiltrated the lives of students, Bunda said.

“I have felt a divide ever since the election,” Bunda said.

Bostad agrees and thinks that the divide in society has gotten out of hand, she said.

Barnes thinks that the divide has always been there, but with social media, “it is easier for that divide to show its face,” she said.

“Our generation) is a lot more accepting,” Barnes said. “People feel that, ‘As long as you respect me and what you're doing does not affect me, then you do you and live your life how you want to live it.’”

Because of the increase of political postings on social media, it has caused younger people to realize that their vote does matter, Barnes said.

“The minute we stepped into college, everything that these politicians do affects us,” Barnes said.

ASG eyes similar proposal for 2020 elections

Continued from page 1

beneficial in bringing a polling place to campus for the next election, Siddiqui said.

Siddiqui registered more than 200 students to vote in the last two weeks, including freshman Matthew Dockins.

Dockins is in favor of an on-campus polling place. He did not feel informed enough to vote but would be more likely to vote if he knew there would be a polling place on campus, he said.

Freshman Meghana Chithirala did not know where to vote even though she wanted to, she said.

“It would be a lot easier to vote if there was somewhere on campus,” Chithirala said.

Siddiqui is hopeful about getting a polling place on

campus in the future, she said.

“Every time we try, I feel like we are an inch closer,” Siddiqui said. ASG members are working on another proposal to present before the 2020 primaries, she said.

Students had other off-campus options for voting this November, Price said. There were three polling places close to campus that students could utilize.

The Trinity Methodist Church, which is on a Razorback Transit bus route, served as a polling location. There were also polling places at Central United Methodist and Sang Avenue Baptist Church. For early voting, the Washington County Courthouse was open for two weeks before the election, starting Oct.

22, Price said.

Rep. Greg Leding (D) is a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives who has served the 86th district in Fayetteville since 2010, and was elected Tuesday night to the Senate in Arkansas' 4th District. He has supported ASG's efforts to bring voting on campus in 2016 and 2018.

Leding thinks that many students on campus, no matter their political affiliation, support a polling place on campus, he said.

“I think the UofA should have a polling place,” Leding said. “Some 33,000 people are on campus each day. If it were a city, it would be our state's 12th largest.”

Siddiqui thinks local politicians are not entirely at fault for the lack of a polling place on campus,

she said.

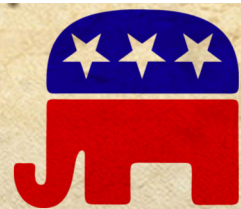
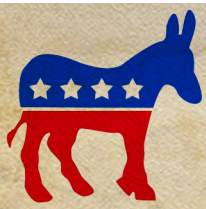
“We should focus on what ASG can improve on and show our support, not focusing on the politicians,” Siddiqui said. “It's not all political. We want to turn the narrative away from others and put it on the students.”

Siddiqui thinks civic engagement by students is important in ASG's desire to bring voting to campus, she said.

“If there's a huge push for students who want to flood the polls and flood the Washington County Courthouse and Trinity Church, we will show how actively engaged students are in federal and local politics,” Siddiqui said. “We want (the Election Commission) to feel like they need to alleviate traffic by giving us our own voting station.”



BREAKING NEWS
stories on www.uatrav.com



City council election results yield two runoffs

Stories by Shelby Evans and Grant Lancaster

Photos courtesy of candidates

WARD 1



Sonia Gutiérrez



Olivia Tremble

Two Ward 1 candidates are headed to a runoff election following Tuesday night's election results.

UA alumna Sonia Gutiérrez received 40 percent and Olivia Tremble received 39 percent of the vote. Kristifier Paul Paxton received 20 percent.

A runoff between the two top candidates is required if no candidate gets a 50 percent majority in the primary.

"Our journey will continue despite that our opponents received 39 percent and 20 percent," Gutiérrez said in a Facebook post.

Throughout her campaign, Gutiérrez focused on three initiatives she thinks will keep her ward and all of Fayetteville "financially fit, friendly and funky," she said.

Tremble grew up appreciating the value and dignity of hard work and a living wage because her father and grandfather were contractors and fabricators, according to her website.

Gutiérrez thinks city officials need to "support a healthy ecosystem of businesses and organizations," which include both local and outside companies, "that share the values of Fayetteville," she said.

Fayetteville residents need businesses that want to protect and value the environment, Gutiérrez said.

"Fayetteville wants to see its trees, not an ugly skyline of concrete," Gutiérrez said in a statement on her website.

Tremble wants to strengthen her community and getting to know her neighbors and working

with them on common ground. She also thinks extra care should be taken to preserve what makes Fayetteville neighbors great, according to her website.

Gutiérrez wants residents to know city officials care about them, and she encourages everyone to become involved with city issues, she said.

"Who is at the table impacts the outcome," Gutiérrez said. "When all people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and income levels are influencing decisions affecting their experience in Fayetteville we are practicing our democratic value."

The runoff election is set for Dec. 4.

The Arkansas Traveler was unable to receive comment from Tremble.

WARD 2



Mark Kinion

Fayetteville residents reelected an alderman for his third term in Ward 2 Position 1 Tuesday night.

Mark Kinion won the Fayetteville City Council Position 1 Ward 2 seat against competitors Martin Bemburg and Raymond Burks. Kinion had 71 percent of the vote while Bemburg had 11 percent and Burks had 17 percent, according to preliminary election results.

Kinion thinks that the huge difference in votes between him and his competitors shows that Fayetteville residents trust him, he said.

"I'm very humbled that I was re-elected and looking forward to representing Ward 2 voters," Kinion said.

Kinion ran for reelection on the platform of keeping Fayetteville welcoming and

empathetic, he said.

Kinion worked on the Uniform Civil Rights Ordinance 5781 in 2015, which prohibits Fayetteville employers from firing someone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

To best represent Fayetteville residents, Kinion plans to continue his habit of talking with the people he represents on every occasion, he said.

"I try to respond to everyone who tries to connect with me," Kinion said.

Kinion wants to use his 23 years of experience with GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals to responsibly use residents' tax dollars, he said.

Kinion thinks that one part of the multi-pronged plan to address homelessness in Fayetteville is making technical degrees available for more people so they

can get jobs, he said.

Another important step to combatting homelessness in NWA is addressing untreated mental health issues and substance addiction, Kinion said.

Kinion had a friend who lived in a homeless camp on UA property but could not get help with his substance abuse problem and eventually died, he said.

Kinion thinks the people of Fayetteville could do more to help homeless people in Fayetteville, he said.

"Instead of being judgemental, they should be helpful," Kinion said.

Although he wants to expand Fayetteville, Kinion plans to focus on maintaining Fayetteville's unique small-town appeal by avoiding construction within existing neighborhoods, he said.

WARD 3



Sloan Scroggins

UA instructor secured an open City Council seat last night.

Sloan Scroggins, an instructor in the Mathematical Sciences Department, won the Fayetteville City Council Position 1 Ward 3 seat. He campaigned against Lucas Regnier.

Scroggins received 50.61 percent of the vote while Regnier received 49.39 percent of the vote, according to the preliminary election results. Scroggins earned 3,580 votes and Regnier earned 3,494, a difference of 86 ballots.

"Winning by that little tells me I still have to talk to a lot of people and hear what

they need," Scroggins said.

Scroggins plans to speak to Fayetteville residents about their concerns and values before he takes office in January, he said.

"I may officially start in January, but I have a lot of catching up to do before then," Scroggins said.

Scroggins' campaign platforms, sustainability, safety and success, will follow him into his time as a councilman, he said.

"Our city is continually growing, so we need to make sure we are planning carefully and making sure we are leaving the world better for future generations," Scroggins said.

Scroggins wants to add two fire stations and an

additional police station, as well as adding police patrols within the trail systems.

"We've had quite a few instances of severe crimes happen on our trails, and I want to make sure we avoid this in the future," Scroggins said. "If we have police drive golf carts or just walk throughout, I think that will discourage crime."

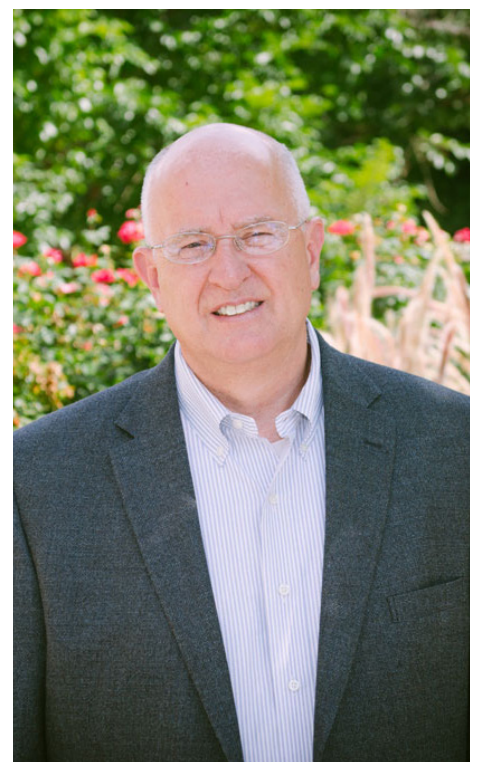
Scroggins had been interested in running for office for a while and decided to get more involved after working on the Fayetteville Planning Commission, he said.

