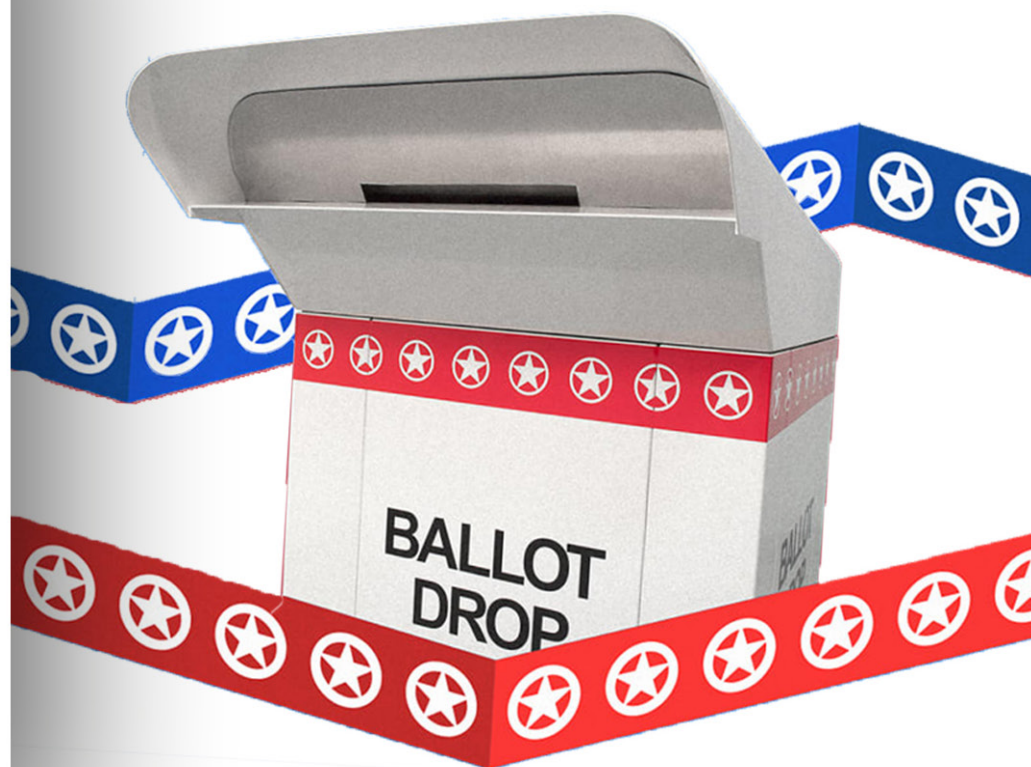


Official FAMUAN Election Edition

- Ausley vs. Preston: Fight to the Finish
Pg. 1
- Amendment 2 is a vote for Equal Opportunity
Pg. 2
- Students Engaged as Election inches closer
Pg. 4
- Self Care is Critical This Election Season
Pg. 7
- Trump vs. Biden and Their Support for HBCU's
Pg. 9
- The Famuan Endorses Biden-Harris
Pg. 11



Ausley vs. Preston: A fiery fight

Ariyon Dailey
Editor-in-Chief

It's crunch time for local and national elections. In Leon County and the Big Bend, the Senate District 3 race has been the most fierce. Vicious attack ads, pricey campaign expenses and plenty of candidate merch to go around.

The seat has been Democrat-held for 20 years and Bill Montford currently serves in the seat, but he is term-limited out after eight years in the state Senate.

Both candidates are women who were

raised in North Florida. Both believe they are community advocates, but have polar opposite approaches to serving Leon County and the surrounding 10 counties the seat represents.

As of Oct. 29, 52% of active registered voters have already cast their votes.

The first candidate is Loranne Ausley, the Democrat who gave up her seat in the state House of Representatives in hope of replacing Montford. She has nearly 20

years of experience in local and state government. She served in the Florida House from 2000-2008 and was elected to the lower chamber again in 2016.

Ausley wants all voters to understand that her sense of achievement stems from getting people answers.

"If I can be able to be in a position to use government to help people better their lives — that to me is worth doing and is the reason I want to continue my

service," Ausley said.

Ausley makes it crystal clear to voters that she wants to help families and children, protect Florida water and land, and rebuild communities. All of these priorities visibly tie into her personal life.

She's a mother to a visually impaired son, she loves outdoor sports like biking and swimming and spent a load of time physically assisting the Panhandle

Click link to continue: <https://rb.gy/0hoat3>

A vote for Amendment 2 is a vote for equal opportunity

Kayla McKinney
News Editor

This election, voters in the state of Florida will be deciding on Amendment 2. This amendment will decide if the minimum wage in Florida should be raised to \$15 per hour. The vote for Amendment 2 should be a unanimous “yes,” from all voters.

Currently, the minimum wage is \$8.56. With such a high cost of living across the state, many workers have protested and struck numerous times over the past five years, urging employers to increase their pay to a “liveable wage.”

Per the new constitutional amendment, if approved, the minimum wage would be increased to \$10 an hour on Sept. 30, 2021. The minimum wage would, then after, be increased by \$1 every year on Sept. 30 until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2026.

Not only is a ‘yes’ vote for this bill crucial for employees, it’s needed to close the poverty gap in the state.

According to a living wage calculator formed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the minimum living wage required for a single adult to live in Florida is about \$12 an hour. For a single adult with a child, or multiple children, a living wage is double this amount.

