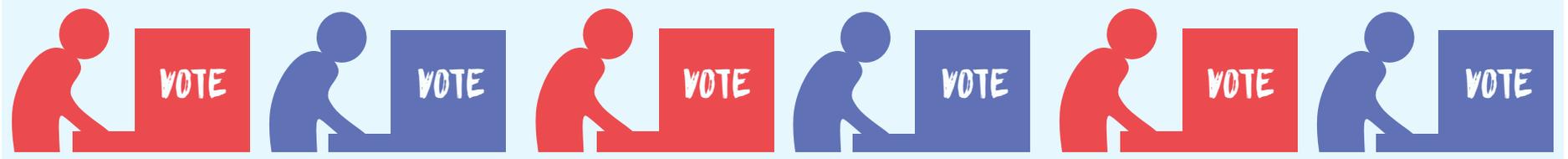


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**FERRIS COVID-19 CASE COUNT** | LAST UPDATED: OCT. 26

<b>NEW CASES THIS WEEK</b> <b>52</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE CASES</b> <b>305</b>	<b>ACTIVE CASES</b> <b>51</b>
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# Youth voting population mobilized by social media



*From TikTok to Twitter, celebrities, candidates push for young adults to register and vote*

**Noah Kurkjian**  
Copy Editor

The 2020 general election is expected to have the largest youth voter turnout in decades. Some are crediting this influx in participation to social media and its massive influence.

With both candidates having a large social media presence, Joseph Biden has a combined 20 million followers and incumbent Donald Trump boasts a massive 140 million combined followers, they both have significant reach. But followers aren't the only thing that matters.

How the candidates use their platform matters just as much, and a lot of young voters find some of their behavior off-putting.

"They are using twitter for their little wars, and it honestly looks immature for 70-something year old's," nuclear medical technology sophomore Brynn Krzyminski said. "They should be using their large platforms to inform instead of to cut down."

They are also advertising on social media to rather poor reception. Comment sections on these ads, if they haven't been disabled, are usually filled with support for the other candidate and snide remarks.

Candidates aren't the only ones that have this social media impact. A lot of teens are using their voices on the social media platform TikTok. With the hashtags "Biden2020" and "Trump2020" amassing a total of 15 billion views there is no shortage of content to watch on either side.

"This has got to be one of the most politically informed generations ever, you can't take a scroll through your For You Page without seeing something about politics. This generation went from eating Tide Pods to being political activists in like 3 years, it's mind-blowing,"

social work sophomore Olivia Begin said.

Another way youth have been getting involved is by creating group accounts with other users who share their political views. An example of this is @TheDemHypeHouse and @TheRepublicanHypeHouse on TikTok. These accounts have both amassed hundreds of thousands of followers and work to dispel misinformation and stereotypes attributed to their respective parties.

YouTuber and TikToker David Dobrik teamed up with HeadCount, and gave out five Tesla vehicles to registered voters. This sparked over one-hundred thousand people to confirm their registration or become registered voters, one of the biggest voter register events in history.

Many social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat launched advertising efforts to get younger people to vote this year. According to Forbes, Snapchat announced that it had registered 400,000 voters.

It's also good to keep in mind that while social media can be a very helpful, informative tool, that it can do just as much harm.

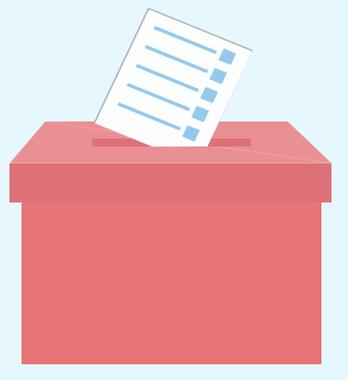
"I spend an absurd amount of time wading through memes and troll posts to find actual information. For instance, I didn't even know the debates were happening until each of them had already passed," Krzyminski said.

Both those interviewed shared a common sentiment, 'make sure you check the information you see on social media because everything you see is not always accurate.'

If you haven't already, you are still able to go to your local clerks office to register and register to vote anytime before Nov. 3.

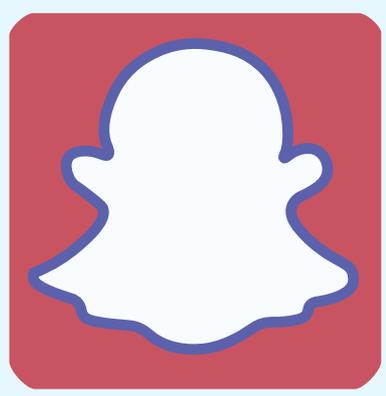
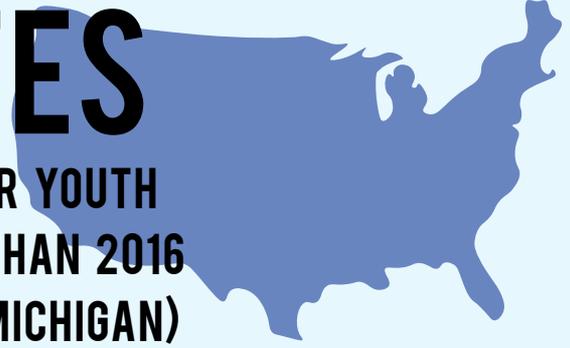
**For more information on this year's election, read our 2020 election insert in this issue.**

**15 MILLION**  
**AMERICANS HAVE TURNED 18 AND BECOME ELIGIBLE TO VOTE SINCE THE 2016 ELECTION**



**63%**  
**OF AMERICANS AGE 18-29 SAY THEY WILL 'DEFINITELY BE VOTING' IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**

**20 STATES**  
**ALREADY HAVE HIGHER YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION THAN 2016 ELECTION (INCLUDING MICHIGAN)**



**400,000**  
**VOTERS REGISTERED THROUGH THE SNAPCHAT APP**

*The above information was gathered from CIRCLE, Forbes.*

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# NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodir16@ferris.edu

## Planning for the spring

Students and academic advisors gear up for the next semester

Alyssa Hubbard  
News Reporter

As 2021 spring course registration opens, academic advisors and administrators must prepare students for a new and uncertain semester.

The current fall semester has proven to be unique with mostly online courses and changes to the way students and faculty interact on campus. People have adjusted to this new way of campus life.

Early spring registration began on Oct. 26, creating questions about how Ferris will function for the new semester.

Leonard Johnson, the Associate Provost of Academic Operations, said that spring will be much like the current fall semester. Johnson received many concerns about how classes will be delivered in the spring.

A variety of learning options will be provided again, including in-person, HyFlex, or online classes.

“Academic Affairs, in consultation with each program in every college, will evaluate the instructional opportunities needed for spring semester and build the class offering schedule,” Johnson said. “Consistent with every semester transition, students should make plans to meet, either virtually or in-person, with their academic advisor to review their current academic progress and discuss class planning options prior to their registration date.”

Academic advisors worked hard to transition their student advising sessions online and answer any questions the students may have about the upcoming future to the best of their abilities. Students usually met with advisors in their offices. Now, advisors are using Zoom, Calendly, or even Discord to chat with students.

Varun Singireddy advises about 60 students in the digital animation and game design program. Advising online has

not been a problem for him.

“Surprisingly, it has gotten better. Students do not have to wait in line, or wait for their turn, or walk all the way to my office for a typical 15 minute advising appointment,” Singireddy said. “In fact, it is more effective, quicker and more accessible now!”

Singireddy also teaches courses online this semester for the DAGD program and encouraged students to continue taking online courses in the spring. Due to the uncertainty in the world right now and students are looking forward to online delivery.

“It has been working well as of now and I hope it continues to,” Singireddy said. “Student reception has been great, and it is good to see how students are doing their best to continue their education amid harsh times.”

Paul Kwant is another academic advisor for around 75 students in the music and entertainment business program. Kwant offered meetings via Zoom or in person if students preferred.

Kwant said that the most time-consuming part of advising this semester is pre-planning and scheduling. He asked students what type of classes they are comfortable taking and plan on online classes.

Kwant shared some worries about trying to advise students for the spring semester during such odd circumstances.

“I have a concern for the health and mental well-being for students who may feel isolated,” Kwant said. “As an advisor, I want to stay open to student concerns and be there for our students.”

He hoped that next semester people will be respectful, empathetic and an understanding that everyone is going through this time together.

Students and advisors have been planning for the spring semester accordingly, keeping in mind that anything can change in an instant. Even during a time of great uncertainty they remain hopeful that next semester will go smoothly.

## HOW TO SIGNUP FOR CLASSES

### 1. LOG INTO MYFSU

### 2. GO TO THE STUDENT TAB

### 3. CLICK 'MY REGISTRATION'

### 4. CLICK 'LOOKUP CLASSES' TO SEARCH BY PROGRAM

### 5. CLICK 'ADD/DROP CLASSES' TO ADD BY CLASS CODE (CRN)

## GVSU gains campus voting location, Ferris denied

Ferris' request for its own satellite office gets denied after COVID-19 shutdown this spring



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

The drop box for absentee ballots is outside of Big Rapids city hall.

Cora Hall  
Editor in Chief

Grand Valley students were given an on-campus voting option for this year's presidential election.

On Oct. 13, a satellite clerk's office opened in their student center, according to Associate Director for Student Life Melissa Baker-Boosamra. One of the main reasons they pursued the satellite office was because the Allendale County clerk's office and polling location for most GVSU students is five miles West of campus, with no bus line. With many students living on campus without their own transportation, this poses a distinct barrier to voting.

While there are more hoops to jump through to get a formal voting location, a satellite clerk's office is easier to get approved and acts essentially the same. Students can register on site, request an absentee ballot, fill out the ballot and put it in the secure drop box at the student center.

“I really do think college students face a number of barriers and it can be overwhelming and complex,” Baker-Boosamra said. “It depends on what state you live in and where you're registered and there are lots of dates to keep track of. Especially with COVID, it really can be overwhelming so I think when colleges and universities can help translate some of the general information about voting to their student population and reach them where they're at, I'd like to think that's a really important responsibility and service that we can provide to our students.”

The satellite clerk's office had a wide variety of hours in the weeks leading up to the

election in order to allow as many students as possible to vote early to avoid a large influx on Nov. 3. This was especially important with COVID-19, given that Allendale has already had a stay in place order. Baker-Boosamra did not have specific participation numbers but said they have seen the numbers doubling every day of students coming to the office.

“Not only is it a great service to our students, but it also, I would imagine, will reduce lines and wait times at the Allendale polling location, which will reduce public health concerns with having students intermingling with the community and the density there,” Baker-Boosamra said.

Since 2006, Ferris has had the Political Engagement Project on campus. Its aim, according to political sciences professor David Takitaki, is to “foster an environment in which Ferris students could both learn about and actively participate in the political process.”

Takitaki personally reached out to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson about bringing an on-campus polling site to Ferris. While Benson initially responded positively, after COVID-19 shut down Ferris' campus in the spring, Takitaki was informed that the SOS office would not be able to set anything up for the election this year.

“It would be significantly valuable,” Takitaki said of the on-campus polling location. “A desire to bring that value to our students is what motivated our efforts earlier this year. PEP's main goals are to educate stu-

Voting | see page 3

**VOTING**

Continued from page 2

dents about the political sphere, facilitate their participation in the democratic process and provide experiences that help them to become lifelong critical thinkers and participants in American democracy.”

CLACS coordinator Mickey Albright has worked in collaboration with the PEP this semester to bring events and more information to students about voting. The efforts included social media plans, absentee ballot promotion, class presentations, and a student voter town hall with SOS.

CLACS also served as a mailing place for absentee ballot requests this fall.

Tony Baker, who is Ferris’ director of community engagement, said he sees a lot of interest in political engagement among college students right now.

“The reasons why students have stopped participating, one, there’s a sense that there’s too much conflict in politics,” Baker said. “Things weren’t great before, but there wasn’t the conflict that we have now, so I think people just didn’t pay as much attention.”

Baker believes one of the reasons for re-engagement is that people have become angrier about the state of politics, regardless of the side they are on.

“It’s not like your entire generation has the same thinking, but I think they recognize the cost. It seems to me that concerns about climate change has really got people your age concerned. The conditions of race, I think that your anxiety about the future, whether or not there will be careers for

you, all of those things have gotten you more interested and more willing to engage. I think to some extent there was a long time where things weren’t great, but they didn’t change a lot and people just kind of stopped being connected.”

Baker said they have a good relationship with the secretary of state’s office, but earlier in the year they were unsure of how many students were coming back to campus and did not know what exactly they were asking for.

Voting has become easier for college students, however, with the passing of the amendment in the 2018 election. The voting laws in Michigan now allow for registration on election days, absentee ballot requests without giving a reason and casting straight-ticket ballots.

“It used to be so much more difficult for college students to vote until to this year,” Baker said. “Prior years, just communicating how to register to vote, where to register to vote, how to vote once you registered, was just so complicated. Now, you just go to the Secretary of State’s website.

“Historically, there was a reason for that. They, the powers that be at the secretary of state’s office, did not want college students voting. So they made it more difficult to vote, they knew what they were doing. There was an intentional effort to discourage college students from voting.”