Scroggins will take over the Position 1 seat, vacated by Justin Tennant whose term will end Dec. 31, on Jan. 1, 2018.

WARD 4



Teresa Turk



John La Tour

Two Ward 4 candidates are headed to a runoff election following Tuesday night's election results.

Environmental consultant Teresa Ann Turk received 45 percent and Alderman John La Tour received 43 percent of the vote. Adam Fire Cat received 11 percent.

A runoff between the two top candidates is required if no candidate gets a 50 percent majority in the primary.

Turk is preparing for the runoff, she said.

"Tomorrow is a new day, and we get back up on the campaign trail and push this next election

toward victory," Turk said.

Throughout her campaign, Turk focused on sustainability, development and inclusivity, she said.

"We need to have a little bit more consciousness about where we want our city to be in the next 25 to 30 years and to really incentivize some sustainable use of our resources," Turk said.

La Tour focused on expanding Fayetteville to reduce property cost, preventing mandatory recycling laws and paying law enforcement officers more during his campaign, he said.

La Tour thinks the only way to create affordable

housing for the growing population of Fayetteville is to annex land west of the city, he said.

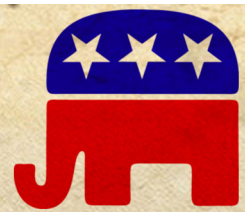
"If you want affordable housing, or less expensive housing, you have to bring in more land," La Tour said.

Turk wants city council members to better investigate issues brought to them, she said.

"We need to look at these plans that have been passed and see if we are going to be a more sustainable city and area," Turk said.

The runoff election is set for Dec. 4.

The Arkansas Traveler was unable to receive comment from La Tour.



POURING A DRINK WHILE THE VOTES POUR IN



Attendees fill a watch party Nov. 6 at Farrell's Lounge Bar & Grill on Dickson to eagerly await election results. Among them were students, long-time residents, city officials and many of the democratic candidates.



Attendees at the Gearhart Hall watch party played midterm bingo and ate snacks, which the Honors College provided Nov. 6.



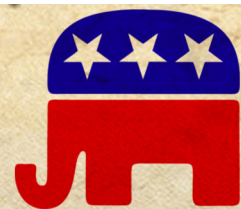
State House Rep. Charlie Collins (R) watches as election results roll in at the Republican watch party Nov. 6.



Robert Dennis signs a poster promoting County Judge Joseph Wood at the Republican watch party Nov. 6.



At the Republican midterm election watch party at Powerhouse Seafood & Grill, attendees look on as results are reported Nov. 6.



Students endure harassment, insults helping Republican candidates

Patrick Clarkson
Staff Reporter
@Loosy_Goose

She is an Arkansas native working to get Attorney General Leslie Rutledge (R) re-elected. Taking calls from people calling her a Nazi, she shrugs off the insults and works to find the source of their anger. A call comes in from a grateful constituent, and she is reminded about the importance of her work. She loves her candidate and will do what it takes for her to win the election.

Junior Devyn Noblett was raised in Bentonville and knows about Arkansas politics. Noblett learned about politics from a young age when her dad ran for mayor, she said.

"My family is mostly from rural areas with many conservatives that can be considered right wing," Noblett said. "I like to consider myself in the middle and try to open them up to new views."

Noblett's duties mainly consist of talking to constituents to try and persuade them to vote for Rutledge and raise awareness about policies people may be interested in or affected by, she said.

"You kind of have to have thick skin, because my dad he is like running for mayor in our home town and last time he ran we had people that who would say rude stuff to us and we'd have to brush it off," Noblett said.

Being harassed by callers

definitely brings about an initial reaction that hurts, but once Noblett realizes the people calling are angry about something, and they most likely don't talk like this to most people she can try to talk to them and get to the source of their concern, she said.

"Getting called a Nazi and stuff all the time was not one of my favorite things," Noblett said.

Noblett's father Randall Noblett, a member of the Cave Springs City Council, has been a public figure for most of her childhood. Noblett grew up watching her father receive the same harassment that she faces now, and the way he handled it has allowed Noblett to address them in a professional manner, he said.

While helping with Rutledge's campaign, Noblett has received calls from many people expressing their gratitude to Rutledge, which makes Noblett feel better when she is used to being yelled at, she said.

It can sometimes be scary to be the face of a candidate. People may call in and be upset, and be told something that makes them even more unhappy until they go to Facebook or Twitter to rant, Noblett said.

The current political climate is very divided and hostile. People rarely agree on everything, and there are a lot of issues that are not easy to agree on, she said. However, there are issues that people are not hearing about that politicians are dealing with in a bipartisan effort, Noblett said.



Michaela Burton Staff Photographer

Student Devyn Noblett, spends her free time helping out the republican campaign for the upcoming election.

"There are those Republicans who only want to focus on controversial issues," Noblett said. "That does not help those who help solve other issues, such as Rutledge who has worked on online scamming and domestic violence, which are issues everyone can agree are bad."

Sophomore Connor Parr is helping Dawn Clemence (R) run for Arkansas State Senate to represent District 4. When he first started campaigning, Parr made phone calls to take surveys and did door-to-door knocking handing out

push cards, he said.

"We try to get out there and encourage people to vote regardless of party," Parr said.

Parr's family have been Republicans their whole life and have supported him in his campaigning and opinions. Campaigning has also never affected his friendships, he said.

Over the summer, Noblett was an intern for Sen. John Boozman (R) in Washington, D.C., she said.

Noblett received calls regarding the zero-tolerance policy, which separated children from their parents at

the border this summer, while interning with Boozman's office. People expressed that they thought the policy was wrong, and some people were glad about the harder stance on immigration. There were many complexities surrounding the events, and the news often made it appear Republicans weren't helping, which was not true, Noblett said.

Being involved in such a huge issue like the zero-tolerance policy was one of Noblett's favorite parts of helping the campaign, she said.

When Noblett was in Washington, D.C., people often came into the office to protest or be upset and would sometimes vent after the most vulnerable-looking person in the room. Staffers would come out and talk to the person if they heard a commotion break out and ask what they are worried about or passionate about, she said.

Working as part of a campaign was similar to being a part of a family. There are people who may not agree on every issue, but interns and staff alike have each others' backs, Noblett said.

Democratic campaigns serve as networking opportunity for students

Sydney Frazier
Staff Reporter
@FrazierSydney

She has been campaigning for the Democratic Party since 2014, spending countless hours talking in doorways with people about who she supports, taking students aside to help them register to vote and sitting at tables to pass out flyers. While she sacrifices up to 12 hours a week or more, the effort is well worth it, she said.

The rewards highly outweigh the negatives, said senior Rachel Moline, a campaign organizer for Denise Garner, a Democratic candidate running for representative of District 84. Moline thinks campaigning allows people to make connections even if it is just at the local level. She enjoys the feeling that she is making a change, she said.

Junior Jacob Huneycutt campaigns because he likes the responsibility and the challenge, he said.

"In the spring and summer I was very involved, but this fall I haven't been as active because school has been so busy," Huneycutt said.

Homework and fluctuating school schedules make it difficult for a student to be involved in the fast-paced political climate, Huneycutt said.

Huneycutt campaigns for congressional candidate Josh Mahoney (D) who is running for Congress as a Democrat. Mahoney tends to listen to immigrants and elevate their concerns. This is important considering how many immigrants live in the 3rd district, he said.

Between 2000 and 2010, Arkansas was ranked fourth in its foreign-born growth rate at 82 percent, according to the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation's A Profile of



Sadie Rucker Staff Photographer

Senior Avery Fast working at a phone bank Nov. 1 for Denise Garner, the Democratic candidate running for the general election for Arkansas House of Representatives District 84.

Immigrants in Arkansas.

"It is really important that our generation is informed and energized to make a difference," said junior Mariam Siddiqui, a campaign organizer for Garner.

Siddiqui's love for politics stemmed from her family and close friends, many of whom are involved at an informally with Pakistani politics and other affairs around the world.

Siddiqui thinks the importance of politics in the Fayetteville community is tremendous, and the outcome of every election has the opportunity to bring about change for many years.

People directly involved with the campaign also have to educate the volunteers

about what they are trying to accomplish at different stages of the campaign, said Emali Bilderbeck, Fayetteville resident and former Democratic campaigner.

The first goal is to help the community to know the candidate's identity. The campaign wants Fayetteville to know exactly what the candidate stands for and why. Typically, this helps to establish the candidate's legitimacy, and after that, they strive to bring in more volunteers and participation, Bilderbeck said.