An employee working with the current minimum wage set would have to work two jobs just to meet a decent wage to afford basic necessities such as housing, food and gas. For an employee with a family, even working two jobs would still put them below the poverty level.

Workers shouldn’t have to overexert themselves while they’re helping businesses stay afloat. Employees’ financial

needs should be a prime concern for all employers and managers.

A higher minimum wage is needed to help workers support themselves without having to work endless amounts of jobs just to make ends meet. Especially for workers with families, the children should be considered.

If families are living paycheck to paycheck, basic things like food, childcare and other costs necessary for grade school become more of a luxury item. In this sense, children don’t have equal opportunities awarded to them, simply because their parents don’t make enough hourly.

Voting for a higher minimum wage would allow many individuals and their families to live on a similar playing field as some salaried employees in areas such as education, healthcare and housing.



Photo courtesy Joe Raedle, Getty Images
Protestors demand higher wages at a rally for increased minimum wage in Florida.

Click link to continue: <https://rb.gy/mu9d68>

Amendment 4 would impact future amendments

Tanasia A. Reed
Staff writer

**Official General Election Ballot, November 3, 2020
Leon County, Florida**

- Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval completely next to a black or blue pen.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out.
- To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print for the write-in candidate.

President and Vice President (Vote for One)		Shall Judge Scott Makar of the Court of Appeal be retained in c
<input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump Michael R. Pence	REP	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden Kamala D. Harris	DEM	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<input type="radio"/> Jo Jorgensen Jeremy "Spike" Cohen	LPF	Shall Judge Tim Osterhaus of the District Court of Appeal be retain
<input type="radio"/> Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente Darcy G. Richardson	REF	

Photo courtesy leonvotes.gov
Sample ballot for Leon County, Fla.

On the Nov. 3 ballot, Floridians are being asked to vote “yes” or “no” to Amendment 4, which would require residents to vote twice on proposed constitutional amendments in two successive elections for official approval. As of now, amendments need to be approved only once and many Floridians think it should stay that way.

This amendment would keep the current guideline for constitutional amendments as they will still be required to get 60% of the votes for both elections.

Keep Our Constitution Clean, a committee located in Fort Lauderdale, that is sponsoring Amendment 4, believes that it will provide “safeguards” for amending the state’s constitution.

According to the committee’s website, they propose that the amendment will “preserve Florida’s constitution for future generations by educating voters on the impact of various constitutional initiative petitions and, secondarily, protecting professional canvassers from unscrupulous and illegal practices.”

This “think twice” initiative for constitutional amendments is not highly favored by many residents. According to Florida Today, 11 newspapers in the state are saying “no” to Amendment 4. The Palm Beach Post, Orlando Sentinel and the Tampa Bay Times are among the publications urging voters to say no to Amendment 4.

The Sun-Sentinel editorial board calls

the amendment “misleading and dangerous,” and the Orlando Sentinel describes it as a “naked attempt to stop citizens from amending Florida’s constitution.”

Many of these publications believe the amendment to be in favor of the ruling and wealthy class as it will lead to limiting the power of citizens to amend the state’s constitution. Getting an amendment on the ballot requires countless hours of canvassing and endless petitioning for citizens who may not have access to \$8.85 million in in-kind contributions from wealthy law firms like the Keep Our Constitution Clean committee.

Click link to continue: <https://rb.gy/1daexb>

Here are the six constitutional amendments on the 2020 ballot

Kaviena Spencer
Copy Desk Editor

This election is being considered the most important election in recent years, however, there are other things on the ballot besides Trump and Biden.

Along with the presidential candidates, there are six proposed constitutional amendments on Florida's ticket that need a 60 percent approval rate to pass.

Reading amendments can be a little bit tricky, so here is break down of each amendment and their pros and cons.

Amendment 1: Citizenship Requirement to Vote in Florida Elections:

Proposed by: Florida Citizen Voters

What would it do: This would add two words to the constitution regarding voting. Right now, the state constitution states that every citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years old can vote. The Florida Citizen Voters want to change "every citizen" to "only a citizen".

Pros: The leader of the organization, John Loudon, says that this will ensure that only citizens will be able to vote.

Cons: There has been no formal opposition in Florida.

Amendment 2: Raising Florida's Minimum Wage

Proposed by: Florida For A Fair Wage

What would it do: Amendment 2 would raise Florida's minimum wage from \$8.56 to \$10 on Sept 30, 2021. After that, the minimum wage will increase by \$1 every year until 2026, when it reaches \$15. After that, it will be adjusted by inflation.

Pros: Supporters say that Floridian's are overdue for an increase in minimum wage and that the increase will help the economy.

Cons: The opposers say the increase in minimum wage will result in hours being cut and less hiring.



Photo courtesy Creative Commons

Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary Elections for State Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet:

Proposed by: All Voters Vote, funded by South Florida health care businessman Mike Fernandez

What would it do: This amendment will allow all voters, regardless of having a party affiliation, to be able to vote in the primary election with all candidates on the same ballot.

Pros: This will allow all voters to participate in the primary election. Supporters also believe that candidates will have to use more effort to gain votes from people with no party then having to tailor

their message to partisan voters.

Cons: Believe it or not, the Florida's Republican and Democratic parties agree that this amendment should not be passed. They believe that the amendment will abolish the primaries instead of opening them by pitting the candidates against each other.

Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments

Proposed by: Keep Our Constitution Clean, funded through a secretive non-profit group

What would it do: This amendment will require that all amendments be

approved through two elections instead of one, making it harder for amendments to be changed in the state constitution.