Baker clarified that this has not been the case since Benson was elected as Secretary of State,

Due to COVID-19 concerns, Baker said he would not encourage students to go home and vote. However, students can register or re-register in Big Rapids in person through election day.

**- ON THE RECORD -**

A roundup of this week’s crime at Ferris State University

*Too young for that*

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

**A cut through the night**

Oct. 23 1:01 a.m. A non-Ferris student called DPS for his safety. After a fight broke out with him and his Ferris-student girlfriend, over a dispute about the boyfriend ‘messing’ around with other girls, it is alleged the girlfriend held a knife to the boyfriend. This case is under prosecutor review.

**Too young for that**

Oct. 24 12:53 a.m. A possible Ferris student was pulled over on south Stewart street near Oak street, for driving the wrong way on a one-way street. After with some cooperation with the officer it was found she was under the influence of alcohol. Not only was the driver underage, but also had

a blood alcohol level of .13. An arrest was made to conclude the traffic stop.

**C’m on man**

Oct. 24 10:48 p.m. A Ferris student was pulled over on Cedar Street, heading towards State street for having something drag from the car, in which created sparks. It was found the driver was not the owner of the car, so the car was towed for having no insurance.

**Big stank**

Oct. 25 22:34 p.m. While on patrol, two officers could smell a high concentrate of marijuana near Merrill hall. After hounding down the smell, the officers found two underage students in possession of the narcotics, and were issued misdemeanor tickets.

**Torch Corrections**

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# THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

**Capital Update** – Governor Gretchen Whitmer went on Click In Detroit Channel 4 news, and talked about the ‘surge’ of COVID-19 cases. She also talked about how the ‘party lined vote’ by the Michigan Supreme Court, to rule her executive orders unconstitutional, was a step back-wards but assured Michiganders the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will keep some of the policies in place. Whitmer also has asked for more federal funding for the Michigan National Guard for more resources.

**COVID-19 CASE COUNT**

**Positive Cases – 175,515**

**Deaths – 7,522**

**Recovered Cases – 114,939**

**\*NYT    \*\*Michigan.gov**

**Sports** – A shocking defeat for the MSU Spartans losing to Rutgers Scarlet Knights 27-38. The Michigan Wolverines beat the Minnesota Gophers 49-24. The battle for the Paul Bunyan happens this Saturday at 12:00 p.m. MSU vs 13 UofM at Michigan Stadium – The Big House.

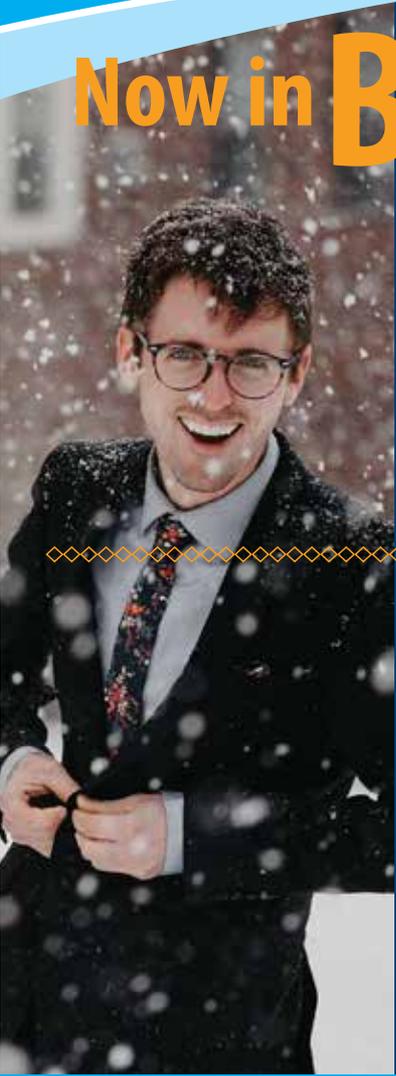
The Detroit Lions came out on top with zero seconds on the clock, beating the Arizona Cardinals 23-22. The Lions are still the sitting third in the NFC North.



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**REGISTER FOR WINTER COURSES!**

# Graduate programs re-imagined online

*Pharmacy students adjust to only labs in person, online exams*

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
News Reporter

Ferris' nationally ranked College of Pharmacy has transitioned to mainly virtual delivery, and attending graduate school online has challenges of its own.

In the eight weeks this fall semester, both students and faculty have faced a learning curve in the transition, which has resulted in most lectures on zoom, labs in person and exams online.

Associate professor of pharmacy practice Anne Ottney said she couldn't have ever imagined teaching pharmacy online before this year. One of the biggest changes is that exams are open-note.

"I think it's helped us to see that the way that we write exam questions has to be different than maybe what we were used to in the past," Ottney said. "Some of it has meant changing our questions or the type of question or making it where they're having to pull on a little more information than we would have them be able to access in a classroom, but knowing they have access to resources at home. To be honest, it probably reflects more of the real world for pharmacy, where as a pharmacist you have access to all kinds of information and resources at your fingertips."

Kiara Y. Torres García, a second-year pharmacy student, said that because her exams allow students to use notes, she did not feel as though she was memorizing concepts or studying enough.

"However, it does allow me to focus and not bottle the material for each exam. Instead I can concentrate on what I believe to be the important pearls and information that I will need when I'm treating patients in the future," García said.

García and third year pharmacy student Johnny Alberts agreed that online learning proved to be effective in some ways and lacking in others. Ottney said the faculty's biggest focus was providing the same, competitive level of education as before.

"When we first started everything online in March, I really did not learn a lot from our last unit at the end of the spring semester, because questions were pretty easy and you had

**"To be honest, it probably reflects more of the real world for pharmacy, where as a pharmacist you have access to all kinds of information and resources at your fingertips."**

**– Professor Anne Ottney**



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Pharmacy students take notes during their active learning lab on Monday, Oct. 26.

your notes," Alberts said. "There wasn't really an incentive to try. I moved back home during that time and didn't have great internet. I didn't feel the need to study and I couldn't focus at home."

According to Ferris' website, Pharmacy school tuition is approximately \$28,500 per year for both in state and out of state students.

An article from the University of Illinois Springfield detailed various advantages and disadvantages found regarding the virtual learning experience. The article lists some advantages, such as a student's being able to study at their own pace, accessing more resources and learning in places other than the traditional classroom setting.

Alberts, who is currently taking courses in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has two online courses. One is fully online and the other a mixed delivery of in-person labs and online lectures.

Alberts said that living with other pharmacy students with similar schedules encouraged him to devote more time to studying.

Alberts online courses are synchronous, meaning he can learn the material at his own pace. He could watch pre-recorded lectures whenever he found time and watch them again to better understand the content.

García felt thankful for these advantages. Although, such benefits also had attributed disadvantages.

"While I do enjoy being able to watch and process classes at my own time, especially when I need to go back and listen to topics that confuse me, I also miss being able to have classes with my classmates and professors," García said. "When you're in class you can ask questions in-person or even listen to classmates' questions that you didn't even

think about, which are important for professional growth. Online learning, especially when it's asynchronous does not allow for that to happen."

The article from the University of Illinois Springfield listed as many weaknesses as it did strengths when it came to online learning. There were drawbacks like limited access to technology, more responsibility on the students and a whole daily studying routine change.

García needed to find an efficient new studying method so that she could still learn new material as well as she did in person.

"An agenda and to-do lists have been my go-to this new year," García said. "I have to keep a to-do list of everything I need to do day by day. This way I remember to watch online classes, finish assignments and study for upcoming exams."

When you're not attending class, it's easy to focus on one class, or just one assignment, and forget about others."

Alberts organized notes in Microsoft Word documents and adds more notes to his lectures on PowerPoint slides found in Canvas. He focused on less pen and paper writing and more typing for his adjusted studying routine.

Ottney said the faculty are doing their best to accommodate all students, and the response has been mixed from students.

"I'm constantly thinking of how can I rework or redesign what I would usually deliver into an online format to make it as meaningful and as interesting and as engaging as it can be," Ottney said. "So I think we are trying our best, as everyone is. You plan for something one week and suddenly plans change very quickly, we're trying our best to keep up with it."

## When can students plan to study abroad again?

*Education abroad coordinator Megan Hauser-Tran answers questions on study abroad*

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
News Reporter

Although travel restrictions are being lifted in most areas of the world, study abroad programs are still on the ropes right now. According to Education Abroad Coordinator Megan Hauser-Tran, there is not yet a decision on the spring semester and the Office of International Education is still advising students – mainly freshmen and sophomores – and helping them plan out study abroad trips. Hauser-Tran is currently helping students who were supposed to study abroad this fall semester make alternate plans.

COVID-19 cases are seeing second or third waves across the U.S. and in other countries. Until a vaccine or more effective treatment is found, studying abroad programs may be put on hold. To gain more insight on where studying abroad stands at Ferris, the Torch did a Q & A with Hauser-Tran.

*Editor's note: Quotes have been edited for length and clarity.*

**Will study abroad be happening next semester or in the future?**

"Right now, there is not a decision on the spring semester. I'm still advising students, particularly freshmen and sophomores, and we're still helping them look at their options and make plans for them. We're working with students who were in the pipeline to go at a certain time, like this fall, to make alternate plans to delay their study abroad experience."

**What are students who couldn't study abroad over the summer or this fall doing in place of that experience?**

"We created a program in response to COVID-19, as a way for students to still get an inter-cultural experience and get a little bit of a global perspective, even if they couldn't study

abroad this semester. We're running a co-curricular program called the Global Engagement E-Certificate. Students are joining other students around the world on Zoom to have conversations about sustainability. It's not traveling, but in this way, they're able to meet others, gain perspectives, practice inter-cultural communication and just have meaningful conversations with their peers around the world."

**How will it function differently than before?**

"At its core, study abroad is having students go out and have global experiences to gain perspective, to challenge themselves and really engage with people from cultures, backgrounds and experiences that may be similar or different from their own. Then, they adapt and learn how to be a part of that environment. It's all about global awareness in your

**Study abroad | see page 5**

## STUDY ABROAD

Continued from page 4

self and your own global identity marking where you are in the grand scheme of things. At its heart, whenever study abroad returns to the “pre-COVID times,” it’s going to have that in mind. How is it fundamentally changing? It probably won’t, if that’s the objective we want to meet. I think it’s going to maintain that essence of global competency and connection.”

### Has COVID-19 affected where students can travel to study abroad in the future?

“Different countries are going to have different restrictions when they decide to open for international students again. Right now, we don’t plan on losing any partnerships or any opportunities for students. We still have our exchange programs and third party study abroad providers have different programs. Some of them are stepping up and doing virtual programs for the time being until students can travel again. We are monitoring sources, health and safety and travel guidelines or restrictions. It’s also up to the university and its policies to decide if international travel will happen for a semester or not.”

### How did you handle students who were still in other countries when quarantine first started?

“Our experience was communicating with students and the university leadership. We were ready to support them, making sure they were safe and healthy, and getting them back when it was time for them to return. We made sure that they could still complete the classes they started abroad so they could get those credits and stay on track. The students were very attentive and cooperative in that situation. They really rose to the occasion when it came down to it.”

### How are you still encouraging students to consider studying abroad after everything that’s happened this year?

“If students are thinking about studying abroad and they’re not quite sure schedule an appointment with me. We have information sessions every Friday at 1 p.m. via Zoom to let students know their other options, what the application process looks like and how to look for scholarships. We still want to provide that service to show students how study abroad might work for them. At the same time, we’re offering a program like the Global Engagement E-Certificate where they can still have that experience. We also have the Global Competency certificate program, which is another program we run through our office. We’re making sure that students have opportunities for engagement. I encourage them that study abroad is an option to explore.”

### What are some benefits of studying abroad?

“You can go learn more about the world and a different culture. You learn a lot about yourself too. When you step away from a normal context suddenly you have to interact in an environment that may be uncomfortable. Trying to explain who you are to someone who has no idea brings up realizations about yourself that you didn’t think about before. You certainly get 21st century skills like flexibility, adaptability and critical thinking while you study abroad. Studying abroad allows you to see yourself in a different context, to see the world in person and not through media. Employers love seeing study abroad experiences on resumes because it shows that they are able to communicate in diverse teams.”



Photo courtesy of Ferris Office of International Education

Ferris student Gerald Murphy studied abroad at Dankook University in South Korea.