The campaign needs volunteers to canvass, phone bank and table, which is when volunteers are assigned to a phone and a catalog of phone numbers, and because the volunteers come and go as their schedules allow,

it can be stressful to get everyone on the right track, Bilderbeck said.

Canvassing involves campaign workers, or volunteers, going out and make direct contact with the voters. This can be anything from registering new voters to educating the community about the candidate. This term often refers to going door to door and gathering support.

When a person involved with a campaign sets up a table, usually near a well-trafficked, public place and puts up signs and hands out pamphlets, this is called tabling.

Being involved in a campaign is a rewarding experience from a networking perspective, which allows volunteers to

meet candidates and learn more about their community, Bilderbeck said.

"I've met some really great and interesting people and made of my best friends while campaigning," said Moline.

A campaign can never have too many people involved. Responsibilities can be anything from phone calls, to going door to door, to sitting at a table collecting signatures and handing out information, Moline said.

Though there are many benefits to being a part of a campaign, it's not always without risks. Siddiqui's parents are worried about the negative sides of campaigning, such as close-mindedness from other people, that can put her in unsafe situations, she said.

Whenever she goes out to canvass, Siddiqui always makes sure to have her location shared, and only stay out until around sunset. Every house is a calculated risk and if she thinks unsafe she will call a friend, put them on speaker and place her phone in her back pocket, just in case the worst does happen, she said.

"About a month ago I went to knock on the door of a house, but as I got closer I could see so many guns on display. I felt so intimidated and scared so I turned and left," Siddiqui said.

Siddiqui is very passionate about politics and has wanted to run for office since she was a little girl. In a post 9/11 society, Islamophobia is a major issue that she has had to deal with, she said.

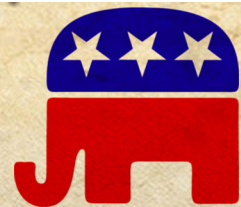
Siddiqui recounted times when she had been called a terrorist or told to go back to her own country. During the 2016 election at her high school in Little Rock, which was predominately white, girls would have their hijabs snatched off their heads, she said.

Standing up for others is what's important though, she said. "I've used this as more of a learning opportunity. People stand up for me when I'm in trouble and it's truly inspiring," said Siddiqui.

Despite her parents' concerns, their fear is what motivated her to become more involved in politics as well as with Garner's campaign, she said.

Garner has an outstanding grasp on the inner workings of bipartisanship. Her mentality and outlook is refreshing, Garner stands for complete representation of people and wants to be a voice for her district, Siddiqui said.

"District 84 is vibrant and deserves a representative like Denise, and I knew I wanted to be a part of that," Siddiqui said.



“Drag Them to the Polls”



Alex Nicoll Editor-in-Chief

Taylor Madison Monroe drives around Fayetteville in her friend’s SUV, taking people to voting centers as part of her Drag Them to the Polls event Nov. 6. Monroe and four other queens, including Sister Erma Gerd, Sister Kara Oke, Kandy Kakes Monroe and Lady Kakes Monroe, drove 10 people to go vote throughout the day.

Politically charged movies serve effective conduits to share ideologies

Ryan Deloney
Staff Reporter
@ryandeloneyUARK

In 2011, Netflix released the first season of its lightning rod political thriller, “House of Cards.” The series depicts a corrupt Washington and one manipulative politician as he claws his way to the top. The show created a frenzy upon release because of its depiction of a seemingly indomitable public figure and crystallization of the forceful, formative nature of agenda-driven storytelling.

The social and political implications of filmmaking are entrenched in the world in which we live and the content we consume. We, the patrons of film, are shaped by the entertainment we pursue, their agendas and the public policies and institutions reflected in it.

Over the course of the 20th century, a cyclical system has emerged. The mechanics of politics use the entertainment industry, and vice versa. In the same way the media outlets form and reinforce this politics culture, they enter the process that guides the creation of public policy, said Daniel P. Franklin in his book, *Politics and Film: The Political Culture of Film in the United States*.

Politics and cinema have been intertwined since the industry’s inception. Take the controversial yet widely viewed silent epic, “The Birth of a Nation.” Perpetuating ghastly depictions of African Americans and painting the institution of slavery as charming and heavenly, the film could be viewed as straight propaganda. However, it undoubtedly served its supremacist political purpose, attempting to quash any kind of liberal idea of racial equality.

Still, the film transcended accusations of its agenda-driven scheme because of its high levels of craftsmanship. The movie is still noted objectively as one



Courtesy of David Giesbrecht / Netflix

Larry Pine (left) plays Bob Birch, a fictional democratic leader, in Chapter 58 of the Netflix show House of Cards.

of the first well-made feature films and enjoys a place in the Nation Film Registry compiled by the Library of Congress. Because it was skillful, because it was regarded as high-quality entertainment on a technical level and because it furthered the capacity for visual storytelling, the film succeeded in swaying audience perception.

It is clear political agendas are adopted by films, particularly films that audiences enjoy watching. Such was the phenomenon with “The Birth of a Nation.”

While films have been used to drive political messages for more than a century, it’s not all in the name of tricking audiences into supporting wicked crusades—although that is one potential use.

Data is not the most important influencer of people’s opinions, but feelings, said Janine Parry a political science professor.

“Facts don’t matter to people, perceptions and feelings do,” Parry said. “That’s why storytelling is the most important medium we have.”

Whether it’s an iconic president depicted in the informative light of the 2012 Steven Spielberg film, “Lincoln,” or September’s surprisingly political animated comedy, “Smallfoot,” films have the power to shape our perceptions of the world around us, whether through biopic and dramatic realism or allegory camouflaged through slapstick humor.

In the case of “House of Cards,” it’s the slick, dark and

over-the-top cynicism that drives viewers to ask questions about the limitless ambition of supposedly trustworthy leaders. It simultaneously encourages curiosity and criticism of Washington.

It’s clear Hollywood is often a conduit for political messages and subsequently configures public opinion. But sometimes, a counter reaction takes place in which heated political issues take a toll on Hollywood’s products.

Take “First Man,” the film following Neil Armstrong and the events leading up to his voyage to the moon. In the weeks leading up to its premiere, a controversy erupted after director Damien Chazelle elected not to depict the iconic planting of the American flag on

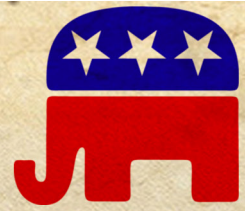
the moon’s surface. The movie was accused of anti-patriotism even before the vast majority of audiences had access to see it, and it severely underwhelmed on its opening weekend at the box office.

Still, in the majority of cases, it is certain that both public influencers and filmmakers have latched on to the human habit of clinging to compelling stories rather than political rhetoric or piles of data. This is because drama is more interesting than administrative gobbledygook. This fact is illuminated in straightforward process political features like “Spotlight” and “The Post,” but also in the subtler, message-driven approaches of films like “WALL-E,” which had themes of environmental peril and human

apathy laced within its comedic plot, Parry said.

This phenomenon can, by virtue of it being a human creation, be positive or negative, Parry said. Political cinema can serve as critique of human behavior, causing us to reflect on the world we live in, but it can also serve as a damaging distortion of partisan proceedings. Just as politics can have a negative effect on films like “First Man,” so too can shows like “House of Cards” eat away at public trust of authority figures in Washington. Or it can create a pathway for complete products of propaganda via “Birth of a Nation.” Like so many things, it can swing either way.

Apparently, that’s risk both parties are willing to take.



OPINION

Re-election gives Womack new opportunities in NWA

Michael Spendio
@michaelspendio

When it comes to Arkansas' 3rd Congressional District, the choice is simple: the Republican Party and President Donald Trump's agenda offer the best choice for Northwest Arkansas.

This midterm election brought with it an impending sense of urgency, due in large part to the mainstream media's shameless promotion for a "blue wave" this midterm. And if their bias couldn't be any more visible, their persistent use of divisive and borderline-apocalyptic rhetoric backfired and motivated the base of the Republican Party.

Re-elected Nov. 6, Steve Womack (R), tightly aligned himself with Trump and the GOP's successful agenda. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, his role is to help set the spending levels for Congress.