Pros: Supporters think it should be difficult to change the amendments and the state legislature should make new laws. They point out a 2002 amendment that protects pregnant pigs, saying this shows how out of hand the amendment process has gotten.

Cons: Changing the process could make it harder for Florida voters to amend the constitution since the process of getting an amendment on the ballot is already hard and expensive.

Amendment 5: Limitation on Homestead Assessments

Proposed by: The Florida Legislature
What would it do: This would increase the time from two years to three years to transfer your "Save Our Homes" benefit.

Pros: Taxable values would increase to 3 percent, giving homeowners more time to transfer that tax break to a new property.

Cons: The amendment would reduce local property tax by \$1.8 million, resulting in loss of funds by local governments.

Amendment 6: Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities

Proposed by: The Florida Legislature
What would it do: Homestead property tax discounts for deceased veterans with combat-related disabilities would carry over to a veteran's surviving spouse until he or she remarries or sells the property. If the spouse sells the property, but does not remarry, the new residence will get the tax discount.

Pros: It will provide additional assis-

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Many students are engaged as the election draws near

Delores Battle

Staff writer

With 2020 election well underway, students are gearing up to exercise their right to vote and encourage others to do the same.

There has already been a record number of mail-in ballots in Florida as Election Day draws near, and still there are hundreds of students flocking to polls, volunteering to canvass the community and participating in school-wide events to raise awareness on the importance of voting.

Volunteering at the Polls

FAMU opened its doors to eager early voters Oct. 19, the first day of early voting. Lines formed outside the Student Union Multipurpose Center including both students and members of Leon County. Ready to cast their ballots students have been voting in-person or dropping off their ballots every day since then.

Some students have gone beyond just casting their ballots and even volunteered their time to work the polls and ensure voting goes without a hitch. Victoria Rogers-Rivera, a political science major, wanted to learn more about the election process and thought working the polls was the best way to do so.

“I wanted to be able to help with the election process because there is a lot of misinformation going around right now,” Rogers-Rivera said. “I have found out a lot about the local governing process here in Leon County through volunteering.”

If you are interested in volunteering at the polls, you can visit the Voting Office in the Student Union Multipurpose Center.

Canvassing the community

Outside the polls, students are also volunteering in community-wide canvassing events. Canvassing refers to the process of going out “into the field” and engaging potential or current voters directly. Nor-



Photo courtesy FAMU News.

Students and community members fill the voting booths during the early voting period.



Photo courtesy FAMU PBM.

FAMU's Progressive Black Men set up booths along the route to the voting center on campus for students and community members to purchase shirts and make sure their registered to vote.

mally, canvassing events would include going door-to-door, but with COVID-19 guidelines, volunteers have had to use other methods of reaching the communi-

ty. Some of these methods include writing handwritten letters, calling phones and completing surveys, or texting based on a script.

Egypt Gardener, a second-year business administration student, learned about canvassing through one of her professors who encouraged students to volunteer.

“At first I thought it was going to be a lot of work, so I was hesitant,” Gardener said. “But then I realized how simple it is to send someone a text and encourage them to vote. I try to do a little bit every day so I feel like I have done my part this election season.”

After completing her training, Gardener received a list of 10 new numbers to text each day along with a script if she would like to call. Even though she does not always get a response, she feels as though the texts and calls are still important reminders that appear voters' phones daily.

Stroll to the polls

In an attempt to encourage the Leon County community, one that has had a historically low voter turnout, to go to the polls, ESUA's Fraternity and Sorority Life and Clubs and Organizations partnered with the Tallahassee Urban League and the Tallahassee Chapter of the NAACP to host FAMU's “Stroll to the Polls.”

On Saturday, students from multiple sororities and fraternities alongside representatives from the Urban League and NAACP gathered at the FAMU Welcome Center and strolled through campus all the way to the Student Union Center.

Several students felt that this event really brought attention to how important voting is many HBCU students, schools and organizations. Zaire Johnson, a pre-dental chemistry major, was excited to attend Stroll to the Polls because it brought all of FAMU together.

“It reminded me of why I came to an

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Richardson, seeking third term, squares off against Schack

Mariah Wiggs
Staff writer

Curtis Richardson, currently the longest-serving member of the Tallahassee City Commission, will face off against challenger Bill Schack on Nov. 3 for the right to represent Seat 2.

Since he was first elected in 2014, Richardson has dedicated his service to “building bridges through community engagement.”

When asked by E.thePeople about facing current challenges seen by the city of Tallahassee, Richardson responded with a plan to ease the strain of violence and racial and economic segregation.

“We must ensure the safety of our residents and guests. Crime, especially violent crime, is a major issue for us,” Richardson said. “We will continue community policing in partnership with neighborhoods, invest in youth crime prevention like TEMPO and encourage law enforcement coordination.”

Equal opportunities for Black and low-income areas are also at the top of Richardson’s list.

“This can be addressed through education and job training, creating jobs — high-wage and high skill — and provide more affordable housing throughout the community.”

Richardson is a two-time Florida State University graduate who began his career in the capital city after receiving his Ph.D. He has previously served as an elected member of the Florida Department of Education, Leon County School Board and the Florida House of Representatives. Throughout his 30-year career, Richardson has undoubtedly played a hand in the growth and development of the community.

Richardson vowed on his campaign website that if reelected he would work diligently with his colleagues and the



Photo courtesy billshack.com & Twitter
On the left, City Commissioner Richardson. On the right, candidate Bill A. Schack.

mayor to make Tallahassee “a city we can all be proud of.”