# Meeting the minds behind it all

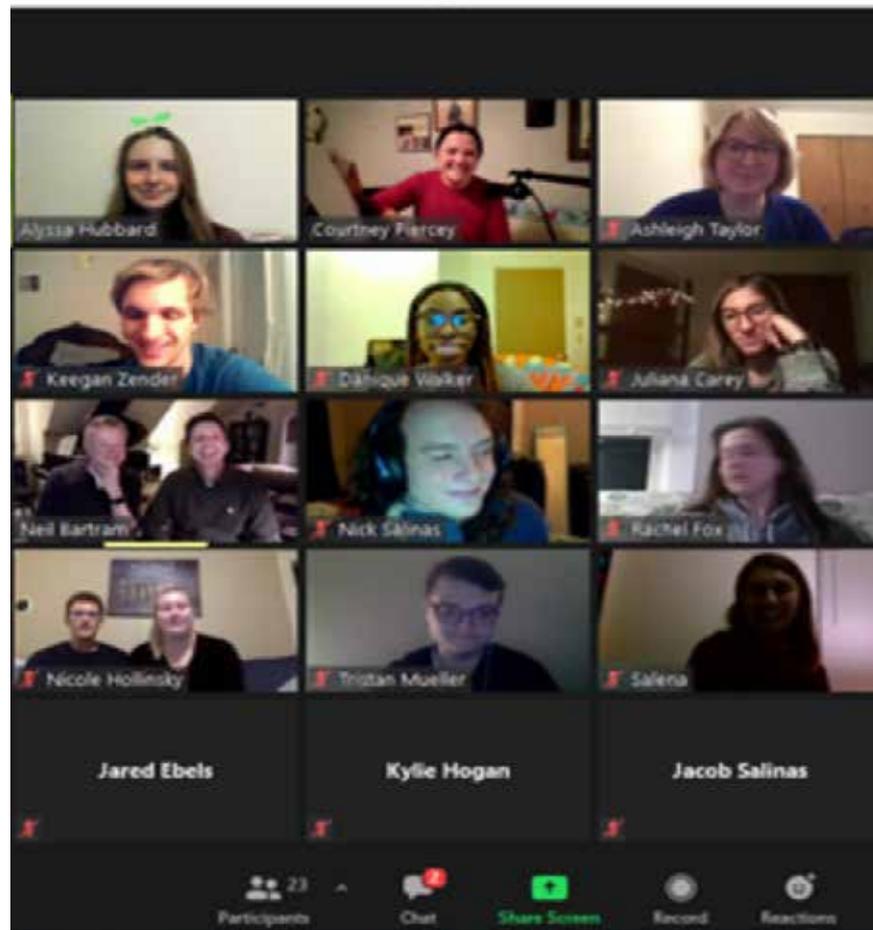


Photo by: Alyssa Hubbard | News Reporter

Cast members meet with Brian Hill and Neil Bartram over zoom.

## Ferris’ cast of ‘The Theory of Relativity’ talk to the authors

### Rebecca Vanderkooi

News Reporter

On Monday, Oct. 19, the cast of the Ferris fall musical, *The Theory of Relativity*, met via zoom with the show’s creators.

Neil Bartram and Brian Hill are the Drama Desk Award nominated duo who have written this show. Niel writes the songs and Brian writes the dialogue. Their chemistry works well on and off the stage, since they happened to also be married.

*The Theory of Relativity* is currently the second most licensed show at Music Theatre International. Through song and monologue this musical shows the connectedness of lives through the joys and heartbreaks.

“We were just dumb asses trying to write a show and it exploded into something.”

—Neil Bartram

The couple came up with the show idea while working with students in Oklahoma. They invited them over for pizza one night and after sharing stories for hours the idea for the show was formed. In fact, the whole show has similar stories to their personal experiences.

“We were just dumb asses trying to write a show and it exploded into something,” said Bartram.

Hill’s favorite song in the play is “Apples & Oranges.” The song is about being gay and finding love. They wanted to create a song or idea about this topic that people

haven’t seen or heard before.

Bartram’s favorite song is, “You Will Never Know.” This song talks about the way people create an ideal person in their heads and the importance of talking to someone and getting to know them.

“We sit on the park bench watching people, pointing out that they have their own separate lives, and we know nothing about it,” said Bartram.

In November Ferris is putting on the musical virtually. It will be filmed ahead of time and available for streaming. Hill and Bartram didn’t think there would be more than one production of the show much less virtual productions. However, after sharing the musical in Toronto it blew up and the rest is history.

“It’s YOUR show,” said Bartram said to the student actors.

It was a process for the duo as they outlined and planned what would be dialogue and what would be song.

“The thing you sing about needs to come from here (points to heart)” said Hill.

The musical is filled with many thought-provoking songs. One such is called, “Footprints,” which talks about the college experience.

“Archiving the journey of college was a unique thing to do,” said Bartram.

Another notable song is called, “Pi.” The authors said that this highlights the idea of being stuck in your head vs. your heart. The actor uses pi as a flawed argument because Pi can’t be defined; however, it is absolute.

Ferris theatre rehearses the show Monday-Thursday over Zoom, and records audio/film scenes on the weekends. They have one live rehearsal a week. There are 100+ alumni participating in the show from all over the country.

# OPINIONS

**Cora Hall** | Editor in Chief | hallc36@ferris.edu

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# EDITOR'S COLUMN: Consent is simple

By Cora Hall

In light of the article published last week about former women's basketball player Riley Blair, I wanted to talk about consent this week.

In our three-hour long conversation, we talked a lot about consent and people's perception of consent. Because that's at the center of cases like Blair's; was consent given? Was the sexual contact consensual or not?

I remember sitting in the courtroom, watching the defense attorneys borderline harass Blair on the stand about whether or not she gave consent. It got to the point where the judge had to interject and remind the attorney that it was only a preliminary exam and they should save that line of questioning for the trial, which never happened.

One question still sticks in my mind from that day. He asked her "Is it possible that you gave consent and just do not remember?" and she firmly said "No."

It was a single, powerful syllable. One she was incapable of giving that night.

But the question in itself gave us the answer. If Blair was in a state of intoxication to the point where she cannot remember the night before, she could not have given consent. Simple as that. Drunk consent is not consent.

Forced consent is not consent; asking until consent is given is not consent. If you have to ask someone several times and convince them to give you consent, that's not consent.

It's sad to me that I have heard stories from more than one friend about times they felt taken advantage of by someone. A night when a guy wouldn't take no for an answer and wouldn't leave the house until she begrudgingly consented. How is that acceptable to anyone? What kind of society do we live in that someone believes that is really consent?

Situations like that will never be brought to light because in so many people's eyes, consent was given. Survivors of sexual assault who did not give consent are already met with so many challenges to get a conviction or any justice. Blair, who was intoxicated past the point of being able to give consent, said she felt like she had to appear perfect to even have a chance in her case.

"It's just kind of screwed up because I feel like I have to have this crystal clear image and front in order for him to be found guilty of it and

he has to screw up really bad in a lot of ways for him to be found guilty," she said.

In the beginning of the case, prosecutors asked Blair if she had been romantic with her assailant prior to the night she was sexually assaulted. They were relieved to hear she had not.

"The answer was no, but it was like, 'oh okay, good, that's really good,'" Blair said. "But I was like, it shouldn't matter."

Consent given today doesn't mean you have consent tomorrow, or next week. Consent given at 8 p.m. doesn't mean it's given at 10 p.m.

In our conversation, Riley brought up the Tea Consent video, which can be found on YouTube. If anyone is unclear on what exactly consent is, I would highly recommend you watch it. It very clearly lays out what exactly consent looks like through a metaphor of drinking tea.

You wouldn't force someone to drink tea if they don't want to. You wouldn't pour tea down someone's throat when they were sleeping or unconscious. If someone told you they wanted tea, and then after you make it, they tell you they changed their mind. Would you force them to drink that tea? Absolutely not.

Are you starting to get a good picture? The video clearly shows how ridiculous it would be to force someone to drink tea, so why do we think about sex any differently?

"It's funny, because I think we try to overanalyze it," Blair said. "When in reality, it should be cut and dry. There's all this, 'well what if?' But no—if it's not clear, then it's not clear. And that's the part that people need to wrap their heads around and get into their brains.

"There shouldn't be all this 'What clothing was involved? What alcohol was involved?' No. It's cut and dry. It should be that simple, but it's not."

If the answer is "no," it's obviously no. If the answer is "I'm not sure," it's no. If there's no answer? It's definitely no.

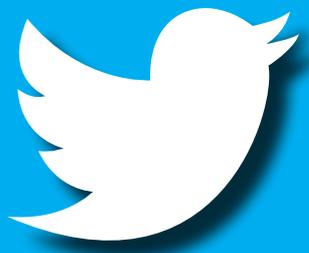
If any action in any situation involves more people than just you, you no longer have complete control over the situation. You don't get to make decisions for others. What you want personally is no longer the only factor in the decision.

"You're entitled to yourself; you can do whatever you want with yourself," Blair said. "But never are do you have control or the say on anyone else and their body."

# FERRIS STATE TORCH

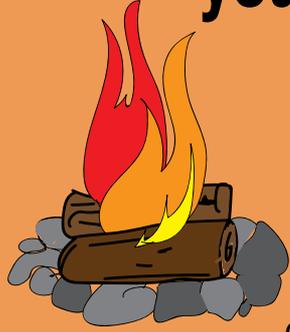
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# Sports need fans

Fans should be allowed to attend games in limited numbers



Brody Keiser  
Sports Reporter

Sports are back, but with restrictions on one of the most important parts of the game.

Fans are a crucial part of sporting events. For the players, fans provide energy, excitement, and support. Even as a visiting team, the often hostile nature of opposing fans can provide extra motivation to win the game.

The NBA did not allow fans during the playoffs. Some NFL teams are slowly allowing small numbers of fans to trickle into stadiums, but 18 of the 32 teams in the league are not allowing any fans. MLB allowed 11,500 fans to attend the World Series at Globe Life Field, approximately one-quarter capacity.

Colleges are handling spectators differently. Alabama is allowing 20% capacity, but Colorado is not allowing fans.

High schools in Michigan are now allowed to fill to 30% capacity or 1,000 maximum fans.

Some fans are better than no fans, but it simply does not provide the same experience.

I played basketball through high school and playing in front of a full crowd was electric. There is no better feeling as an athlete than playing on your home court and hearing your name called as part of the starting lineup as the crowd goes crazy.

For high school sports, fans make the games more fun.

Student sections have themes, families attend to show their support, and teachers, faculty, and community members watch students show off their athletic talents. The energy under the Friday night football lights or in the gymnasium during the biggest volleyball game of the year is incredible, and as an athlete, makes you feel special.

Fans at college and professional games can change the outcome of a game. The energy fans bring to a contest provides motivation for the players. People watching on television see fan reactions and hear thunderous shouts from the crowd, enhancing their viewing experience.

Fans get to watch their favorite team play live, right in front of them. As a die-hard sports fan, there is nothing better than attending your team's home game and being a part of the crowd.

Simply put, fans change the game.

Sports just do not feel the same without them.

It's weird, almost unnerving, to watch an NFL game and see empty seats and hear only excitement from players after a touchdown amidst an eerily empty stadium. Maybe it's just because having fans is the norm, but the absence of fans makes the viewing experience...worse.

Do I believe that stadiums should allow tens of thousands of people to pile in to watch the game? No, that would almost surely cause a spike in COVID-19 cases. I do, however, believe that every team at every level should have a small number of fans in attendance.

For starters, the proper precautions are in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. We can go to restaurants, bars, and classes with masks and social distancing. Fans can do the

same thing in a stadium.

Next, it is unfair that some teams get to play with fans and others do not. The teams allowing fans have the typical home field advantage during home games, but teams without fans have no advantage at any game, home or away.

Also, not allowing fans brings up a serious ethical question. If we are asking (and allowing) athletes to risk their own health to compete for our entertainment, why are we not allowing fans to be there to support them?

Having fans present at games makes the games more exciting, but another problem is money. Forbes estimated that the Dallas Cowboys would lose \$621 million if fans were not allowed to attend home games.

That lost revenue from ticket sales, merchandise, and concessions could have a crippling effect on sports as we know it. Salaries would be more difficult to pay, creating potential issues between players and organizations. In the worst-case scenario, this could lead to player holdouts and league wide season cancellations.

Regardless, the most important thing is keeping people safe, and limiting the number of fans in stadiums is the only way to do that. Having a reduced number of fans is not a perfect fix, but it marks progress. Small numbers of fans could still make the games more exciting, help the players, and keep money coming in.

It would be great for massive crowds of die-hard sports fans to return, but that seems unrealistic and frankly, irresponsible, at this point.

# What are microaggressions?

## How small comments take a toll on your mental health



Veronica Mascorro  
News Reporter

My whole life I've felt as if I've had an identity crisis. My parents are both immigrants from Mexico who moved to a very small town where diversity was basically nonexistent. I was one of the very few students of color in our school district, so it's safe to say that I never felt like I truly fit in with my peers.

My very first day in preschool, I remember the first question I was asked required me to choose between my two cultures. Did I want my classmates to pronounce my name in Spanish or English? It might not seem like a such a deep question at first but it meant so much more than just name pronunciation. Did I want to be like everyone else or did I want to be the girl in class who had a weird name that people had to make an effort to learn. For a 4-year-old that struggled with making friends and just wanted to fit in with others, the obvious choice was to go with the option that was easier for everyone.

After from my preschool days, elementary through high school didn't get much better. Throughout these years I can pick out a handful of experiences that led me to feel uncomfortable and unwanted by my peers. From people asking me why my English is so good or when my classmates would ask me where I was born.