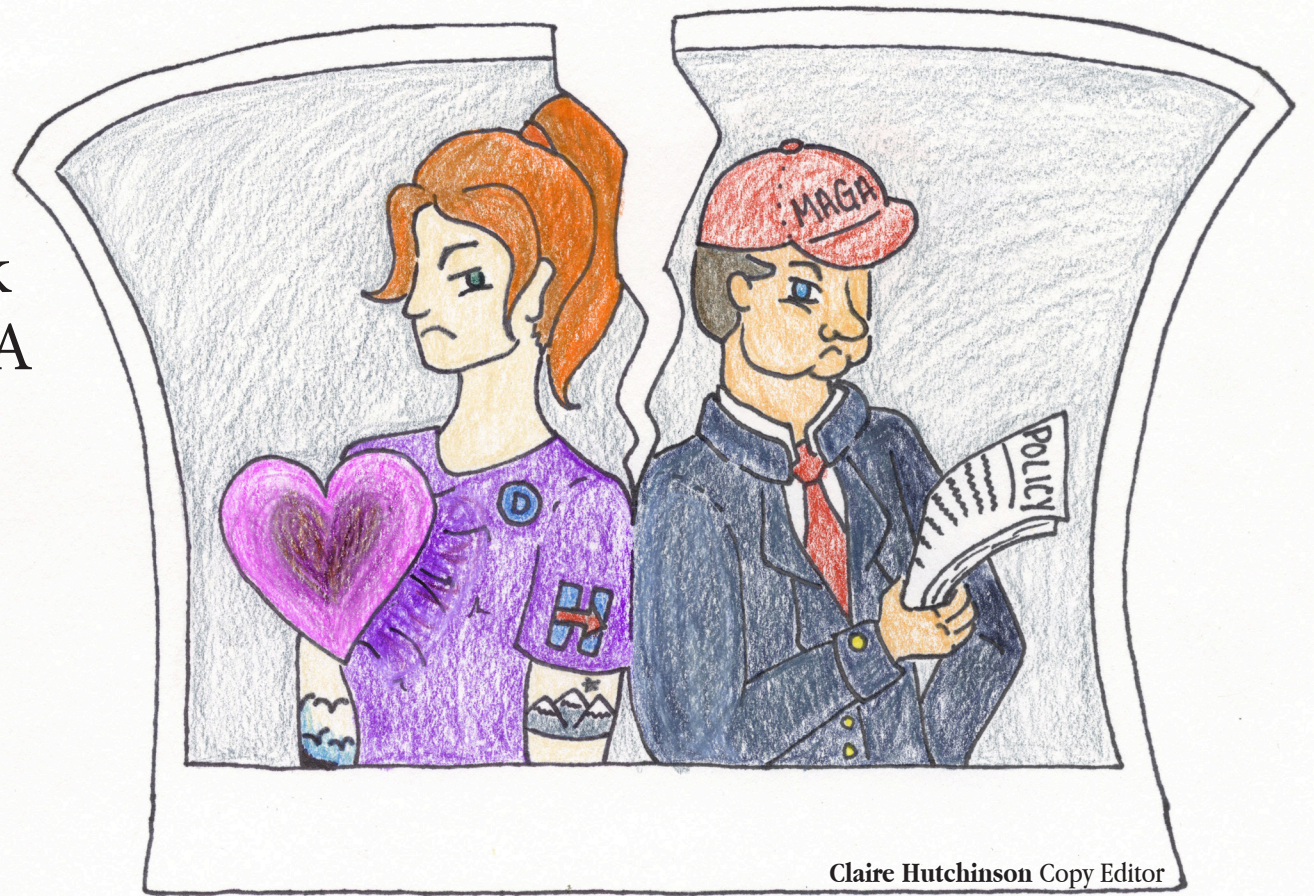
On a personal note, I have met Womack, and I can say that he is one of the most genuine and caring people that I have met. His commitment to his values is steadfast, and his devotion to this country and Northwest Arkansas is the same.

expected to balance the budget in nine years. During his tenure as chairman, Womack has aggressively pursued sensible reductions in federal spending to efficiently reduce needless government waste.

For those who are unaware, his position is incredibly important to Trump's administration and it would've suffered a major blow if Womack were to have lost this election. Unsuccessful Challenger, Josh Mahony (D) simply did not offer Northwest Arkansas a strong relationship with the current administration, as he firmly stood against them.

In terms of this election, it was important to realize that for Northwest Arkansas, no one has put more time and effort into improving the economic standing than Womack. His commitment to putting the taxpayer first through his strong support for the 2017 "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," gave families in Womack's district a \$2,000 tax cut on average.

Furthermore, thanks to the tax cuts, Walmart was able to increase their starting hourly pay to \$11 per hour, expand parental leave benefits and even provide a one-time cash bonus for employees. Tyson Foods, another major company in the district, was also able to provide a one-time cash bonus to employees as well.



Claire Hutchinson Copy Editor

It's hard to argue against these numbers here, as the GOP-Trump economy is winning "big-league." GDP is growing at a 3 percent-plus rate, nationwide unemployment is at 3.9 percent (a 50-year low), and the stock market is up 27 points, which are record levels. The numbers don't lie: The GOP agenda is producing tangible results for everyday Americans.

The GOP and Womack also bring forward a fundamental understanding of just how broken our healthcare laws are in this country. The Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, has been an unprecedented disaster, largely making healthcare deeply unaffordable.

The ACA has transmitted some nasty symptoms into the U.S., As Premiums have risen by 25 percent on average

for Americans, over 3 million people have lost their healthcare coverage during its existence and there has been an omnipresent shortage of primary doctors and insurance providers throughout the country.

As a strong opponent of the ACA, Womack has supported legislation for aggressive reductions in harmful governmental involvement in our healthcare options, whereas Josh Mahony and the Democrats have made it clear that they support the failing system.

Most importantly, in terms of this district, Womack is a man who has spent the majority of his life in Northwest Arkansas and is a proud Christian. He reflects the values of those that he was elected to serve and is a family man with great integrity.

On the opposite side, the

Democrat's agenda is virtually non-existent with no new policy objectives on their horizon. They had nothing to offer but vague promises. They have made the "impeachment of Trump" a priority, and since they've got a majority in the House of Representatives, they will likely bring a series of fruitless partisan investigations into D.C.

In terms of this race, Mahony has no history of job creation and wants to continue to fund the same broken and desolate safety net systems that have continued to fail middle-class Americans.

He has never held public office and has no formal experience with federal policy. In a Mahony-led district, Northwest Arkansans would've expected quite a difficult learning curve in terms of

getting any federal aid. He would've voted against the common sense economic policy that has benefited so many families of Northwest Arkansas already.

The GOP and Trump have produced real results that Americans can see for themselves: promises made and promises kept. Thankfully, since Womack has won his reelection bid, Northwest Arkansas will continue to benefit from the booming economy that is putting people back to work and from a strong relationship with the president and his administration.

Mike Spendio is a senior political science major and Opinion Editor for the Arkansas Traveler.

Despite loss, Mahony presented fresh, needed ideas for Northwest Arkansas

Micah Wallace
Columnist

During the midterm elections, Arkansans faced a critical choice: Will the electorate of the 3rd District distinguish themselves as partisan or value-based voters? The results of this race dictated whether our state cares about accountability and broken promises or the letter next to our candidate's names.

Voting down party lines is never the right answer, and this is evident with the multiple indictments across

party lines in our state legislature. Arkansas has seen partisanship fail us again and again. That's why the race between Josh Mahony (D) and incumbent Steve Womack (R) was such an important opportunity.

Womack, who is going on his fifth term, has turned into a career politician with dangerous policy positions. In order to understand Womack's ideology, it helps to reexamine his time as Rogers mayor. During an immigration boom to the city, Womack was staunchly opposed to

migrants moving in and allowed a provision, 287(g), that allows the police force to act as immigration officers, causing undocumented communities to stay silent about police crimes for fear of deportation. This Womack provision is in place in Rogers to this day.

Years later, Womack, unsurprisingly, supports the border wall, and held Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that provides eligible undocumented immigrants amnesty from deportation, renews hostage to receive funding for said wall. He even topped President Donald Trump's comments about "sh*thole countries," by calling them "depraved."

In a further testament to the detriment of partisanship, Womack verbally opposed the policy of family separation, yet voted against a budget amendment proposed by the Democrats to actually halt them.

As chairman of the House Budget Committee, he has voted to slash funding to vital safety-net programs. In June 2018, he proposed a budget that he ironically titled, "A Budget for a Brighter American Future," which

would effectively cut \$537 billion from Medicare, \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid, and \$4 billion from Social Security over the next decade.

During an AETN debate Oct. 9, Womack callously referred to Social Security as an entitlement, despite the fact that the government has been taking money out of our paychecks for years. It's careless, and it seriously lacks compassion.

All the while, Josh Mahony has reached out to the forgotten and dehumanized members of our community. When the Trump administration enacted a policy of family separation, he led with advocacy and co-organized a rally to stop the inhumane treatment. The day that birthright citizenship, the unique policy that has fostered our melting pot of cultural identities, was challenged, Mahony decided to stand up for our neighbors by hosting a rally in downtown Springdale. Not even an elected official yet, but advocating on his platform, Mahony said he wants to focus on, "promoting an inclusive and diverse environment that allows everyone to live with dignity and without fear"

So where does Arkansas

stand? Womack claims that he cares and opposes inhumane treatment, yet will do nothing. Whereas Mahony continues to lead with love for his community and every member within.

When it comes to healthcare, Womack, along with Trump, assured his constituents that he had a "commitment to protect pre-existing conditions." But does that matter when his actions are so contrary to what he says? In 2017, he voted for the American Healthcare Act, which would have decimated protections for pre-existing conditions, creating loopholes for essential benefits.