Schack, the food services director for Tallahassee’s homeless shelter, is eager to redeem himself after losing a commissioner race in 2018. If elected this year he plans on bringing a new perspective to the seat with ideals based on the needs of low-income neighborhoods, special needs

individuals, non-profit organizations within the community, and the support of law enforcement.

Schack’s resume shows years of service through volunteering after graduating from FSU.

When asked about top challenges in the city, he too responded with a passion to reduce the amount of crime taking

place in Tallahassee.

“I believe crime and public safety is and will be the cornerstone to our economic recovery,” said Schack. “If crime goes down, it means police issues are being addressed, neighborhoods are safer, and those committing crime stop repeating because they find good jobs, and families feel confident living and working in our city.”

His close relationships to neighborhoods through volunteer work and service are expected to give citizens a “seat” on the City Commission, he said.

“A new commissioner will need to be involved and engaged with community leaders like never before, and for me that will simply be an extension of my life’s work,” Schack said.

Florida A&M political science major Jordan Rogers understands the importance of an involved city commissioner. It is not just about speaking out, he said, but the action that is put in behind the words.

“When choosing a city commissioner, I look at their involvement within the community they plan on serving,” said Rogers. “As well, I look into their background history, including their education, and history in politics, public service and relations.”

Richardson is confident in his reelection following the primary results in August. According to unofficial results from the Supervisor of Elections Office, Richardson carried the lead with nearly 47% of the voting majority followed by Schack’s 18%.

Voting will take place on Nov. 3 and is available to all registered city voters. To find voting stations near you, visit <https://rb.gy/7as5lo>

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Al Lawson runs for a third term

Kennedy Guidry

Staff writer

There is sure to be a familiar name on the ballot for FAMU students. The namesake of FAMU's Multipurpose Center, Congressman Alfred Lawson Jr., is a name familiar to anyone who has stepped foot on FAMU's campus.

Lawson left FAMU in 1970 with a bachelor's degree. Following a long and distinguished career in the Legislature, Lawson was elected in 2016 to the House of Representatives, where he oversees the 200-mile Congressional District 5 test hat encompasses the farming and logging communities that join the North Florida cities of Jacksonville and Tallahassee. The results of the primary election saw incumbent Lawson advance to the general election to now face off against Republican nominee Gary Adler.

"My work ethic, problem-solving approach, and ability to build collaborative working relationships, regardless of political party, has served me well in Florida and Washington," Lawson said.

Lawson is a businessman and an active member of the Tallahassee community. He leaves a continuing trail of achievements in every facet of service he has taken part in. During his time at FAMU, he played basketball, and he was later inducted into the university's sports Hall of Fame. After marrying his college sweetheart, Delores Brooks, the two are now

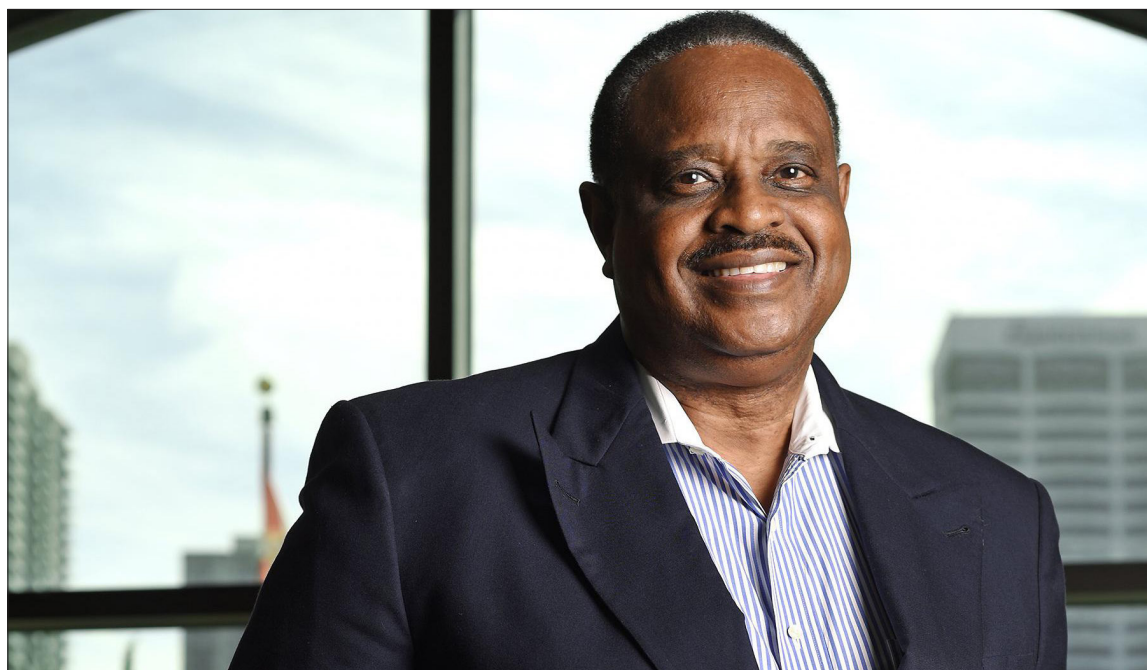


Photo courtesy Florida Politics

proud grandparents of four.

Lawson has developed an impressive and nationally recognized resume over the course of the 28 years he has served his home state of Florida. Before his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Lawson served in the Florida Senate from 2002-2010.