My reaction was always to laugh, I mean how else do you respond to someone saying that you sounded like an alien when speaking your native language or when someone would say that I jumped the border without seeming like the person who couldn't handle a joke. Because for them it was a joke, but for me it was so much more. It was my culture, the attributes that made me who I was.

I could go on and make a whole list of uncomfortable moments that I experienced growing up but that's not the overall point. The point is that these so-called "jokes" or moments can be so damaging. Having to experience these moments over and over again truly takes a toll on you, especially when you're just a child.

It wasn't until I left my hometown and came to Ferris that I realized that a lot of what I experienced growing up were microaggressions. For those who don't know, microaggressions are behaviors or statements that do not necessarily reflect malicious intent but which nevertheless can inflict insult or injury.

Microaggressions might seem like they're just annoying moments but the reality is that they create damage that lasts. As the recipient of microaggressions I can tell you firsthand that these moments truly make you feel ostracized and can have a severe impact on your mental health. I never dared to share things about my culture and refused to speak Spanish unless I was with my family, in order to avoid any issues. I had to put aside my comfort and things that I loved doing to avoid others from hurting me and fit in.

Others found high school to be the best four years of their

life and cherished every moment of it. For me it was the exact opposite, I spent these four years crying in my room, debating whether I would ever feel like I belonged and counting down the days until I would never have to see my classmates again.

Thankfully now, everything has changed. For the first time in my life I really got the chance to learn about me and what I wanted, and it wasn't soon before I was a completely different person that my high school classmates "didn't recognize." But it wasn't that I changed; all the attributes that I now have were always inside of me and just hidden.

Being in a different environment allowed me to grow. I was finally able learn more about my culture and everything it stands for thanks to the people who I met at Ferris who helped me embrace my culture. But although things are better for me now, it doesn't mean that there still isn't an issue.

I still experience microaggressions and so do many others across the country. The only difference now is that I recognize what they are and take a different approach that doesn't hurt me. It's so important to combat these microaggressions and call people out on behavior that can hurt others.

It's not something that can end overnight but the best thing people can do is try, so if someone calls you out on it, or you think that you might have said a microaggression, think about it and remember to: drop your defensiveness, listen to someone if they say you offended them, think before you speak and most importantly educate yourself.

## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.  
Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief | Email: hallc36@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

# Share the political spotlight

*There are more than two presidential candidates and our two-party mindset is toxic*



Alyssa Hubbard  
News Reporter

It's everywhere. On television, social media, and the radio have been talking about only one thing: the presidential election.

Whenever I watch a YouTube video, there is almost always a Donald Trump or Joe Biden campaign advertisement before the video begins. We are being bombarded with promises from these two presidential candidates every hour of the day.

With the chaotic state of the world right now, I understand why there is a lot of hype about choosing the right person to manage the country.

Nonetheless, I was willing to attempt to ignore all the Trump and Biden ads until something caught me by surprise. There was something terribly wrong.

A celebrity I follow on Instagram posted a picture of the Official 2020 Election Ballot onto their story. It was then that I discovered, to my horror, that there are not just two presi-

dential candidates. There are SIX.

I'm unable to explain why I felt this way, but anger and disgust boiled inside of me when I saw that post. It was a perfect example to show how under-represented the other political parties are.

Let's forget about that time George Washington said "Hey, no political parties" and then we did exactly that, because that is a topic for another day. Someone please tell me why we only hear about the two biggest parties, Republican and Democrat.

I knew there were a couple other parties like Libertarian and the Green Party. Though, I had no idea that the Unity party or Peace and Freedom parties existed.

America is supposed to be the place where everyone has equal chances, but why are we not giving those lesser known parties an equal chance? I think the reason why it becomes Republican vs. Democrat is because not everyone knows about the other represented parties.

Out of all the campaigns I've seen, none of them were about a candidate other than Trump or Biden. It doesn't make sense.

The toxic mindset that it's Republicans vs. Democrats for every election automatically disregards any other parties'

existence. If there are multiple options, why only settle for two? In any other circumstance, people would take advantage of all the options.

Every election season, I propose that each candidate receives a fixed amount of ad campaign funds. If not that, make sure the people know their options. I sure didn't until a couple weeks ago.

The presidential election is one of the most important processes to keep America functioning properly. It's vital that we choose a qualified person for that huge responsibility.

Democracy is defined as "the practice or principles of social equality." Practice what you preach, America. If we can't even give candidates equal opportunities, that shows how much work needs to be done.

At the end of the day, vote for whichever party you want. Before you make a final decision, I encourage you to do some research about what these other parties stand for and what those candidates plan to do for our country. Who is going to be that beacon of hope that we've been waiting for, who will transform our country into something amazing?

## FSU's Red Out donation



### Special from Spectrum Health

Members of the Sports Careers RSO at Ferris State University presented a check for \$1,110 to the Spectrum Health cardio pulmonary rehab unit Thursday. The funds were raised during the university's 5th Annual Red Out event in February to promote women's heart health. RSO members Travis Hicks, 2nd from left, and Joseph Nagy, at right, presented the check to Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City Hospital's chief operating officer Beth Langenburg, left, and president, Andrea Leslie, 2nd from right. Students and fans raised money and wore red during the men's and women's basketball games along with the hockey game all on February 15.



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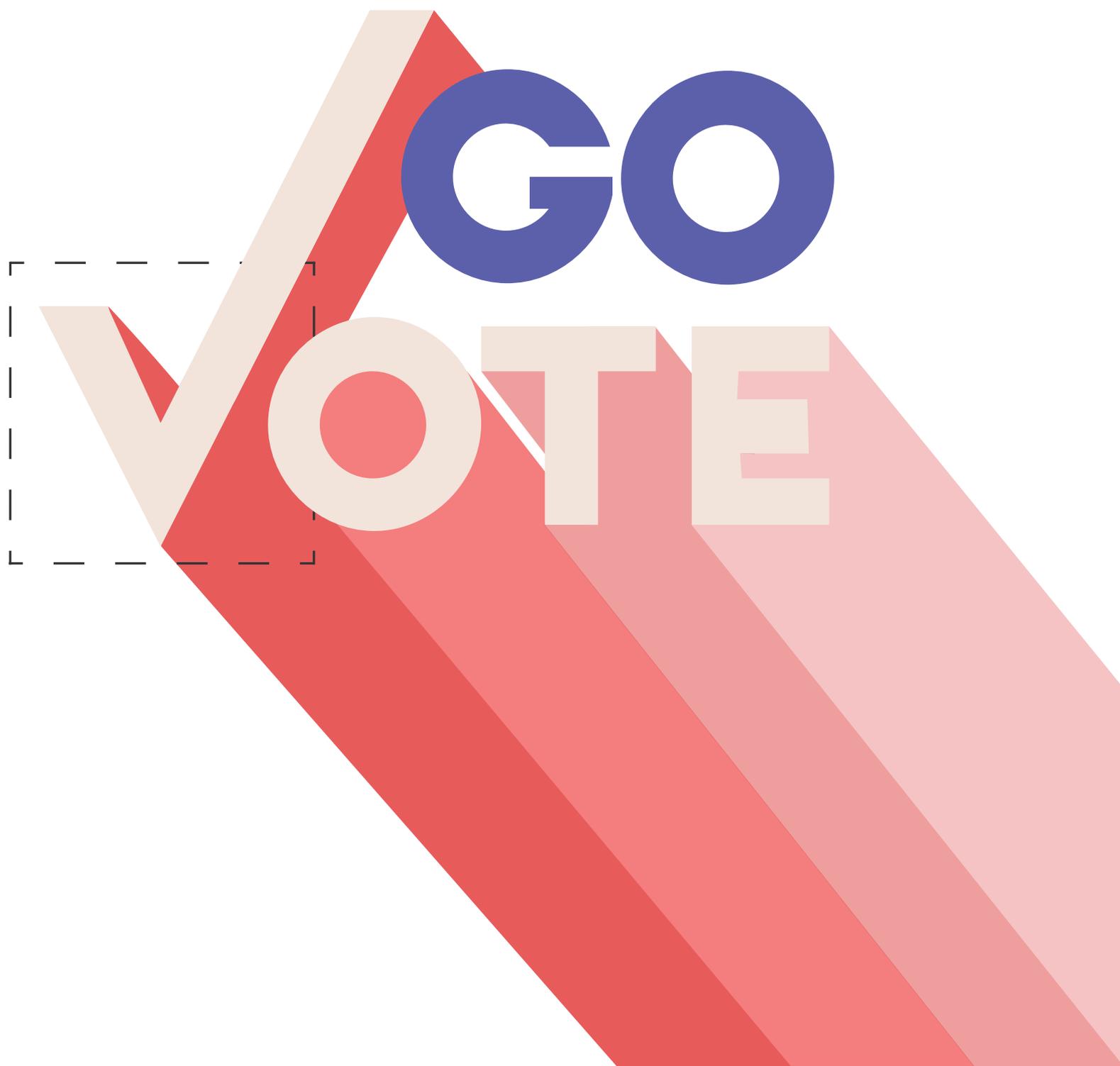
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Graphic by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

### Torch Editorial Staff

As student journalists, we believe it is of utmost importance that everyone who able should vote.

It's more important than ever to make your voice heard, especially as college students. According to the US Census Bureau, only 46.1% of citizens aged 18-29 voted in the 2016 election.

That's less than half of college-aged Americans. There are over 550,000 college students in Michigan, according to Univstats.com. Imagine the difference we can make in Michigan if all of us voted.

The policies which will be put into place after this election will unquestionably have an impact on many people in our country, minorities in particular. If you don't think you will be affected, take a look at your friends and loved ones. Do you know any people of color? In the LGBTQ+ community? All of them will be impacted by policies of the next administration.

Even if you're not affected now, you may be later. The result of this election is going to be influential for years to come.

We are not here to shame you into voting, or tell you who to vote for. But it is our job to educate and inform our students. It is the goal of this election

insert to help inform our students on the Presidential candidates, how our election will work and how to vote.

While we understand that it is well within anyone's right not to vote, we would encourage you to rethink that if that's your plan.

Everyone in this country could use a little empathy, a trait that seems rare nowadays. Empathy doesn't just mean being nice, it means seeing a situation from someone else's perspective and understanding and sharing their feelings.

This trait is one that unites us and it is so important right now. Even if you believe these results won't affect your life, they will affect someone else's. Maybe you know that person. Think of those in your life whose rights may be up in the air right now.

Think about your friends of color who are facing systemic racism in this country.

Think about the women in your life who are making 81 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Think about those with illnesses or disabilities who do not have access to the help they need.

Your ability to vote gives you a chance to stand up and raise your voice on these issues and so many others. Vote like your rights are depending

on it, because someone's are.

We are not saying that you should vote uninformed, though. Voting is an opportunity for change. If you vote randomly or listen only to the opinions of other's, you are giving up your voice. You have your own opinions. Put those thoughts to action.

Voting is simple. It costs you nothing and will take little time out of your busy life. But it means so much more to the most vulnerable people in our country. By voting, you're telling them you care and you're willing to stand with them as they fight to get their own voices heard.

Some people will say that their vote is insignificant, but there have been so many cases where one or two votes can sway an entire county, which in turn could sway the entire state.

Michigan gets 16 electoral votes. According to the latest census, Wayne County, Oakland County, Macomb County and Kent County are among the 146 counties which make up half of the U.S. population. One vote, one swayed county, can make a difference, especially here.

So don't wait. Get to the polls and vote early. Make a commitment to better your community and your country today.

## What's inside

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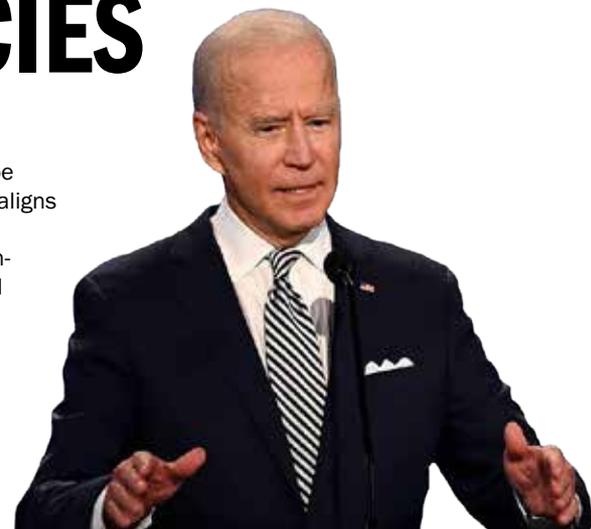
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# PRESIDENTIAL POLICIES



**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
News Reporter

Take a look at President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden's policies side by side to help you decide which candidate most aligns with your beliefs.

The information below was compiled from NPR, Whitehouse.gov, candidates' websites, CBS News, United Nations Climate Change, Planned Parenthood and taxfoundation.org.

## TRUMP vs. BIDEN

Since before Trump's first term as president, he has said that he is against the Affordable Care Act. As he has said many times through the years he wants to "repeal and replace Obamacare." Although to date he hasn't made any second term healthcare plans public, he has emphasized the importance of lowering insurance premiums, prescription drug costs and provide coverage that doesn't exclude people with preexisting conditions.