Mahony stands firm in his belief: He wants to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act.

He is unafraid to admit the ACA has problems, even standing in negation to his party. However, unlike Womack, he knows that if the ACA was repealed the number of Arkansans insured would increase by 171 percent. He believes in building on what has worked for so many Americans.

As Arkansans, we stand united in our belief in respecting those as you would

want them to respect you. We offer our helping hands and glasses of sweet tea to those in need, regardless of skin color or political party. More than anything, we believe in keeping our promises.

Who aligns with these values? It's apparent that Josh Mahony represents our needs, wants and our hearts. He would separate himself from partisanship to make the best choices for our communities.

Womack has been in office since 2011. What substantial legislation has he even sponsored to address any of the concerns or issues Arkansans are having in our state? Womack says what we want to hear, compassion in his words but heartlessness in his votes.

The lack of accountability we are showing Womack will only encourage further unsavory characters to poorly represent our Arkansas values. Let's start paying closer attention, and whether Womack or Mahony wins, let's demand more from our politicians.

Micah Wallace is a sophomore political science & broadcast journalism and columnist for the Arkansas Traveler.

"About a month ago I went to knock on the door of a house, but as I got closer I could see so many guns on display. I felt so intimidated and scared so I turned and left."

- Mariam Siddiqui, UA senior and campaign organizer for Denise Gardner

Democratic campaigns serve as networking opportunity for students, pg. 9



Editorial Board

- Editor-in-Chief** Alex Nicoll
- Managing Editor** Chase Reavis
- Multimedia Editor** Shelby Evans
- Opinion Editor** Michael Spendio
- Campus News Editor** Beth Dedman
- Campus News Editor** Grant Lancaster
- Lifestyle Editor** Halie Brown
- Sports Editor** Antonio Tinajero

The Arkansas Traveler welcomes letters to the editor from all interested readers. Letters should be at most 300 words and should include your name, student classification and major or title with the university and a day-time telephone number for verification. Letters should be sent to traveler@uark.edu.

Issue 2 sets dangerous precedent for NWA

Hunt Cummins
Columnist

Many initiatives on this year's ballot generated heated discussion and coverage such as Issue 1, a proposed change to Arkansas's constitution that would limit payouts in some lawsuits gained notoriety for its legal challenges, during which it was ruled unconstitutional.

Between these high profile initiatives lies the seemingly innocuous ballot Initiative 2. According to Ballotpedia, the initiative would incorporate existing statutes on voting into the Arkansas constitution.

The amendment, passed on Nov. 6, mandates that a state

issued photographic ID must be presented at any polling place in order to vote in Arkansas elections. Arkansas's statutes, like others in the U.S., were billed as a means of preventing voter fraud.

Such a proposal, viewed superficially, seems logical. Why shouldn't a potential voter, through an easily obtained medium, have to verify their identity? Certainly, all measures should be taken to protect the integrity of our democratic processes. Buried beneath this seeming logic lies a web of deception and hyperbole.

Voting fraud is functionally non-existent. A Loyola Law School study found between

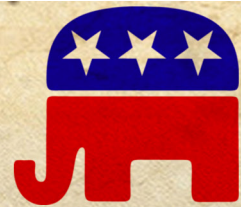
2000 and 2014, among over 1 billion ballots cast, only 31 instances of voter fraud were discovered. Such slim margins couldn't tip the scales in a school board election, let alone a major race. The idea that hoards of illegal votes are genuinely affecting outcomes is simply impossible and nonsensical.

Some might say, rightfully, that 31 fraudulent votes is 31 too many, regardless of outcome. Therefore, all steps should be taken in order to prevent them. In reality, the mass disenfranchisement that voter ID laws cause do vastly more harm to our democratic institutions than any fraudulent voter ever could.

It is easy to believe, especially among the privileged, that everyone has the necessary ID to vote. However, the reality is that a large portion of the American populace does not, to the impoverished. It isn't just the financial burden. Oftentimes, citizens lack ready access to the facilities necessary to obtain identification, especially those in rural areas within Arkansas.

For the full story, visit uatrav.com.

Hunt Cummins is a senior political science major and columnist for the Arkansas Traveler.



Representative retains his seat, defeats Democratic competitor

Grant Lancaster
Campus News Editor
@grantlan145

The Republican representative for Arkansas' 3rd Congressional District held onto his spot against a Democratic candidate in the midterm elections Tuesday night, according to preliminary election results.

Rep. Steve Womack (R), who has served on the U.S. House of Representatives since 2011, defeated Josh Mahony (D) for the 3rd District spot.

Womack plans to continue his efforts to reduce Congress's spending on programs like healthcare and social security that account for a large portion of Congress's budget each year, according to his campaign.

Curt Sullivan, a UA political science lecturer, thinks that Womack's re-election should not come as a surprise because of how frequently incumbents are able to hold their seats, he said.

"The odds are that the seat won't change hands," Sullivan said. "In the House, it's usually somewhere between 90 and 95 percent of incumbents get re-elected every two years."

Sullivan thinks that Womack's financial position also gave him an edge over Mahony, he said. Womack's background in business and politics gave him a financial edge over Mahony's nonprofit history.

"I think he has out-spent Mahony by about 5:1," Sullivan said.

The difference in campaign spending means that voters were more familiar with Womack than Mahony because Womack was able to run more advertisements, Sullivan said.



Rep. Steve Womack (R) attends the opening session of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on July 18, 2016.

Courtesy of Associated Press

"[Mahony] doesn't have as much money. He certainly can't afford to be on television or have radio spots as much as Womack has been able to," Sullivan said.

In addition to his money, Womack's high status in the Republican caucus has given him a certain pull, Sullivan said. Mahony, on the other hand, was a political newcomer with no experience in office.

Sullivan thinks Womack's time in office and status in Congress has given him name recognition that attracted votes

from non-affiliated voters who had simply seen more of his ads than his opponent's, he said.

Womack has been chairman of the House Budget Committee since January and formed a 16-member bipartisan committee to suggest reforms to Congress's budget process, according to a press release from Feb. 23. The eight senators and eight representatives on the committee, an even mixture of Democrats and Republicans, have until Nov. 30 to present a report with their suggestions to reform the budget.

Womack thinks the only way to balance the budget and reduce the national debt is to reform these programs so that they take up less of the budget and allow Congress to spend more on defense, national parks and other services, he said in a debate Oct. 8 on the Arkansas Educational Television Network.

"I don't want to cut those programs. If I wanted to cut those programs, I would do absolutely nothing because they get cut on their own," Womack said.

One of the programs Womack said he plans to reform, Social

Security, is projected to cost more than its yearly income in 2018, resulting in the program's first deficit since 1982, according to the 2018 Social Security trustees' report. This deficit is expected to continue each year until 2034, when the program's money reserves will be spent.

"He's got a track record of promoting and developing economic success," Sullivan said.

Womack has supported increasing the minimum wage in Arkansas and, during his time as mayor of Rogers, put effort into developing the Pinnacle Hills

Promenade, Sullivan said.

Sophomore Abigail Vance hoped Mahony would win because she dislikes Womack's policies, she said.

"He's been in power for a long time and I think that some change would be good for our country," Vance said.

Despite his defeat, Mahony thinks his campaign may have laid the groundwork for future Democratic campaigns, he said.

"We are really proud of the race we put on, we knew it was going to be an uphill battle," Mahony said.

ARKANSAS CARDINAL NIGHTS

Winter Wonderland

Friday, Nov. 30th

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

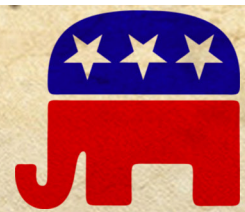
Union Mall

Ice Skating Rink



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
STUDENT AFFAIRS

New Student & Family Programs



UA community leans toward blue political stance, voting records disagree

Clare O'Hagan
Staff Reporter
@clarelizabetho

Some UA professors think the UofA tends toward liberal ideals, but most Northwest Arkansas residents identified as conservative or republicans in a recent poll.

Around 37 percent of percent of NWA residents identified as Republican and around 33 percent identified as independent, according to the 2018 Arkansas Poll.

In the 2016 election, the majority of Fayetteville precincts voted for Hillary Clinton, according to the 2016 General Election and Nonpartisan Runoff Results.

But the majority of Northwest Arkansas voted for President Donald Trump, who won by 8,110 votes in Washington County, according to the Washington County General Election Summary Report.

Political science professor Angie Maxwell thinks the reason why Fayetteville is considered more liberal is because the UofA attracts people from all backgrounds as opposed to more rural parts of the state, she said.

"It is very common for university towns to be bluer right now, and a lot of times people think, 'Oh, it's because of these liberal young students,' when that's actually not what it is," Maxwell said. "A lot of our student body is actually divided or balanced."