His accomplishments include passing the Rosewood legislation, which administered reparations to survivors of Florida's Rosewood massacre. And as chairman of the House Natural Resource

Committee, he passed Preservation 2000, which according to allawson.com generated the largest state funded land acquisition program in the country.

Since 2017, Lawson has been tasked with balancing the needs of the cities and rural communities of the eight counties that stretch across Florida's northern border. In the countryside, Lawson's constituents' needs consist of combatting hunger and creating jobs. When it comes to the other side of District 5, he has promised Jacksonville voters to

deepen the St. Johns River and expand public transportation.

Jacksonville seems pleased with Lawson's service, if the results of the primary elections are any indicator. Lawson won 75 percent of the vote in Leon and Gadsden counties and beat out Albert Chester, a former FAMU quarterback, by less than 3,000 votes. And for the first time in his three elections he won Jacksonville's majority.

"I'm very grateful for that ... My message resonated with the

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Self-care is critical this election season

Jasmine Butler
Copy Desk Editor

A global pandemic, daily protests fueled by racial injustice, social media everywhere, and now the 2020 election — a virtual tsunami for our country and our communities. For many students and first-time voters, the commotion and urgency of it all has become overwhelming. If you are feeling anxious or consumed with stress, you are not alone. Here are a few self-care tips to consider as the election approaches:

1. Take a break from social media

Many people view social media outlets like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter as crucial and necessary sources for information and news. However, many students also agree that it can be a lot to face at one time.

Give yourself a break from scrolling until you feel comfortable to face the

internet again. Student activist, Deyona Burton, says that taking a mental break, is great for her mental health.

“Sometimes I just put my phone on airplane mode and take some ‘me’ time. I started surfing, doing yoga, and journaling. I even messed around with some natural hair styles. Anything that gets you off of your phone counts as self care in my book,” she said.

2. Only take on what you can handle

Many Americans feel strongly about their views and feel the need to educate others when they are unsure about theirs. While this can sometimes be a good thing, it can also be draining. Stepping away is one of the most imperative variations of self care, especially during times like these.

Javon Thomas, a first-year psychology

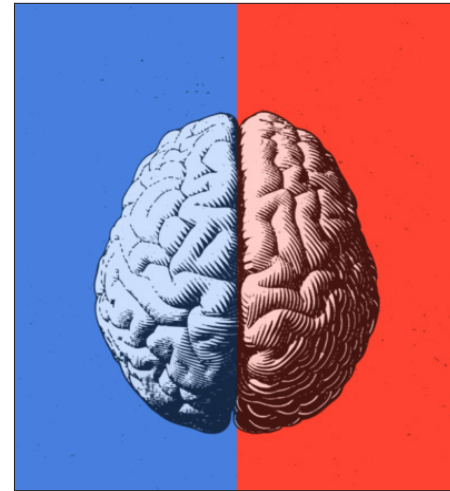


Photo courtesy Natasha Vicens/PublicSource

major at Florida A&M, can attest to feeling this level of responsibility.

“One thing I struggled with was just the overwhelming feeling of wanting to

help in so many different areas at once. On the day I filled in my mail-in ballot, I was also volunteering for a social justice group, reading articles to stay informed, responding to social media inquiries about my latest activism posts, and much more. It is hard to manage everything I’d like to accomplish to see change,” he said.

Thomas believes that students like himself should, “only control what you can control.”

“I’d advise others to do their research on candidates to make informed decisions and cast wise votes. But, also know that you’ve done your part. Stressing about stuff you can’t effect will only leave you unhappy,” Thomas said.

3. Don’t deflect your emotions

For many, politics comes with unexpected waves of stressors. Instead of [Click link to continue: https://rb.gy/uuibub](https://rb.gy/uuibub)

Imagining four more years of Trump

Noella Williams
Lifestyle editor

We are almost at the end of the 2020 presidential election season and Donald Trump has nearly finished his first term as president of the United States. To some Americans, primarily women, minorities and the LGBTQ+ community, the past four years has felt like an eternity.

In a presidency filled with emotional family separations resulting from immigration policies, attacks on reproductive rights, several bodies of unarmed Black men and women killed by the police, and a traumatic pandemic — this leaves the question: Can America survive a second term of Donald Trump?

Along with social issues, scientists are worried about the possibility of another four years with the Trump administration. The effects of climate change are rapidly increasing throughout the world, and the

Republican Party has no necessary plan to combat environmental concerns.

Imagining another four years with President Trump can potentially influence the historic curriculum taught in schools, since President Trump hinted last month that he would create the 1776 Commission to integrate pro-American coursework in classrooms. This statement came after he attacked the current curriculum for teaching about racism and slavery in a way that is demonizing the Founding Fathers.

“What we’re witnessing today is a result of left-wing indoctrination in our nation’s schools and universities,” Trump said on Sept. 17 at a conference. “Many young Americans have been fed lies about America being a wicked nation plagued by racism.”

This removal and whitewashing of

history is not only erasing the narrative of the genocide of Native Americans and enslavement of Black people, but it is completely burying the history of the foundation built on the backs of those groups. This is not a surprising statement from President Trump considering his history of racism, specifically his words towards the Central Park Five in 1989.