### Healthcare



Biden's healthcare plan builds upon the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare. He plans to create a public option healthcare plan that would be available to all Americans. According to NPR, this option will be offered without premiums to Americans who live in states that don't have access to Medicaid benefits that they would qualify for in other states. The plan also would ensure that no household is putting more than 8.5% of their income into health insurance plans as opposed to the current 9.86%. In addition, Biden says that this plan will lower the cost of prescriptions.

During his time in office Trump has put together a list of higher education reform principles. One way he hopes to accomplish his plan is by expanding Pell Grant eligibility to include high-quality short-term programs that can provide students with the proper credentials in different fields. Another way is by having Congress extend loan forgiveness to all students.

### Education



Biden is advocating to make public colleges and universities tuition-free for students with family incomes under \$125,000. In addition to this, he wants to make community college and training programs tuition-free for two years of attendance. Biden also wants to extend the 2017 College for All Act proposal to include private historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions. Regarding student loan debt Biden plans to forgive student borrowers who graduate from public universities and private historically Black colleges and universities and make less than \$125,000.

Trump has described his proposal as, "Pro American, pro immigrant and pro worker." One aspect of this plan is to fully secure the border. Another is removing the loopholes in the system that have allowed for human smuggling and other illegal and dangerous behavior. Trump's plan is to focus on modernizing the legal immigration process by making it more merit based. He wants to increase the number of immigrants coming for a specific job or skill as well as give priority to immediate family of U.S. citizens and immigrants.

### Immigration



A large part of Biden's immigration plan centers around reversing policies already in place. This includes removing prolonged detentions and family separations as well as ensuring that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are held accountable for their actions. One of the key points of Biden's plan is creating a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million individuals who have been living undocumented in the United States. One aspect of this is making the naturalization process more accessible for green card holders.

Trump is pro-life and opposes all abortion except in situations of rape, incest or endangerment of the patient. Following a 2016 pledge to appoint pro-life judges he has appointed over 150 pro-life federal judges. He has also excluded clinics from title X (family planning) funding where they use abortion as a form of family planning.

### Abortion



Biden is pro-choice and has explained that although he personally is against abortion he doesn't want to "impose his religious beliefs on other people." His plan is to pass legislation through the Senate that makes the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision a law. In addition to this he also plans to mandate that states can't refuse Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood and other providers.

During the presidential debate this Thursday Trump explained that he wants clean air, clean water, and a good economy. He signed the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 which reauthorized the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program to receive \$10 million a year to clean our oceans and The Great American Outdoors Act which uses money from offshore oil and gas drilling to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He put \$38 billion towards the EPA's "clean water infrastructure" project. He also expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, eased air and water pollution penalties on companies and left the Paris Climate Agreement.

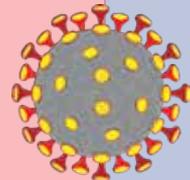
### Climate Change



Biden's plan involves rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement. The agreement focuses on the global response to climate change and each country sets their own standards and goals for reducing carbon emissions. Another aspect of this plan involves transitioning the United States to a 100% clean energy economy by 2035. He will be requiring public companies to disclose climate risk as well as greenhouse gas emissions for their work. He has additionally indicated that he won't ban fracking, but he will ban new fracking on federal land.

Trump's plan focuses a lot on, "Operation Warp Speed." This operation is for vaccine development and distribution with the goal of distributing 100 million doses of a vaccine in 2020. Another key point of his plan is making Regeneron's antibody cocktail and other types of coronavirus drug therapies free to all Americans. In addition to this he intends to focus on making critical medications and supplies readily available for hospitals and health care workers. His overarching goal with this plan is to return to normal by 2021.

### COVID-19



Biden's plan focuses on increasing the amount of COVID-19 testing availability as well as making testing free and instant. The plan also calls to create additional personal protective equipment like masks and face shields. He wants to ramp up contact tracing of the virus by hiring at least 100,000 contact tracers. Another facet of this plan is working with state governors to create and enforce a mask mandate. He intends to put \$25 billion into vaccine research but hasn't given a time by which a vaccine must be ready.

Trump has said that if he is elected for a second term, he will cut taxes to, "boost take-home pay and keep jobs in America." Throughout his campaign he is focusing on made in America tax credits. This credit is designed to provide tax relief and boasts 10 million new jobs in 10 months as well as 1 million new small businesses.

### Taxes



Biden's tax plan involves raising taxes on those making over \$400,000 a year and giving the middle-class tax cuts. His plan outlines raising corporate income tax rates from 21% to 28% and creating a minimum tax on corporations that make \$100 million and higher. He also plans to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. He's increasing it from a maximum of \$3,000 in expenses to \$8,000 and increasing the maximum reimbursement rate from 35% to 50%.

Trump is a strong supporter of the second amendment and his plan involves better enforcing laws so that violent criminals are prosecuted. Trump has also said that the American mental health system is broken, and that in many mass shootings there were red flags and underlying mental health problems that he believes should be addressed. Trump has also made it clear that he opposes gun and magazine bans and is a huge proponent of having a national right to carry.

### Gun Control

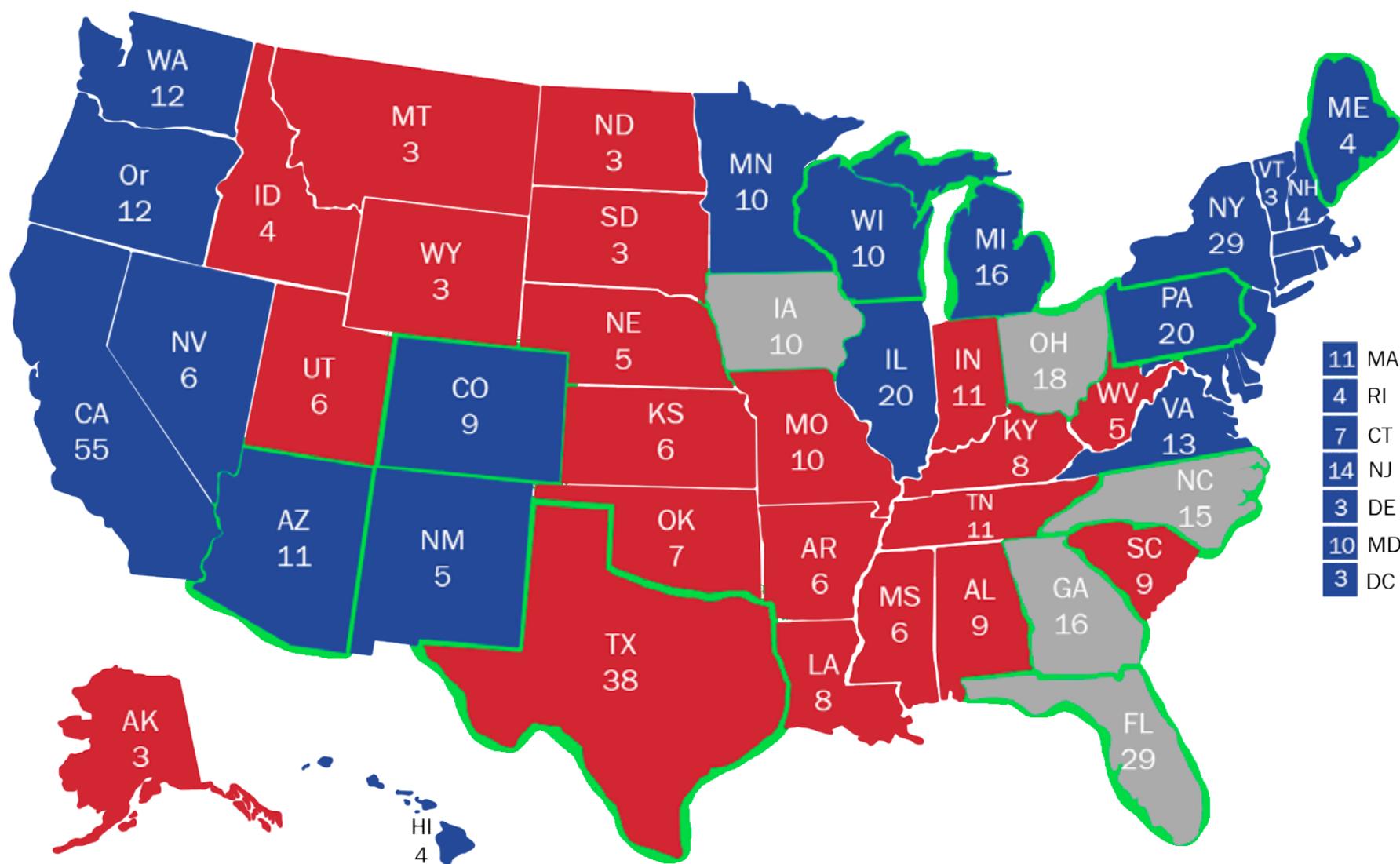


Biden views gun violence as an epidemic. Because of this his gun control plan focuses on regulating gun possession to ensure that guns don't end up in the wrong hands. Biden intends to ban all assault weapons as well as regulate possession of existing assault weapons. In order to do this, he plans to offer a buyback program for assault weapons so that people who currently own assault weapons can sell them to the government, or they can register them under the National Firearms Act. According to Biden's campaign website an estimated 1 in 5 guns is sold without a background check being done, Biden's plan requires a universal background check for all gun sales.

"The Second Amendment guarantees a fundamental right that belongs to all law-abiding Americans. The Constitution doesn't create that right - it ensures that the government can't take it away," Trump's campaign website said.

# Explaining the Electoral College

How does it work and how do Michigan voters play a part in deciding elections?



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

The map above shows how many electoral college votes each state gets. Red states are republican secured or leaning and blue states are democrat secured or leaning. States outlined in green are "swing states" and gray states are battleground states, compiling 85 undecided votes according to 270 to win. Biden is projected to have 290 votes and Trump is projected to have 163 as of Tuesday, Oct. 27.

**Veronica Mascorro**  
News Reporter

For the past 200 years the electoral college has been the deciding factor in presidential elections.

In the electoral college there are a total of 538 electors and in order to win the election a candidate needs to receive 270 of the 538 potential votes. The number of electors is equal to the total voting membership of the U.S. Congress: 435 representatives, 100 senators and 3 electors from the District of Columbia.

From here each state receives a particular number of electors based on population size. States might gain or lose a few electoral votes based on the results of the census, which is conducted every 10 years, but they will never have less than three as that is the minimum.

To give an example of how the elector votes in each state work, California currently has 55 electors. If the candidate from the Democratic party were to win in this state they would receive all 55 votes. While the candidate from the Republican party would receive zero from this state.

During the election season candidates are typically able to map out or rely on certain states who have a long history of voting for a certain party, these are known as safe states. With these safe state's candidates are able to predict how many electors votes they will receive. An example of a safe state is Texas, who has voted republican for the past 10 election cycles.

Swing states, on the contrary, are states that can go either way during an election. An example of this is Florida, who has gone back and forth between the Democratic and Republican parties during the past four election cycles.

Usually candidates who receive the highest popular vote also win the electoral college, but that is not always the case.

There have been five instances in U.S. history where the winner of the presidential election lost the popular vote. The most recent time being in 2016 when Hillary Clinton received almost three million more votes than Donald Trump. Trump however won the election by receiving 304 electoral votes.

For years there have been debates on whether the electoral college is still a practical way to hold the election. Some argue that it allows smaller states to be equally represented. Others have pushed to try and get it removed as it does not always represent what the majority want.

Although many attempts have been made none have ever successfully gone through. According to an article by ABC News, the closest Congress came to dismantling the elector-

## If Trump fights election results, SCOTUS to play a part

How long does it take, what will be fought, and what will be the outcome?

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

We have all heard the President will not go down without a fight, but what does that truly mean?

The president has many legal options he can take to court that will be ultimately looked at by the Supreme Court.

Looking at the Bush v. Gore case and how the Florida recount of the ballots was deemed unconstitutional because of the way they recounted it took little over a month to come out with that decision.

A lot of election laws are in place thus there is a lot of protest that can be made and probably will be by the president then presented to lower courts then brought up to the SCOTUS.

The main protests are going to be for the early voting centers, the mail in votes and how they were counted, and possibly the way recounts are handled.

Bush v. Gore really had no standard after the ruling, it was more of explaining the way Florida was recounting the ballots was unconstitutional, explaining there were multiple ways recounts were happening instead of a set standard.

Provisional ballots were used in the 2000 election as well and this is what made the recount so difficult.

Provisional ballots are ballots that are votes but while voting there has been issues like different I.D. or change of address and not notified. It was ruled that these ballots are constitutional and shall be counted but they can be challenged.

In a Zoom call hosted by Ferris to talk about how elections work. Ferris history professor Christian Peterson talked about what could happen after the election and

"What can make this process even longer, both sides can go crazy, so to speak and just challenge, challenge, challenge, ballots especially provisional ballots that are declared when people vote" Peterson said.