Andrew Dowdle, a UA political science professor, thinks limited access to voting on campus makes it difficult to determine which political party dominates at the university, he said.

"Since a lot of the students don't end up voting on campus and some students vote absentee, it's really difficult to figure out

exactly the town-and-gown relationship," Dowdle said. "Basically, we don't know what are the real trends between the gown or student part on campus and the rest of the town, which does tend be much more blue. I think that tends to be self selected. You've got university professors, people who live here by choice."

Washington County election officials rejected five ASG proposals in the last decade, including one that would bring a voting center to campus for the midterm election in November, said Jennifer Price, the election coordinator for the Washington County election commission.

Dowdle thinks there are multiple factors leading to somewhat of a divide between Fayetteville and the rest of the state, he said.

"Younger people tend to be a little bit more democratic than the general population, but at the same time you're kind of looking at this in terms of this campus being overwhelmingly upper middle class and white than if you look at suburbs around the state," Dowdle said. "It'd be an interesting test case to see how democratic the student body would end up being once you take those different factors into account. It'd probably be more democratic than the rest of the state."

Another reason behind the diversity in the area is due to companies like Walmart being centered in Northwest Arkansas, Maxwell said.

"It's just really unusual that you have the biggest Fortune 500 company in the world in this little neck of the woods," Maxwell said. "They have decided to spend so much money investing in this area."

Senior Skylar Caldwell thinks the rising of liberal mindsets in Arkansas and the

country as a whole correlates with more people voting, especially since Donald Trump became president, he said.

He thinks there's been a lot of fascinating elections to watch, some that have gone blue and some that have almost gone blue all across the South and across the country, and that is a result of more people voting, Caldwell said.

"Every state in the U.S. has a problem with people being politically apathetic, and I think specifically the election of Donald Trump has inspired more people to register, to come out and voice their opinion by casting a ballot," Caldwell said.

Caldwell predicts that the political climate in Arkansas will stay fairly stagnant, but thinks the way students and citizens respond to events and elections will change, he said.

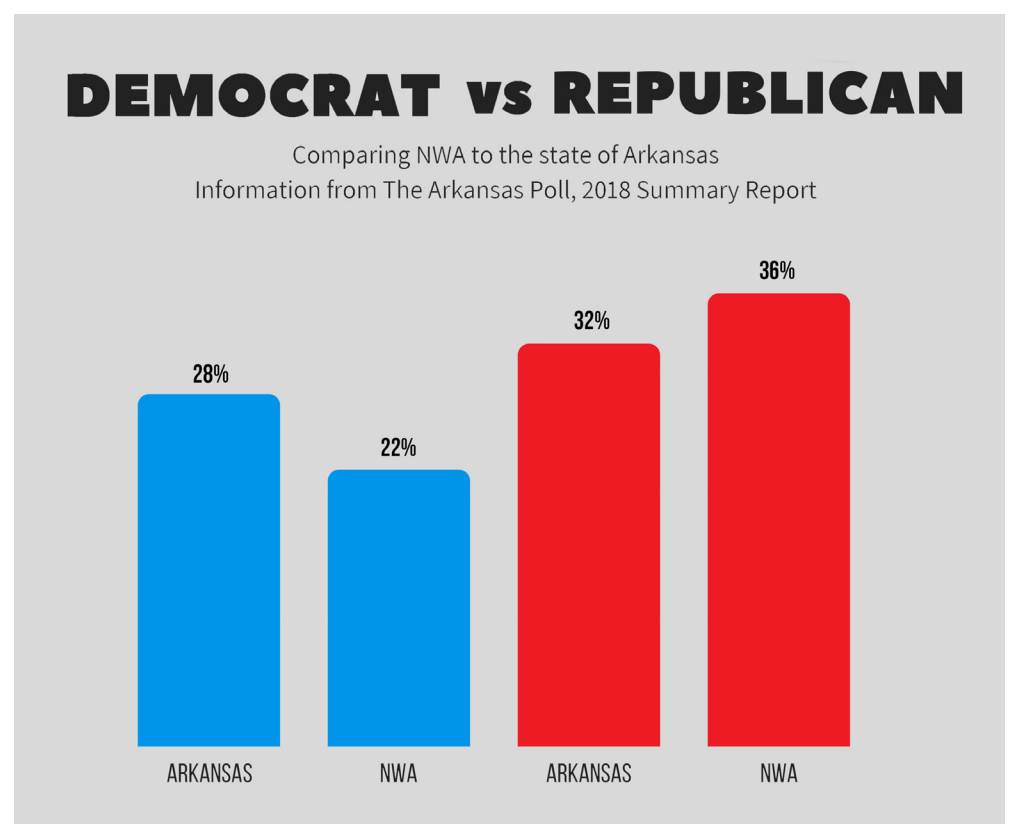
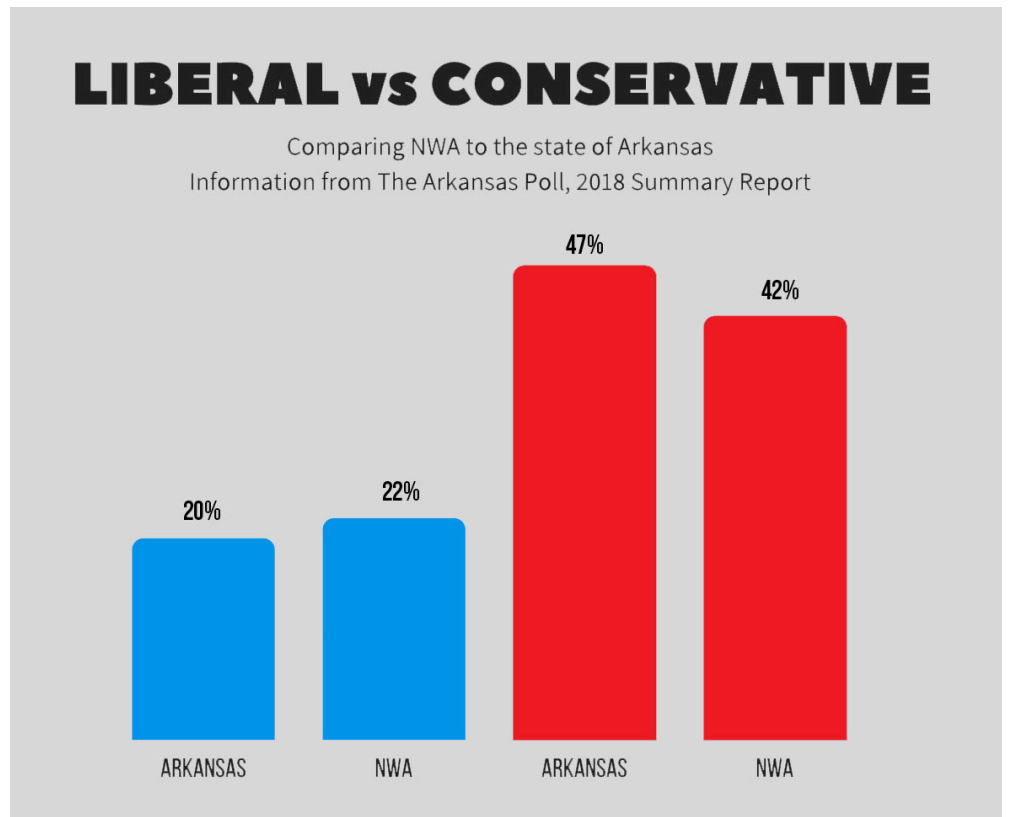
Senior Mary Claire Spivey thinks more people in Arkansas want a purple government, or a mixed government, but are not motivated enough to make that happen, she said.

"I think more people have opinions rather than actions they're going to take," Spivey said. "They can talk all they want, but they're not going to do anything about it. I don't think Arkansas will be a purple state anytime soon. I think we'll be a red state for a while."

Caldwell thinks the way to combat the stationary political climate of the state and country is to do something about it and vote, he said.

"I think it's a very interesting time to look at politics in Arkansas and in the country," Caldwell said.

"We're all along for the ride, but we also have the opportunity to really change and influence the outcome, and I think it's important that everybody gets involved and votes and everybody brings something to the table, because I think that's the only way that we can keep this republic afloat."



Cruz keeps U.S. Senate seat after surviving scare from newcomer O'Rourke

Laurel Anne Harkins
Staff Reporter
@LaurelHarkins

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R) will return to serve his second term despite his Democratic opponent earning nearly half of the votes in the midterm election Tuesday night.

Cruz was re-elected as a Texas senator with 50.9 percent of the vote, while Beto O'Rourke (D) lost with 48.3 percent of the vote, according to the Associated Press.

This race was unusual because of the changing demographics within Texas and the possibility of the Democratic Party becoming competitive in Texas during presidential elections, said Andrew Dowdle, a UA political science professor.

"The assumption was that, the last 20 years, Texas statewide elections weren't going to be competitive," Dowdle said. "There was the idea that, at some point, demographics and organizations were going to make the Democrats more competitive for it."