Another concern surrounding women’s reproductive rights was the controversial topic of last week, due to Amy Coney Barrett’s induction to the Supreme Court. Barrett’s new position puts reproductive rights, specifically abortion, in jeopardy. This isn’t surprising concerning President Trump’s view of women. Whether you’re discussing his sexual misconduct, regulations on women’s healthcare, attack on Planned Parenthood, or simply the way he

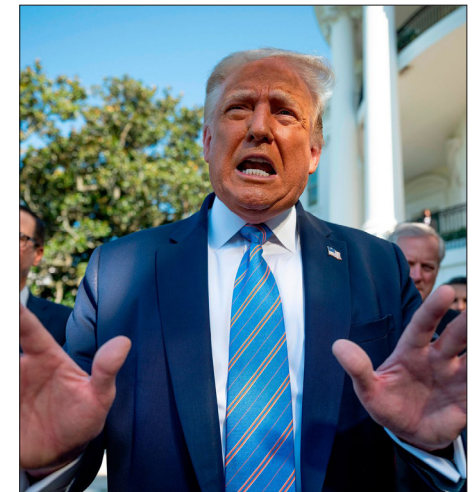


Photo courtesy New York Times

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Some voters switching parties

Joanne Jean

Staff writer

America's political climate has become more and more polarized over time and, given the events in the past few years, some individuals find themselves switching parties.

Based on studies done by the Pew Research Center, in the last two years about one-in-ten voters (9%) who affiliated with the Republican Party or leaned Republican in 2018 now identify as Democrats or lean Democratic. An identical share of voters (9%) who two years ago identified as Democrats or leaned Democratic now align with the GOP.

This party switching is active and prevalent among politicians as well.

Frank Aguilar, currently serving on Illinois' Cook County Board of Commissioners from the 16th district was appointed as a Democrat on April 16, 2020. However, Aguilar previously identified and served as a Republican for the Illinois House of Representatives for the 24th district from 2002-2004.

Aguilar is not alone in this, Aubrey Dunn Jr. was elected in the 2018 Senate race as a Republican representing New Mexico. However, Dunn switched to Libertarian and became the first libertarian holder of a statewide elected position in the United States.

Which begs the questions: Should switching parties be more normalized? And are we moving into a phase in American history where the two-party system is becoming outdated?

On this year's ballot citizens of Florida can vote yes or no for Amendment 3, which will determine Florida's primaries remaining closed or becoming open. If enacted this would allow any registered voter to vote regardless of party affiliation.

"I hope that they would move in the direction to let independents vote in the primaries," said Kennedy Groce, a senior biology major at Florida A&M.

Forcing individuals to choose between a two-party system to vote when they

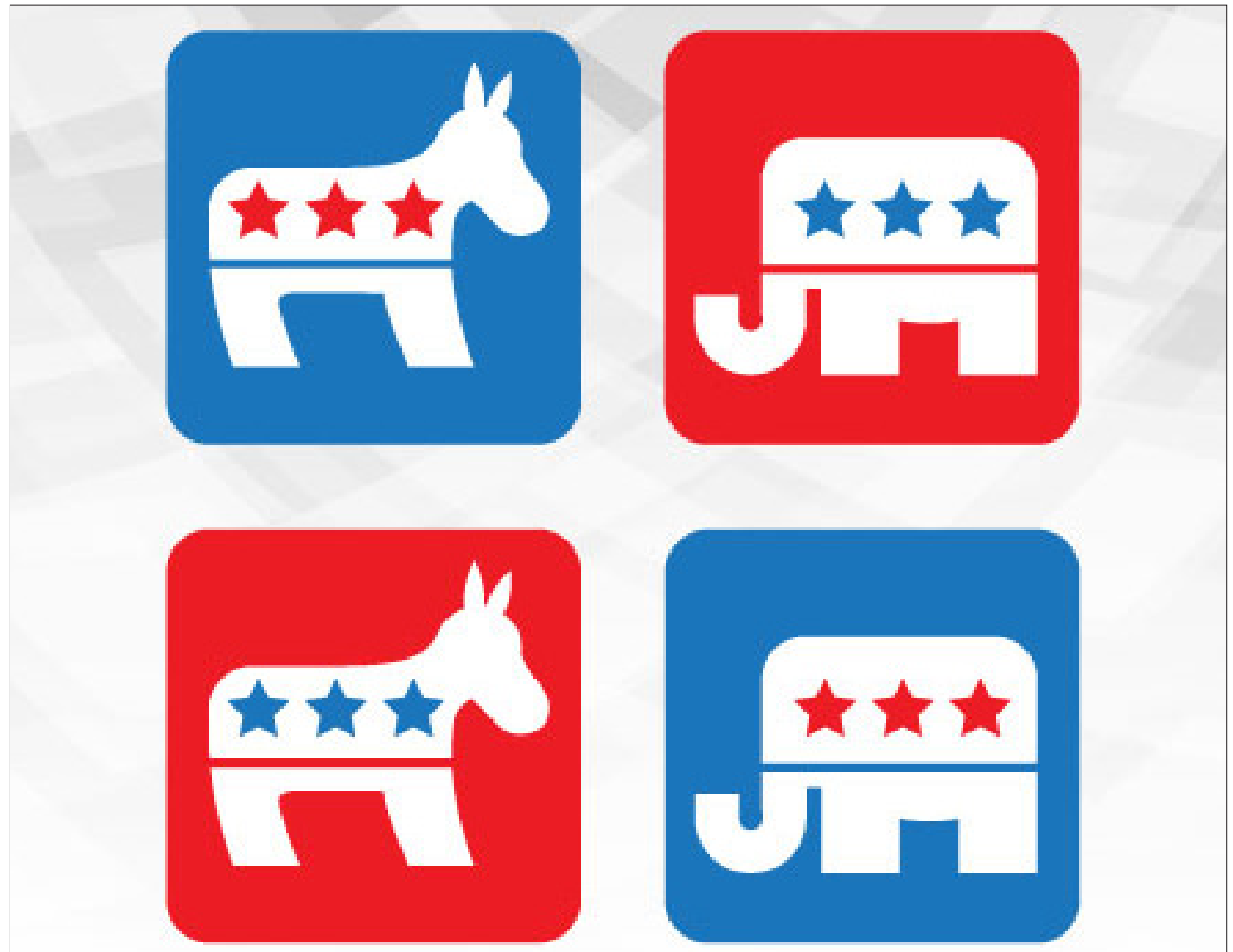


Photo courtesy CNU.edu

can't find themselves adopting ideologies from either side can be stressful and tumultuous. If Amendment 3 is passed it can give voters like Groce an opportunity to vote even though they're registered as an independent.