"What happens for instants there is a power outage in Detroit, a predominate decorate city, and then someone like Whitmer, the governor, wants to have an extended deadline for the election, but the republican legislature doesn't want it"

He explained that congress cannot get into election disputes until Dec. 8 because of the Electoral Counting Act of 1887, and it is up to the states to sort out all their issues.

This could cause Trump to not accept the election and tell the state legislatures to certify the state elections and send the certified electors to vote for him and ignore the popular vote, in which this would cause a huge legal battle.

If Trump wanted to take these elections to court it first would have to start as a smaller court cases within the state there is an issue, then it moves its way up to the Supreme Court.

Since it would be a time sensitive case, must be decided before 12:00 p.m. Jan. 20, it could be fast tracked to the Supreme court.

For example Trump can take states that did not vote for him, yet had early voting in person, could hold the grounds for a constitutional case claiming they had the possibility of being counted not on the day of the election in which could possibly be unconstitutional.

Ultimately, if the decisions did make it to the Supreme Court, any case that Trump created would win, because of his three appointees to the bench and the other 3 republican justices.

## ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Continued from page 3

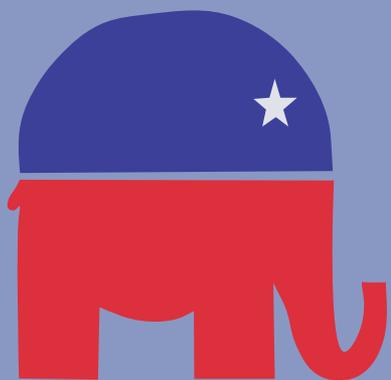
al college occurred in the late 1960s-early 1970s, when the House decisively passed an amendment to abolish the system – the only time a chamber of Congress approved such an amendment. But it died in the Senate after being filibustered by a group of lawmakers from southern states.

A more recent attempt to rework the electoral college is the National Popular Vote

bill. Which would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. At least 16 states, which total to 196 electoral votes, have joined the compact but the bill won't take effect until the states reach 270 electoral votes.

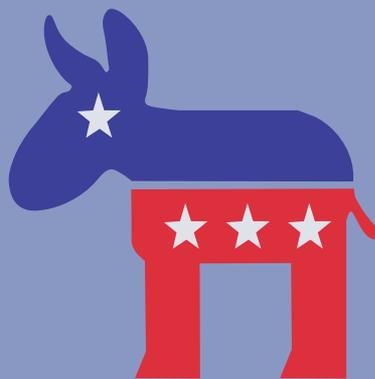
Experts aren't sure if the electoral college will remain the same going forward, but the best one can do is be sure to go out and vote for the candidate that you want to represent you.

## POLL NUMBERS



**JOE BIDEN  
UP BY 8.3  
POINTS IN  
MICHIGAN**

**JOE BIDEN  
UP BY 9.4  
POINTS IN  
U.S.**



## HOW TO VOTE

Voting and registering to vote can be confusing. If you still need some guidance on how to make your voice heard on Nov. 3, use our voting checklist below!

### ● **Make sure you are registered**

- You can register at your Secretary of State office until election day.
- Check registration status at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us>

### ○ **Early Voting**

- If you vote via absentee ballot, you now **must request it in person.**
- When filling out your absentee ballot, **fill in all the ovals completely**, like the first oval on this graphic.
- Don't forget to put your ballot in the **secrecy envelope** first and **sign the envelope.**
- It is **too late to mail in** an absentee ballot but you can drop your ballot off at an official drop box
- Check your ballot status at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us>
- You can also fill out your absentee ballot in-person at your township clerk's office until Nov. 2

### ○ **Election Day**

- Find your polling location and hours
- Bring your photo ID
- Registration in person is available to you through election day

# Michigan senator review



Photo from Gary Peter's Twitter  
Democrat and incumbent senator Gary Peters.



Photo from John James' website  
Republican senate candidate John James.

## The race for a senate seat closer than ever; what policies separate the two candidates?

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

The Senate race in Michigan is getting close, with polls being tallied every day, it could be anyone's job.

In the upcoming Senate election the two headliners are Republican John James and Democrat Gary Peters. Election day is Nov. 3, and many are wondering what each candidate's point of view is on major topics, namely ones related to healthcare.

### COVID-19

James believes the best way to combat the spread of COVID-19 is to enforce the stay-at-home orders. He also believes that the government should not force people to wear masks when they are in public. Instead, just rely on social distancing, washing our hands and staying indoors.

Peters, on the other hand, believes it should be the government's responsibility to be enforcing the idea that people need to wear a mask when out in public on top of staying at home as much as possible.

In a C-Span broadcast, when speaking to the House of Representatives, Peters said his top priority is to protect the health and safety of Michiganders. During his speech he endorsed the release of stimulus checks to help those who need it most.

### Care Acts

James, when interviewed back in 2018 during the Senate primary, had expressed opposition to the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and suggested repealing it.

Recently, MLive covered a town hall meeting in Bloomfield Township in which both candidates were present to answer questions on various topics. James then stated that he had changed his viewing of the ACA.

James has recently begun to support the act, stating the bill should stay in place, but with improvements. However, he neglected to share his thoughts of what improvements should be put in place.

Most recently, in a second interview on Oct. 18 with WDIV 4 News in Detroit, when asked about reforms he would bring to the existing policy he deflected in answering the question directly and instead his responses were ones that refute his previous stances.

James has said that he wants continued coverage for people with preexisting conditions and that regulation reform should be taking place.

When looking into the ACA, the policy does already cover individuals with preexisting conditions. With the statements James made within the interview his suggestions of regulation reform and market-based coverage

would in fact get rid of this aspect within the policy.

Peters, since the beginning of his campaign in 2015, has plans of supporting the ACA.

According to MLive, he has been pushing the Trump administration to open an emergency enrollment period so people can gain coverage through the national care act. The act within Michigan has already helped one million residents thus far.

Peters believes an open enrollment period could help more residents. He has also expressed support for legislation to continue making improvements to the ACA.

### Planned Parenthood

Peters has been an avid speaker endorsing Planned Parenthood and their services to women by providing not only preventative care, but also cancer screenings and wellness exams.

Most recently Peters has been making headlines as he spoke out about how an abortion saved his ex-wife's life.

In an article by the Washington Post, Peters described how when he was married to his now ex-wife, Heidi, they were expecting a child together.

At four months, however, serious complications with Heidi's pregnancy occurred. Peters and his ex-wife had gone to see the doctor to see if anything could be done, but because of the severity of the situation the baby would not make it through to the end of nine months.

When asked for an abortion from their doctor the hospital refused to do it and told them to wait for a miscarriage. As they waited, not only were things turning for the worst for their child, but for Heidi too. Her health began to go downward quickly. Peters and his ex-wife then went to a Planned Parenthood appointment and received assistance for the sake of keeping Heidi alive.

James is on the opposite end of the spectrum when it comes to Planned Parenthood. He is a pro-life advocate who has pledged to fight until abortion ends.

James has made it public that he is a Christian at heart and believes abortion is wrong. He has made many public statements openly stating he supports efforts to defund Planned Parenthood.

James has made strong statements against abortion that has gotten him endorsements from pro-life organizations, such as Right to Life and the Susan B. Anthony List. Both organizations have donated thousands of dollars to keep him in the race, stating that it is vital to have a senator that is pro-life in Michigan.

# SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

## Bouncing back and forth

*Brittany Lavenant talks about growing up on the west coast and her time at Ferris*

**Brendan Sanders**  
Sports Editor

Women's tennis is full of leaders, and one of those leaders comes from over 2,100 miles away.

It's a bit of a surprise to say the least, to have a player from southern California playing tennis for the Bulldogs, but Brittany Lavenant is a surprising player. Being one of the leaders on the 11-9 squad last season, Lavenant was named GLIAC player of the week after leading the Bulldogs to their first win over Northwood since 2004.

Growing up an hour north of Los Angeles, Lavenant never really considered coming to Michigan. Only when her recruiting cycle took place did Ferris become an option.

"At the time of my recruiting process I was mainly looking into D-III schools along the west coast in California and Oregon, but then I got a letter from Ferris and it was a D-II school when I researched it" Lavenant said. "Yeah it was in Michigan, but D-III schools don't offer athletic scholarships, only academic. When I talked to the coach, he offered me a scholarship."

Prior to Ferris, Lavenant had an interesting prep career. She started playing tennis at the age of five and played in many tournaments growing up. At the end of her junior year, she ended up leaving her hometown of Camarillo to live in Las Vegas, attending the No Quit Tennis Academy. This was an interesting change in her life, as she was living alone at the age of 16.

"It was a very strict schedule, there were a lot of guidelines that you had to follow." Lavenant said. "I was playing at an academy where we would practice three hours a day and then after practice, we would have an hour of conditioning, then after that I was part of this foundation where we would pretty much do our homework and volunteer in the community. You had to be in bed at a certain time, you couldn't really go out and socialize because you're there to play tennis. I didn't really like having such strict rules."

After four or five months, she decided to move back home to enjoy her senior year with her family and enjoy having the high school experience. Attending the academy did make leaving home for Ferris much easier for Lavenant.

"Being 16 years old when I had that experience living in Las Vegas, and not only that, I've done summer camps starting at the age of nine, my mom would put me in summer camps and I'd go to UCLA or Pepperdine for a week or two weeks on my own, so I've never been too homesick. I like my independence; I like coming here and figuring out what I want to do with my life," Lavenant said.

That doesn't mean that it hasn't been a massive change for Lavenant. Moving over 2,000 miles away into a small town such as Big Rapids can lead to a sort of culture shock.

"It's very different with how small this town is," Lavenant said. "The city I grew up in wasn't super big, but I'm more used to the suburbs. This is a lot of rural and farmland and I'm not used to that at all. I just got my car over the summer and I drove it from California. I'm not used to deer being here so now it scares me every time I have to drive at night or early in the morning. And the weather of course, I've seen snow a couple of times, but I've never seen it fall or be as terrible as it has been here."

After school Lavenant said that she would not be sticking around in Michigan, instead of leaving for possibly Texas or other warmer climates. But first, she must complete her career here at Ferris.



Torch File Photo

Lavenant returns a serve in 2019, the Bulldogs would go 11-9 in the 2019-20 season.

# Learn more about the D.A.W.G.s

*Athletics work group gives students opportunities to work in professional environment*

**Hannah Loucks**  
Sports Reporter

Being a part of sports is a dream for many, with the Ferris Athletics D.A.W.G program, many students are getting to achieve that dream.

Jake Daughtery is the Bulldog Athletic Association Coordinator and an advisor for the Dedicated Athletic Work Group, making up the creative title of "D.A.W.G." This group of essential students support staff works behind-the-scenes to orchestrate athletic functions within the university.

These student employees' roles include positions that deal with athletic communications, sales and development, equipment tech, facility management, game environment, gameday operations, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning. Each of these areas is considered a "group" that works for the whole of athletics to run smoothly.

Although these positions have been available to students for many years now, 2020 is the first year these dedicated students have a title. With a little creative thinking during the months of peak COVID-19, Jake and his counterparts, namely Harrison Watt, Nick Owens, and Savanna Stout, coined the acronym D.A.W.G. and the program was official. Jake emphasized just how crucial these individuals.

"You think Ferris State Athletics represents '17 sports, one team' when in reality, there are 18 sports that make up one team and the D.A.W.G.s are that eighteenth counterpart. These student workgroups are the glue and foundation to Bulldog Athletics." Daughtery said.

These students are found in various places across campus, with some holding completely virtual positions such as a social media coordinator and others working one-on-one with the athletes in the athletic training rooms.

Working for Bulldog athletics has been an excellent way for students to get involved and make connections, especially if they are pursuing a career in the sports industry. Daughtery emphasized how unique this opportunity is and how it provides a gateway for students to possibly work for Ferris in administration as a professional once they graduate.

Not only do student workers have the ability to work with student-athletes in practice and on game days, but students also get to work with established professionals in athletics here at Ferris.

Some of the alumni to come from this student work program have gone on to work with not only Ferris but the Detroit Tigers, the Detroit Red Wings, Michigan State University, Cornell University, Valdosta State University, and more.

Savanna Stout gave testimony to her experience going through this program and how she transitioned from a student role to now as a professional on the Athletics Senior



Photo courtesy of Savanna Stout

Savannah Stout poses in front of the Wheeler Pavillion at Top Taggart Field

Staff at Ferris.

"As soon as I got here as a little freshman, I was working volleyball and football. Quickly, I learned what it took to be on the Game Day Staff, and I loved it," Stout said.

Stout was promoted to Game Day Staff Manager as a sophomore and dealt with anything from running soccer scoreboards to working with marketing promotions at basketball, hockey, and football games. She quickly found her niche organizing game-day operations, and once she graduated, she was offered a position with Bulldog Athletics.

"I was reporting directly to the facilities manager, game-day operations coordinator, and the communications department weekly about what was happening each week," Stout said. "I was honored to be someone that the Athletic Administration Staff could trust early on."