Freshman Abigail Jolley from Paris, Texas, thought Cruz was probably going to win, but she still had her doubts until the results came out, she said.

"I'm pretty pumped," Jolley said. "I hope Cruz is the best for Texas."

Sophomore Cat Martens, from Greenville, Texas, thinks that the voter turnout might have been affected by the uproar over the Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh trial, she said.

It was a matter of timing because the Kavanaugh trial received a lot of



Courtesy of Associated Press
U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D) speaks at the Texas Democratic Convention on June 22.

media coverage and happened immediately before midterm elections, Martens said.

"People saw (the Kavanaugh trial), then they had an emotional reaction to that, and then they saw an opportunity to act on that," Martens said. "The opportunity was really fast, and it was coming up really quickly, so they were like, 'Oh, of course I'm going to vote.'"

Martens thinks high media coverage of the trial and high run-off emotions from its verdict directly influenced how involved people were in the Texas Senate race, she said.

Martens voted by absentee ballot.

Dowdle thinks Texas is one of the least accessible states for college voters because of difficulties that arise from how the absentee ballot system works, a lack of mail voting and the requirement to change registration if you

end up moving, he said.

Government officials mail absentee ballots to registered voters who request an absentee ballot by mailing an Application for Ballot by Mail form to their district's election office. Once this request is verified, government officials send the voter a ballot. Once the recipient gets the ballot, they can fill it out and mail it back to their designated local election office.

"Texas has actually made it much more difficult for college students to vote over the last 20 years," Dowdle said. This race draws attention because it shows the Democratic Party has a chance of becoming competitive in Texas, Dowdle said.

"It could be because there's a possible upset where Texas becomes more Democrat," Handley said.

Abigail Jolley approves of Cruz because of what he is doing for Texans, she said.

"Ted is an advocate for job growth, he's an advocate for national sovereignty and

economically speaking I think he could be good for Texas," Jolley said.

Cruz's immigration policy stands for keeping undocumented workers out of the country, which will protect Texan jobs and income, Jolley said.

Jolley tends to vote Republican, she said.

"Of course I'll check out the opposing person's beliefs," Jolley said. "I will check out do I agree with them, do their beliefs line up with mine. And not everything is going to be perfect. You can't find a perfect candidate, but I know there is a 98 percent chance that no matter who is running, I will always vote Republican or conservative. That's just a me thing. I base my politics off morals. Morally, I think the right is more correct."

Jolley thinks Republicans are more moral than Democrats because their platforms regarding abortion, immigration and

homosexuality closely align with her beliefs, she said.

Freshman Jessica Handley from McKinney, Texas, thinks educated voting is the most important part of the election process, she said.

"I tried to vote specifically along being educated about each candidate, so I didn't vote along party lines," Handley said. "And I noticed, because I voted for some local people as well, I believe that I voted for Democrats and Republicans. I try to be more independent."

Martens thinks it is important for people to vote for specific candidates that align with their personal beliefs instead of voting along party lines, she said.

"Knowing my family members and growing up in Texas, it's always been a party line and always been Republican, no questions asked," Martens said. "And even when you start to mention more democratic ideas, they're terrified that

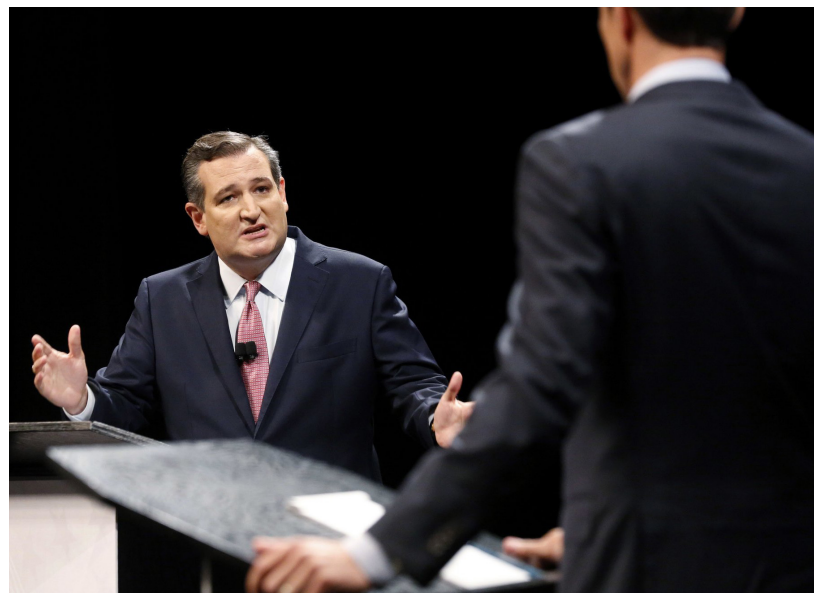
you're a Democrat and it's like, well, let's just take it like what the policies actually are and what each candidate is actually saying."

O'Rourke's nonpartisan way of speaking is very appealing to Martens for this reason, she said.

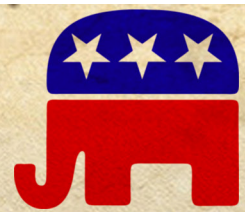
"If anything, I've just enjoyed listening to Beto because of that way of thinking: It's not a party line, just, 'What can we all do?'" Martens said. "Not, 'what can one side do?' or 'what has one side done?'"

Jolley thinks that driving four hours to her hometown and voting in person is important because of how the people of Texas have and will influence her life, she said.

"I feel like it's important to vote in your home state, where you grew up and where you're probably going to end up settling," Jolley said. "I feel like that's my future there, therefore I should help make an impact in voting for my future."



Courtesy of Associated Press
U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R) (left) and U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D) (right) debate Sept. 21.



Governor race decided soon after polls close, Hutchinson gets 2nd term

Tegan Shockley
Staff Reporter
@TeganShockley4

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) will serve his second term as governor of Arkansas following a sweeping defeat of his Democratic opponent Tuesday night, according to preliminary election results.

Jamie Barker, Hutchinson's campaign spokesperson, thinks Hutchinson won because he completed the promises from his first term, he said.

"It is a testament to the job the governor has done in the last four years," Barker said. "He did exactly what he said he was going to do."

Hutchinson has been the governor of Arkansas since 2015 and campaigned for re-election by promoting his achievements from his last term, including cutting approximately \$165 million in taxes, according to his campaign.

In 2018, 61 percent of Arkansans approved of Hutchinson, according to the Arkansas Poll.

Hutchinson plans to continue cutting taxes by working with legislators to lower the top income tax rate from 6.9 percent to 5.9 percent over the next four years, according to his campaign website.

Hutchinson also passed the Computer Science Initiative in 2015. This law required computer science courses to be taught in every public high

school in the state. Junior Drake Moudy, president of UA College Republicans, supports Hutchinson because of his accomplishments in the previous term, he said.

"I believe that Governor Hutchinson has created a clear vision for Arkansas and has implemented it well," Moudy said. "He's got a record. He's got a plan. So he needs another four years to see that plan out."

Senior Erin Bartels, president of UA Young Democrats, does not think Hutchinson is a bad governor, but she wanted the Democrat candidate to win because she disagrees with Hutchinson's platform, she said.

"I mean, he's definitely not the worst, like I don't hate him or anything," Bartels said. "He's a strong candidate, but I don't think that his policies are necessarily the best for the state."

Moudy thinks Hutchinson successfully implemented his visions from his first term, such as the Arkansas Works program, he said. The program ensures that people are actually pursuing a job, he said.

"Think about a chain," Moudy said. "Your chain's only as strong as your weakest link, and so by having various strong links together, he's able to make a strong state — the state that's able to help itself and help its people."

The program, which was enacted in 2016, provides health care coverage to people with low incomes. People from ages 19-49, who do not have exempting



Courtesy of the Associated Press
The democratic candidate for governor Jared Henderson announces his run for governor Dec. 11, 2017.



Courtesy of the Arkansas Governor's website
Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) speaks at the Museum of Discovery Spark! Luncheon on Nov. 5.

conditions, are required to work or engage in activities like job training 80 hours each month and report it to be eligible, according to the Medicaid.

In a debate on the Arkansas Educational Television Network on Oct. 13, Hutchinson said he thinks the work requirement is a way

for people to receive health care while also getting training necessary to work.

"The work requirement is a way not only to balance compassion with responsibility, but it's also for those able-bodied people without a dependent at home a means for them to get more training, to be able to find access to a job, and that's what we want to do," Hutchinson said in the AETN debate.

Hutchinson plans to complete new tasks like raising the minimum salary for teachers, instituting an ethics reform, creating a strategy to pay for highways and making the government more efficient by combining agencies, according to his campaign website.

Over the next four years, he plans to raise the minimum starting salary for teachers from \$31,800 to \$36,000, which will be the highest starting salaries in the region, according to his campaign website.