"Even if I identified as a Democrat there's still a strong chance I'd vote for the other party depending on who the candidates are," Groce said.

To voters like Groce, it's not about

belonging to a party or system though more so finding an individual to elect that shares their values.

"I identify as an Independent because I grew to realize that both parties are fighting with the same goals at the end of the day and those are individuals fighting for positions of power, this is why I was interested in voting for Green Party candidates because the Green Party is what I'd consider woke. But in this election,

Howie Hawkins didn't agree with the things I was looking for and Biden did so that's why I voted for him," Salem Major, a junior theater major, said.

Regardless of the political party you belong to, voting is crucial in exercising your right as an American citizen and ensuring your voice is heard. Mark your calendars for Nov. 3.

Comparing Trump vs. Biden and their support for HBCUs

Nadia Wilson
Staff Writer

For this year's general election, President Donald Trump and his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, are courting the Black community for their support. The candidates have curated distinct plans to fund historically Black colleges and universities that desperately need federal funding to subsidize their budgets.

In December of 2019, Trump signed the FUTURE Act which allocated roughly \$85 million to HBCUs. Trump recently implemented The Platinum Plan, formulated by his administration with assistance from rapper Ice Cube. The plan's focus is to reach the Black community with promises that include an affordable education for African Americans.

The core of this plan is to "continue to protect the vital role of historically Black



Photo courtesy @trumpwarroom and @joebiden on Instagram.

colleges and universities, and spur innovative ecosystems by connecting minority institutions with the federal government's broad range of scientific and engineering

research and development."

FAMU SGA President Xavier McClinton theorized the candidate's plans would have a huge impact on HBCUs in the

future based on their promises to assist with funding and education.

"What stood out to me based on Trump's plan was the effort to continue funding that he has already implemented with his Platinum plan for Black America," said McClinton. "Biden's \$70 billion price tag and the specificity of what it all breaks down to, will also be a game-changer for HBCUs."

Florida A&M University's former Senate Pro-Temp Zoe Mitchell has also kept an eye on both candidates' promises.

"The Biden-Harris administration made it clear early in the election that more funding to public colleges was a goal. However, it was the goal for all public colleges and not solely HBCUs,"

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Can we find common ground?

Mia Uzzell
Assistant Opinions editor

Gen Z is notoriously marked for its commitment to community activism and volunteerism, even with a record of low voter turnout. College students who comprise much of the generation have led the fight for and remain stakeholders in social justice issues that contextualize their lives.

In the wake of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Gen Z rallied to our nation's capital in the name of holding our tainted democracy complicit in the brutal killing of 17 innocent lives. We've seen this same voting bloc unite to propel Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal and call for mass political accountability in the grave absence of climate change policies — a catastrophe that they will bear witness to. And most recently,

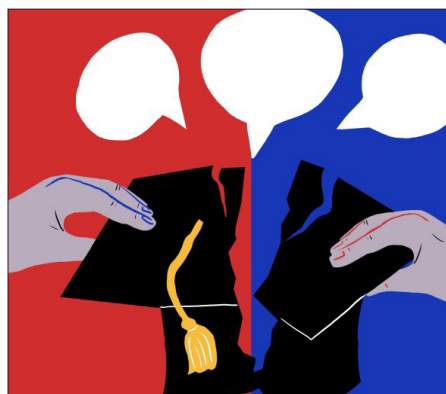


Illustration courtesy npr.org

Partisanship is dividing Gen Z, a voting bloc known for its progressivism.

this past summer Gen Z mobilized a moral reckoning in our nation and at the heart of our state's capital.

These young voters are now shunning

their previous history of low political efficacy and shattering early voting numbers at a record pace in battleground states like Florida and Texas. Yet, in the midst of this, the young electorate that is known for its radical progressivism is now facing the harsh reality of partisanship emerging.

College campuses are microcosms of the human experience that meshes those from all walks of life. Kids from the suburbs leave their shields of elitism and are now roommates with those who may not have a network apparatus to climb. Those raised in conservative households are now group project partners with those who are faced with the need for contraceptives and reproductive rights. In a utopia, these experiences instruct students to harness a sense of empathy for those who may not

have experienced the life they lived thus far. Unfortunately, this was not the unanimous experience many college students bore witness to this election.

While neither party is above reproach or touts a history pure of problematic policies, college Republicans woefully align themselves with a ballot that places the lives hidden in the shadows of our nation at risk. Conservative students emboldened by an incumbent president to navigate the world from a place of privilege have increased divisions amongst Gen Z. Many of them contend that pro-life, the censorship of news, increased funding of law enforcement and "draining the swamp" is the best course of action for a nation beset by injustice.