As a professional, Stout organizes game-day operations

such as hosting the visiting team and in-game promotions. She is also the Summer Camps Coordinator for sports camps for elementary, middle, and high schoolers at Ferris. Stout leaves those looking to get involved as a D.A.W.G. with these valuable words of advice;

"Connections are what will matter most after leaving college, and everyone at Ferris State Athletics is willing to help those who are striving to be the best," Stout said.

Stout's story is just one example of D.A.W.G. student staff's interactive role and the opportunities the program offers. If you are interested in getting involved with D.A.W.G.s, you can fill out an online application at the following web address: [ferrisstatebulldogs.com/dawgs](http://ferrisstatebulldogs.com/dawgs), or give Jake Daughtery a call at 231-679-6304.

# Malik Taylor scores first NFL touchdown

**Brendan Sanders**  
Sports Editor

Taylor became the first former Ferris State football player to score a touchdown in the NFL since Ricky Patton played with the 49ers in 1981 on Sunday.

Taylor caught a one yard pass off of a play action play from Aaron Rodgers to give the Packers a 21-0 lead over the Houston Texans.

Taylor caught two passes on the day for a total of six yards after playing a total of 10 offensive snaps on the day.

This game puts Taylor at three receptions on the season and a total of 26 receiving yards and Sunday's touchdown grab.

At Ferris, Taylor was a top notch receiver for the Bulldogs, catching a team-high 61 passes for 906 yards and six touchdowns as a junior before an injury riddled senior season saw Taylor catch seven passes.

Taylor will look to add to his season total and earn another victory for the Packers next Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings at 1 p.m. on FOX.

## Other Bulldogs in the NFL

Buffalo Bills- DT Justin Zimmer 19 total snaps

Cleveland Browns- CB Tavierre Thomas Win against the Bengals

Atlanta Falcons- DE Austin Edwards First career active game

Miami Dolphins- DE Adam Sieler Bye Week



Photo from Green Bay Packer's Instagram

Former Ferris football wide receiver Malik Taylor celebrates his first career NFL touchdown.

# Sports Speculations: Tanking in the NFL

*The pains of purposely being the worst of the worst*



D'Andre Head  
Interim Sports Reporter

As fans step out to watch their favorite team play, it can be upsetting to see them on a losing streak.

What is worse to see a team going 3-13 or ending on a 16 losing streak. While many fans may suggest the team is unlucky or just bad this season, the main reason could be tanking.

Tanking occurs mainly when a team gives up or has a bad record, so they take advantage of this to get the best pick. Many speculate one of the most significant tanking instances is the 2011 Colts when they went 2-14 and got Andrew Luck.

In week 7 of the NFL, there are currently several teams under .500. One team that sticks out the most is the NY Jets. They have not won a single game this season and lost by mostly blowouts. While many fans and analysts are questioning whether their competitiveness is intentional, large conversations are going on about the potential pick they could acquire, Trevor Lawrence.

The Clemson quarterback is the overwhelming favorite to become the top draft pick of 2021. If he becomes available for the Jets, they will choose him, no doubt.

While coming off a disappointing season or potentially tanking, a team's gets to gain one of the season's best players by subsidy throwing the game. While it is sad to see a team lose, This means fans of the organizations are heavily disappointed by seeing them take the easy route and paying for a ticket to see them build for the future to gain a "potential" key.

One of the emerging questions is that if the Jets were to acquire Trevor Lawrence, what would that mean for Sam Darnold?

Being the third pick in the 2018 draft, he has not had the best season in 2020. The Jets have drafted seven quarterbacks, including Darnold, since 2011. Generally, a QB who has not even finished developing when in his third year in the NFL. Fans are starting to wonder if another quarterback is going to save the Jets from their slump? It would seem like it would be evident that while tanking is an excellent way to gain good picks, it also has even more negative aspects.

Tanking gives the franchise good leverage on players, but does it work vice versa? If the Jet potentially obtained Trevor Lawrence next season, would the Jets be good for him to start his NFL career?

With the way the season is going, Trevor Lawrence is being told by ex-athletes to stay at Clemson instead of being drafted by the Jets this season.

Former American football Roddy White wide receiver, who played his entire professional career with the Atlanta Falcons, told The Big Lead on what he thought about this predicament.

"If I'm Trevor Lawrence, if the Jets finish with no wins, I go back to Clemson. I don't want any part of that organization," White said.

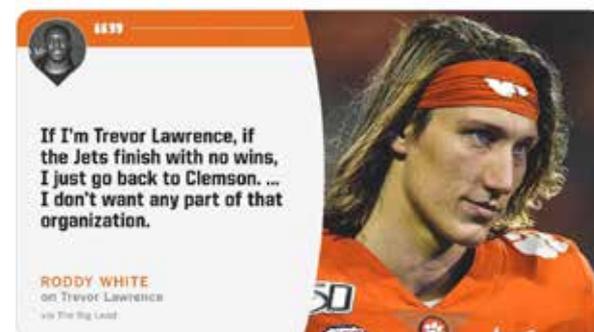
While potential tanking could benefit the Jets and other NFL teams, what could it mean for the Lions?

This season, many fans openly wonder how the Lions are supposed to excel by trading cornerback Darius Slay, Quandre Diggs, releasing Damon Harrison, not re-signing Mike Daniels, Graham Glasgow, and A'Shawn Robinson.

While the Lions have also made critical trades, could this be enough to have the season they need? While being a Li-



Staying at Clemson another year to avoid the Jets might be Trevor Lawrence's best option, according to @roddywhiteTV



11:55 AM - Oct 21, 2020 - Sprinklr

ons fan has been a wild ride for the past decade, rebuilding could be an excellent alternative to their future success.

The Lions tanking could potentially bring in the next star they might need for their team, but focusing on what they have and finding that missing component could finally get is more important. While this could also mean taking losses, they may not need to at the current moment.

As the season unfolds, we will see what changes and the path the Lions will go down this season. If the Jets are tanking the way they appear to be, their season will end in catastrophe.

## Learning on the fly

*How athlete schedules have been effected by the pandemic*

**Brody Keiser**

Sports Reporter

Sitting behind a computer screen for hours a day was not commonplace in education before last semester; now, it is the norm, and student-athletes have varied opinions about it.

There have been many pros and cons to having online courses, but many athletes have taken the change to online courses in different strides. While it has forced everyone to change their schedule, for some that change has been for the better.

Karson Murley, a senior offensive lineman on the football team, has come to enjoy online learning.

"It's really nice because it's given me a lot of free time to work out when I need to," Murley said. "I can wake up, have more time to eat right in the mornings, and get my daily routine established."

Murley has two classes online and one in-person. Although he likes his online classes, he also enjoys having some face-to-face interaction with other students and doing some hands-on learning.

Unlike other students, Murley transitioned to online learning last semester relatively easily. He previously had taken two online classes and said that those helped him "a ton."

"The big thing was making sure I set aside time to get all my work done when I had all this free time at home," Murley said. "I took those classes in the summer so I wasn't exactly at school, so I learned to set aside time which I think was what helped me the most through all this. I needed to make time to just sit down, close all the distractions, and get the homework done."

The one problem Murley has with online classes is the timing of school and practice. He lives at home, so he is often late to practice because his morning classes do not allow him time to get to campus early for practice. Instead, he must travel to campus from home after his classes end.

For some athletes, though, online courses have become more of a detriment to athletes' schedules. To junior cross-country runner Callie Delaney, there are more challenges than opportunities. For her, online learning has made balancing everything in her life more of a struggle.

"It's made it more difficult because there's more time management that I have to balance," Delaney said. "When I'm in person, I have a class here and then I have practice. Now I have to plan more of my schedule which has been a little hard."

Delaney, who has just one class in person this semester, felt that online classes make it more difficult for her to be mentally focused on both school and athletics. She noted that her life would be "much more stressful" if she had a normal season of cross country at the same time as online schooling.

The switch from in-person classes to online learning last semester was especially tough

for Delaney, who had not taken online classes prior to the spring. She realized that planning out her time was much more important, and the online portion of last semester prepared her for the fall.

"I've handled it pretty well," Delaney said. "This semester has been nice with classes because the professors are very clear with what needs to be done and have a very efficient way to deliver the information."

Sitting in online classes all day can make it tough to focus, especially at home. Delaney felt that she had a much tougher time taking online classes at home because she was the only one doing schoolwork. This semester, her roommates also have homework which makes it easier for her to sit down and get her work done.

Neither Delaney nor Murley has virtual team meetings right now. For Delaney and her cross-country team, they practice three times a week lifting and running. Murley and the football team tried to have meetings over Zoom to watch film but had to stop due to technical difficulties getting all the players connected. Instead, they lift and condition while working on their technique and learning plays.

Murley was excited to chase another GLIAC ring and national title run in his final season of football at Ferris. However, like Delaney and the rest of Ferris athletes, he will just have to wait for that chance.



LOOKING FOR  
FERRIS SPORTS  
COVERAGE?

LOOK NO FURTHER

Follow us on twitter @fsutorch for  
all your updates on Ferris Athletics!

# Catches for Week 8: wide receivers to start

Week 8 brings us back to wide receivers. As the NFL nears the halfway point in its season, fantasy football players are neck-deep in injuries, bye weeks, and tough start-or-sit decisions. This is the point in the season where the strengths and weaknesses of your fantasy team really start to show.

This is a heavy bye week: the Cardinals, Texans, Jaguars, and Washington Football Team are all on bye. If you have players like Kenyan Drake, Deshaun Watson, or DJ Chark, you're probably reaching deep into your bench for bye week fill-ins, so you might not have much of a choice as to who to start this week.

This week, we will debate between two rookie receivers who have managed big production so far this year: Dallas's **Ceedee Lamb** and Minnesota's **Justin Jefferson**.



Brody Keiser  
Sports Reporter



Austin Arquette  
Sports Reporter



Ceedee Lamb has played well for the Cowboys thus far. Granted, he played five games with Dak Prescott and now has Andy Dalton throwing him the football, but Lamb is still talented, and Dalton is a capable starter. With at least 59 yards and five catches in every game this season, Lamb has established one of the highest floors of any receiver in fantasy this year.

The Cowboys need to win if they hope to make the playoffs. In Dalton's first full game, Dallas was blown out by the Cardinals. Now that he has a game under his belt as the starter and more time to prepare, I think the Cowboys will notch some victories.

Against the Eagles in Week 8, the running room could very well be scarce for Ezekiel Elliott, who by the way, has underperformed this year already. I expect Dalton to throw a lot.

Amari Cooper will likely draw Darius Slay, leaving Lamb to match up with the Eagles weaker secondary players. Michael Gallup has been mostly a non-factor this year, so I see Lamb drawing double-digit targets and finishing with a big game for his Cowboys.

Justin Jefferson is a baller. But, coming off the bye week, I expect the Vikings to feed Dalvin Cook who is expected to be back for their matchup with the Packers. The Packers rank dead last against opposing running backs, allowing the most fantasy points. The key to Minnesota's success is on the ground, and they will ride a freshly rested (and healthy) Cook throughout this game. After being obliterated by the Falcons in a game they tried to throw to win, Minnesota will right the ship and pound the rock on the ground. This will leave minimal volume for the Vikings receivers.

Justin Jefferson was taken by the Vikings in the first round of the 2020 NFL draft simply because they needed a star receiver after the Vikings traded Stefon Diggs. Jefferson has produced great numbers so far in fantasy as the young rookie is the seventh-best receiver as of today. While the Vikings do have a run-first attitude their rival Greenbay knows this.

The Packers will look to shut down the run game for Minnesota which will lead to Kurt Cousins forced to throw the ball which means Justin Jefferson will see the ball most often. Greenbay will play for the run against Dalvin Cook and be prepared for those options to him. I foresee the Vikings taking the bye week from week seven and further enhancing their offense to include Jefferson more as he is becoming a breakout rookie sensation.

Jefferson is the clear number two receiver behind Adam Thielen so Jefferson will draw the lesser defenders for easily breaks on his routes. This will be a tough fought divisional game as the NFC North is a wide-open race and each game from now on is crucial to the team's season for success. The Vikings will have to throw to keep pace with Aaron Rodgers and this will allow Jefferson to continue his breakout rookie year.

I don't see Ceedee Lamb having a big breakout day against the Eagles. The Cowboys have been such a subpar team this year and haven't lived up to the hype they had after the offseason. While Ezekiel Elliott had a tough game in week six with his two fumbles, he will continue to right the ship here and have a feasting session over the Eagles poor defense. This game shouldn't be close, and I can't justify starting Lamb when he might not get much volume, he is more a boom or bust for me and not the sure thing.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**Chris Godwin:** His teammate Mike Evans should draw coverage from lockdown corner James Bradberry, leaving Godwin on the other side of the field to feast.

**Justin Herbert:** Against the elite Denver rush defense, the rookie slinger will have to throw a lot. I see a top-10 day for Herbert.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**Robby Anderson:** The Panthers are playing Atlanta, and everyone knows how well the Falcons have played defense in 2020.