Hutchinson wants to ensure that Arkansans have elected officials with the highest ethical standards, according to his campaign website. The ethics reform would require all legislators and constitutional officers to publicly disclose conflicts of interest before debating or voting on legislation.

Hutchinson wants to strengthen penalty laws and make sure that campaign finances are properly disclosed, he said in the AETN debate. He thinks corruption in the state happened before his first term,

but the reform would deter officials from taking bribes or misappropriating money.

"It's very troubling to see these kinds of ethical violations, really criminal conduct, and it starts with the heart," Hutchinson said. "You've got to have your elected officials doing the right thing and hold them accountable when they don't."

Hutchinson is also trying to create a long-term strategy to pay for the highways in a responsible and sustainable way, according to his campaign website. He will also present the plan to voters for approval.

He wants to make the government more efficient by reducing the number of cabinet-level agencies that report to the governor from 42 to 20 or fewer by combining the agencies, and saving \$15 million, according to his campaign website.

Cabinet agencies, like the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, will merge to provide more resources and eliminate duplicative processes, according to the Arkansas government website.

Moudy thinks Hutchinson's platforms align with the College Republicans, and he did a good job during his campaign by listening to the needs of the voters, he said.

"Our governor is a true advocate for all Arkansans," Moudy said. "He is enabling people to do better and enabling people to move forward, and that in turn is making our whole state better."

International students feel effects of severe vetting

Patrick Clarkson
Staff Reporter
@Loosy_Goose

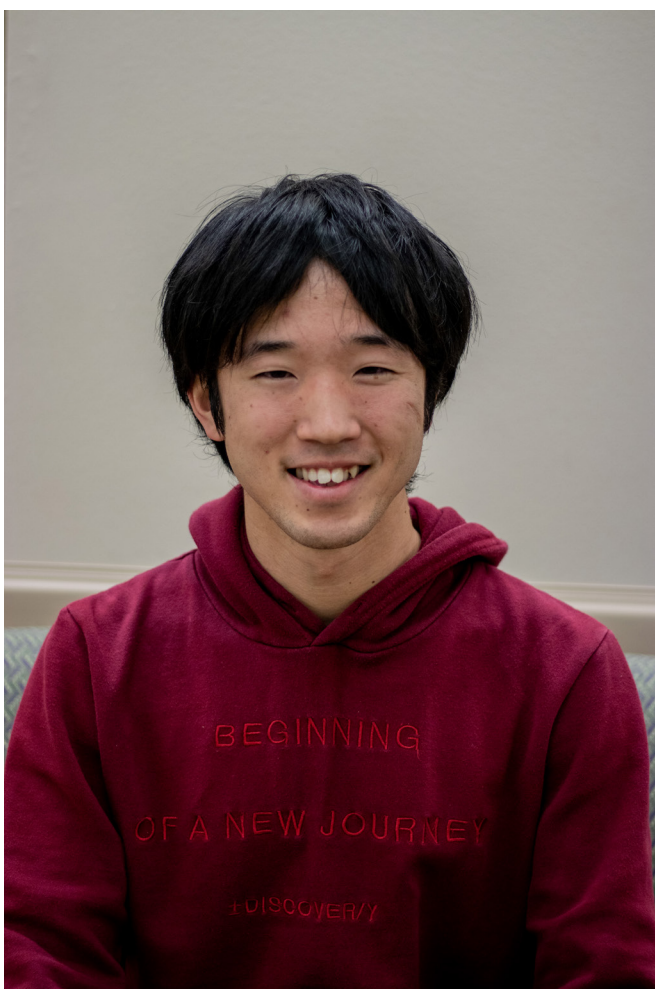
He chose to study in the U.S. because he knew if he wanted to learn anything about the country, it wouldn't be from a textbook. He would have to hear the voices of the people first-hand, but he was surprised with what he heard. The way he thinks international students are being treated, and spoken to, has changed because of the current political climate, and not for the good.

Hashimoto thinks that the feelings toward international students in the U.S. have changed following the transition into a new presidency, he said. International students are not only feeling that they are being restricted legally, but also think that some Americans are starting to have negative opinions about them. The U.S. and Japan are good allies, so Hashimoto has never been deeply affected by the policy changes, he said.

"I think American politics are shifting in a bad way," junior Masahiro Hashimoto said.

Graduate student Ahmad Mobariz is from Afghanistan and thinks President Donald Trump's policies have created uncertainty for people coming from regions like the Middle East. Under the Trump administration it is more difficult to obtain visas, and there was no certainty that Mobariz could get one with the new restrictions, he said.

Hashimoto thinks the political climate affects the voice in the U.S. It is natural for a citizen to feel insecure when people from different countries are traveling to the



Taffy Kavanaugh Staff Photographer
Junior international student Masahiro Hashimoto came to the UofA to study with students from different backgrounds. Hashimoto is originally from Japan.

U.S. and getting jobs, he said.

In 2016 there was a record 43.7 million immigrants living in the U.S., making up 13.5 percent of the nation's population. Out of the 43.7 million, 43 percent were U.S. citizens, according to the Pew Research Center.

When political discussions start to become polarizing, it can be dangerous. The people might start to become violent, and people will protest in the wrong way, Hashimoto said.

There are many events going on in the world that may scare people. The fear that is being created is affecting American politics, Hashimoto said.

Under the Trump administration there has been more severe vetting for visas and financial aid benefits for international students across the board. Applications for financial benefits are slowing down, and there are more requests for evidence that the students need benefits, said Michael Freeman, the director of the Graduate School and International Education.

The international students whom Freeman speaks with when helping them transition to the UofA are planners. When international students are planning on staying in the U.S. for four years, policies can make the move difficult when

they change month by month, he said.

"It has created a lot of uncertainty," Mobariz said.

Senior Winston Gonzalez is from Panama. Gonzalez received a scholarship from the UofA, which led him to study here, he said. Under Barack Obama's administration, it was easier for international students to get a scholarship then it is today. It is becoming more difficult under the increased vetting of international students, he said.

Gonzalez has lived in Arkansas for four years, and has experience living under the Barack Obama and Trump administrations. In his experiences and with talking to his friends, it was easier to get an internship or scholarship under the Obama administration but with new regulations being made under Trump, it has made living in the U.S. difficult, he said.

Talking with international students to learn more about them and their cultures is important. It helps them feel more at home and might help change people's opinions about international students, Gonzalez said.

Hashimoto thinks it is important to learn about and talk with international students, and when people don't learn, it is very ignorant, he said.

American students who appreciate international students should reach out to their representatives and share their voice, Freeman said.

It is very important that people vote, Hashimoto said. In Japan, there are many elderly people who vote, so politicians often create programs and legislation that benefit the elderly. If people want their issues addressed, they need to show the politicians they will vote, he said.

Millennials represent a third of the country

Continued from page 1

boomers in population numbers, the percentage of young adults showing up at midterm elections is only half of that of the baby boomers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Baby boomers represented 38 percent of voters in 2012, while young adults made up just 19 percent of the voting census, according to the Pew Research Center.

For some out-of-state college students like UA freshman Lauren Patton from Oklahoma, being in a new state could contribute to low voter turnout, she said.

"As an out-of-state student, I'm not familiar with the candidates here in Arkansas," Patton said. "I do not want to vote for someone without knowing what they're all about."

Another reason that might point to the underrepresentation of millennials each voting period is the old-fashioned ballots. In a society in which technology dominates how people operate in everyday life, especially young people, online voting could attract this demographic. Jackson registered to vote online and thinks it would be realistic to make online voting a reality, he said.

"(Millennials) are very tech-savvy," Jackson said. "As a generation, we are at that stage where we don't want to go to a ballot. If we could do it all online, we would."

In 2014, the last midterm election, more than half of 18- to 24-year-olds were not registered to vote, mostly because they either missed

the deadline or did not know how to register, according to the Campus Vote Project.

Some students think voter registration is poorly promoted on campus, which may contribute to the lack of student voting, sophomore Chase Dabliz said.

"On a college campus where thousands of young people are compacted into one community, you would think that voting registration would be promoted pretty extensively, but I don't think it was," Dabliz said. "If I had received an email or some convenient way to register, I probably would've."

Millennials are not the only ones that do not show up to midterm elections in the same capacity as presidential elections. In the midterm election of 2010, around 40 percent of the general population voted and in the presidential election of 2012, over 58 percent voted, according to the Pew Research Center.

Some students, however, are trying to change that stigma. Sophomore Turner Gillmore is from Memphis, Tennessee, but was looking forward to casting his vote in Arkansas. Living in Fayetteville as a student, Gillmore found it more convenient to vote in Arkansas as opposed to making a five-hour drive home to vote, he said.

"I believe that if only a small portion of the country voted, then the results wouldn't show the true majority," Gillmore said. "It doesn't matter where I am at the time as long as I'm doing my part to help accurately depict the country's opinion."

STORY IDEA?

EMAIL STORY IDEAS AND LINKS TO
traveler@uark.edu