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The GOP will need Florida

Pam Rentz
Assistant Online Editor



Photo courtesy of CNBC

President Trump and Vice President Pence hosted campaign rallies this past weekend for a final attempt to win the Florida vote. Being that Second Lady Karen Pence held a campaign event in Pensacola last week, it is safe to say the Republicans are desperate for Florida's vote.

In the 2016 presidential election, Trump won from dominating the electoral college votes, but he lost the popular vote. It's evident that Trump and Pence know their chances for winning the election are slim without the 29 electoral votes Florida is sitting on.

Trump visited Pensacola on Friday for a campaign event. He wanted to strike while the iron was hot merely two days after the final debate. Thousands of his supporters were overjoyed upon his arrival at ST Engineering.

Despite catching the virus and allegedly recovering without releasing his negative test results, Trump insisted on downplaying the virus. Considering that many of the attendees failed to abide by social distancing guidelines or wear

face coverings, they too cannot grasp the severity of this global pandemic.

"We understand the disease. I know it better than you; I had it," Trump assures.

Gov. Ron DeSantis gave opening remarks before introducing Trump. He stressed the importance of Northwest Florida's support in poll results.

"You're going to see tighter margins downstate. You're going to see other places come out, and it's going to be pretty close. Then Northwest Florida is going to come, and they are going to deliver," said DeSantis.

After a quick turnaround from his appearance in Lakeland earlier that day, Pence arrived in Tallahassee around 6:30 p.m. Hundreds of supporters waited in the pouring rain for Pence as he exited Tallahassee International Airport on Saturday.

Pence's speech sounded like a mix between an Obama diss track and a monologue for a conservative theater troupe. He deemed the Affordable Healthcare Act

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ELECTION SCRAMBLE

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ENDORSEMENTS

Editor's note: The following three editorial endorsements represent the shared view of The Famuan leadership team.

Biden-Harris is a no-brainer

Americans are willing to vote for just anybody considering we have the worst president sitting in office throughout our country's history. The state of the American union is desperately at stake and this election is critical to uphold our constitutional democracy.

The Famuan Editorial Board is compelled to announce its endorsement of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for the United States presidency and vice presidency. We believe this Democratic ticket has the capacity and expertise to run this country better than President Donald Trump.

It comes as no surprise that we say that the reelection of Trump would be a setback for our nation considering the current state of the world. Trump has been a catalyst for many of the socioeconomic issues that are currently plaguing the nation. From the neglect and downplaying of the COVID-19 pandemic to the strained race relations, President Trump and his Make America Great Again campaign has been at the forefront of many of the nation's shortcomings during the past four years.

"I think the big problem this country has is being politically correct. I've been challenged by so many people and I don't, frankly, have time for total political correctness," said Trump at the first Republican primary debate back in 2015.

Fortunately, Biden and Harris have provided a reputable choice for this year's presidential election. Not only does Biden have the endorsement of former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama, but he has chosen an accomplished United States senator and HBCU graduate as his running mate.

A graduate of Howard University and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Kamala Harris is the first African American and Asian American

woman to receive the nomination for the vice president of the United States. Her nomination is a sign that minority voices can and will be heard this election. Minority voters, especially those that are 18-to 25-years old, are turning out in significantly larger numbers than the 2016 election.

Currently, Biden and Harris have a five-point lead on President Trump in the state of Florida, according to a recent report published by Monmouth University.

"The contrast between Donald Trump and me is about as stark as it can get in terms of where our values set and how we view the world," said Biden during an interview with 60 Minutes. "I think we have to fundamentally change the way in which we deal with institutional racism."

Harris has similar views.

"For our children and for all of us, we've got to do the work," said Harris in a speech at the PBS News Hour. "To fulfill that promise of equal justice under law, because here's the thing, none of us are free until all of us are free."

The Famuan Editorial Board is more than happy to endorse these phenomenal candidates for the highest offices of our nation's government. We encourage the students of FAMU to get out and vote to make a change in our democracy. Information about polling places can be found at leonvotes.gov.

Ausley for state Senate District 3

We're not quite sure why the Republican Party of Florida thought it smelled blood in the water when local Democrat Lorraine Ausley decided to leave her seat in the state House of Representatives to succeed Bill Montford in the state Senate, but they did. The RPOF has bankrolled Marva Preston, a Black woman from Wakulla County, to the tune of more than



Photo courtesy Forbes.com

a half-million dollars as she bombards the airwaves with attack commercials in her bid to take a seat that has been a Democratic Party stronghold for more than two decades.

Ausley, a champion for children's rights, has a stellar resume on many of the issues we care about most: our environment and our schools. In addition, Ausley is a veteran of the Legislature. She knows how the system works and knows who she has to work with in order to enact legislation in a Republican-dominated institution.

Our main question for Preston is this: Aren't you embarrassed to be used by the Republican Party of Florida? If not, you should be.

Richardson leads by example in Tallahassee

Curtis Richardson, seeking a third term on the Tallahassee City Commission, is facing a challenge from Bill Schack, who is running for office for the second time in three years and has yet to gain any traction with voters in the capital city. If there hadn't been such a crowded field in the primary — five candidates in all — Richardson certainly would have claimed a majority and Tuesday's election run-off for City Commission Seat 2 would not be necessary.

Richardson represented Tallahassee well in the state House of Representatives for the maximum eight years and he is doing well by his community on a city commission that is still trying to find its way with a police department that too often seems out of control. Richardson is a proud resident of the South Side, and we are proud to support him for a third term on the Tallahassee City Commission.

When our people vote we...

VOTE OUT WHITE SUPREMACY

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