**Tampa Bay Defense:** Week eight pits the Buccaneers against the lackluster Giants offense and this will allow for a feast that Tampa has waited for to show off their defensive talents.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**David Montgomery:** Here's a guy who has already disappointed fantasy owners, and now he plays the Saints dominant front seven. If you're starting him, hope and pray he falls into the end zone.

**Patrick Mahomes:** I hate putting him here because he is so good, but the Jets are so bad. Big day for CEH and newly signed Le'Veon Bell on the ground, low volume for Mahomes in a blowout Chiefs win.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**Jared Goff:** Miami's defense has been rolling since week five and they are beginning to buy in that they can run the AFC East. With the Rams not really having an identity, I think Miami takes advantage of them and holds the Rams to only field goals.

**Travis Kelce:** As Brody has Patrick Mahomes on his bust for this week, I agree and will add Kelce because this game will be just ground and pound as the Chiefs will let Le'Veon Bell run around his former team along with rookie Clyde Edwards.

# THIS WEEK IN SPORTS LAST YEAR

**Brendan Sanders**  
Sports Editor

In the 34-10 win Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, Campbell threw for a Bulldog career-high 347 passing yards — the first Ferris quarterback to do so since 2016 on only 13 completions against Saginaw Valley State. That's roughly 27 yards per pass. The Bulldogs totaled 397 passing yards on the day with Travis Russell adding 51 yards through the air.

Sophomore wide receiver Sy Barnett led the team in receiving yards with 114 on only three receptions, his longest an 88-yard touchdown. Dion Earls had 87 yards on three receptions and one touchdown.

Jayru Campbell also led the team in rushing yards with 61 yards and two touchdowns off of ten attempts. Marvin Campbell had 51 yards off of twelve carries.

The Bulldogs accumulated six sacks against the Cardinals, Ferris defense snagged two interceptions by senior defensive backs James Caesar and Alex Thomas. SVSU converted only 2 of 12 third down attempts, and 10 of their 12 drives ended in a punt or an interception.

Austin Edwards totaled eight tackles with .5 sacks for a loss of five yards. He also had 1.5 tackles for a loss.

With the win, the Bulldogs improved to 8-0 on the season on their way to an appearance in the Division-II semifinals.



Jayru Campbell had a career day passing against the Saginaw Valley State University

Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor In Chief

# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Seniors of 2020: Justin Veltema

*Veltema reflects on his time at Ferris and how it changed him*

*Editor's note: In the coming weeks until commencement in December, the Torch will be doing features on Ferris seniors, who have spent their last two semesters in college in unprecedented times. For the 2020 seniors, who have lost the last bit of their college experience but learned many lessons along the way.*

**Alyssa Myers**  
Copy Editor

No two bulldogs are the same. They all led different lives leading up to their arrival at Ferris and they all have different experiences while they're here.

Justin Veltema is a Healthcare Systems Administration (HCSA) senior set to graduate this December. He hails from McBain and enjoys hiking and kayaking in his free time. After Ferris he wants to further his education by attending medical school.

McBain is a small town and Veltema has lived there his entire life. College was his opportunity to get out and see what the world had to offer. As a first-generation student college was a big step into the unknown. For Veltema, the lead up to arriving on campus was full of uncertainty and anticipation.

"I didn't really have many expectations before coming to Ferris," Veltema said. "As move in day got closer, I began to feel less and less sure about the major I had chosen, but I had hope that my time at Ferris would direct me to where I need to be, and it did just that."

Though Ferris turned out to be a good fit for him it wasn't his first choice. He initially wanted to get his degree in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVACR). Ferris was one of the few schools that offered this program.

During his time at Ferris Veltema has grown and matured. A common thread shared by many small towns is a controlled public discourse and limited ideas of what is considered normal or acceptable. Attending a university away from home has given him the chance to outgrow some of those thoughts and form his own.

"I've grown so much over my time at Ferris. My eyes and mind have been opened to so many things physically, mentally, and emotionally. Ferris helped me to escape the sheltered, narrowminded feel of the small town I grew up in," Veltema said.

College doesn't just challenge students academically. It challenges the way they were brought up and their views of the world. It puts them in positions where the choices they make have real consequences. It takes them out of their comfort zone and makes them build new boundaries. With that there are many lessons to be learned.

"Ferris has taught me that while everyone has a different



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Ferris Healthcare Systems Administration senior Justin Veltema enjoying the fall atmosphere on campus.

path, there's no such thing as a wrong path to take. Everyone is unique in their own ways and finds their path in a way that best suits them," Veltema said. "I've also learned that no one is ever too old to better themselves with a college education. Pursuing knowledge has no limits."

Some lessons are more straightforward.

"I had to quickly learn how to effectively study," Veltema said. "In high school I coasted and took the easiest classes possible to get out. In college I had to adapt to not taking the easy way out in order to further myself. Learning to study was by far one of the most difficult things I had to overcome here."

As he prepares to make the switch from student to alumnus Veltema has some advice to share.

"Something I want all students to know is that there's nothing wrong with changing your major as often as you need too," Veltema said. "Take the time to find something

that makes you happy."

The end of his journey as a college student has been turbulent. His junior year was cut "short" due to COVID-19 and now he must make peace with the reality of having an online graduation ceremony.

"I was disappointed to learn that my graduation would be online but understand that due to COVID it was the rational decision to make. Either way it's still a huge accomplishment for me and I couldn't be more excited to become a Ferris Alumn this coming December," Veltema said.

As this chapter of his life closes Veltema has had time to reflect on everything that's happened to him these past couple of years.

"I'm proud of being able to call myself the first college graduate in my family and overcoming so much hardship adapting to college and being away from home," Veltema said.

## STAYING HOME IDEAS FOR HALLOWEEN

**Marissa Russell and Kendall Rooks**  
Lifestyle Editor and Lifestyle Reporter

**Because of Covid-19 it is recommended that students stay away from parties and bars. here is a list of things students can still do to have a fun night:**

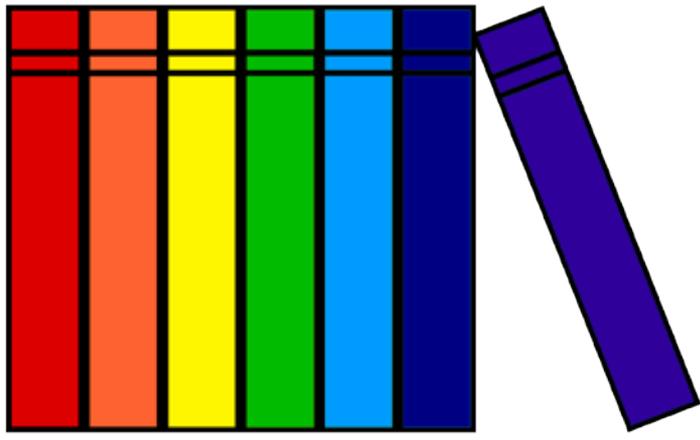
**Halloween movie marathon-** grab a blanket, pop the popcorn and put on your favorite Halloween movies. Binge all the Halloweentown movies!

**Mask making-** buy some white masks and get creative! Do the traditional tie-dye or find some sew on patches and make a completely unique mask.

**Pumkin carving contest-** run to the store with your roommates and get some pumkins. See who can make the scariest pumpkin carving then set them on your front porch.



# Readers rejoice



## LGBTQ+ resource center book club provides community connection

**Alyssa Myers**  
Copy Editor

For the past six weeks the LGBTQ+ resource center has been putting on a new weekly book discussion group that meets over Zoom. The group is headed by Sarah Doherty, the LGBTQ+ resource center coordinator, and seeks to spotlight unique narratives that can produce engaging discussions.

The group is free to attend and open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. A collection of personal essays and poems by Kai Cheng Thom titled "I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girls Notes from the End of the World" was selected as the groups first pick.

This book was chosen because Thom raises important questions about family love, feeling disconnected from your heritage and violence and racism in the LGBTQ+ community. It was also deemed "complex and chewy" enough to grab and keep the attention of those who already have other demands on their time.

"I read "I Hope We Choose Love" because I'm a book nerd and I was interested in her work already, and when I read it I kept thinking about the kinds of wide-ranging discussions we could have about it in a group," Doherty said. "I talked about it with the LGBTQ+ student staffers who specialize in transgender outreach and QTBIPOC outreach over the summer when we were program-planning and they agreed it would be useful, so we went ahead with it!"

The idea of everyone having equal access and equal opportunity with this group was key in the decision-making process. Special attention was paid to how the books could be accessed. "I Hope We Choose Love" is available in paperback or e-book format and would have been mailed to you after you showed an interest in the group and got in contact with Doherty.

Doherty and the other group organizers are aware that students

have other things going on in their life and that things happen sometimes.

"We took on a whole book, but we spend six weeks on it and so the reading is short week to week. We're aware of students incredibly hectic schedules and multiple demands on time and attention, so we worked on making this as accessible as possible and we love to hear from students too," Doherty said.

When you attend a meeting you aren't obligated to do anything but be respectful and appropriate. If you aren't ready to talk that's alright and if you can't stay for the whole meeting that's ok too. That being said, if you do want to share there are many opportunities for that. Discussion questions aren't solely focused on the book. They circle back to you.

"We have been writing discussion questions that make it possible for people to bring what they have already experienced and know to the discussion and that's valuable," Doherty said.

Doherty is a self-professed book fiend. She created this book discussion group to make a safe space for diverse narratives that might not have been shared otherwise. She thinks that everyone should be exposed to these types of stories in some form or another.

"I know that not everybody is a reader and I know from disability, like being in the disability community, that not everybody can access books in the way that I've been privileged and lucky to be able to access books and writing, but sharing stories and listening for differences, listening for commonality, listening for peoples dreams and concerns and lessons learned and challenges. That enriches all of us," Doherty said.

Right now, details on upcoming book discussions are TBA. Conversations about the future of the group are ongoing, but there are plans for more meetings. If you want to get in touch with Sarah Doherty she can be reached at sarahdoherty@ferris.edu

# A new set of rules



Photo courtesy of Justin Harden

Intramural sports had to shift to sports with fewer participants and they were all required to wear masks.

## COVID-19 changes IM schedule, eliminates sports

**Matthew Miller**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Intramural sports are an important part of the college experience for many students.

With COVID-19 still having a majority of campus events being canceled or put on hold, intramural sports is no exception to the rule.

Many students use intramural sports as a way to take a break from college studies and get the chance to relive the glory days of high school sports.

"A lot of the team sports such as soccer, flag football and softball had to be canceled or postponed because of COVID," Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness Programs Justin Harden said. "We have done a lot of individual events though."

Harden said that they have done some individual events like a cornhole tournament and 2v2 and

4v4 sand volleyball. Other events were planned for students but due to a low turnout the events were canceled. Because of the Ferris COVID-19 guidelines students were required to wear a mask.

Harden said one event they set up that turned out well was esports. They hosted a Fantasy football tournament that had a good turn out of students. Harden said that they did esports games with Madden, NBA 2k and other tournament style games. Nothing has been planned for the spring yet, Harden said, but they are hoping to have some small events.

Most sports teams had their season postponed until the spring of 2021 in hopes that COVID-19 will have settled down by then. COVID-19 may have stopped the teams from playing games but not from practicing.

Ferris State Women's Rugby Coach Willie Seidman still is having his team practice by condi-

tioning and learn the basics of the sport. The team is made up of 18 girls and they are looking to have more join.

"We have a lot of rookies on our team and we are concentrating on getting to be familiar with the positions, the rules of the game and also how to participate in the game," Seidman said. "We are doing this just because we want to stay in shape and we want to get educated about the game of rugby."

Seidman said that they are looking to have a shorter season next February/March time.

Seidman said that this is a good time for rookies because they get extra time to get the jump start in learning the sport even though COVID-19 has its restrictions. If anyone is interested in joining, get in contact with the team through Bulldog Connect or follow them on social media.

# An RSO with a lot to say

Students find a platform to voice their passions



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Ferris education freshman Alyssa Parson talking to another member of Bulldog Radio in the Bulldog Radio recording studio.

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

If you are looking for something new to listen to, hear real student opinions, or catch up on all the news, you should tune into Bulldog Radio.

Bulldog radio is an RSO on campus that broadcasts their very own podcasts on Spotify and Apple music. Podcasts that are currently available are Mics and Takes, The MVSP (Most Valuable Sports Podcast) and the Book Hub.

With podcasts being all the rage, there's a station for everybody to tune into. Ferris sports communication senior Barrett Jones said that it's a relaxed group that allows students to foster their ideas in a safe and creative environment. Jones runs one of the sporting podcasts, Mics and Takes, with his friend Travis Hicks.

Jones said they encourage each other, especially their newest members, to shoot out ideas, and see where it takes them.

"There's no wrong ideas," Jones said "We help touch up their ideas, give suggestions, show them how to record and send them on their way."

With twenty-one members coming from different majors the RSO is able to learn from one another, create great ideas, and make an environment where all members are able to thrive.

"We enjoy collaborating to make things work," Jones said "We have three podcasts coming up next semester. At the moment we are in a building stage because we have a lot of freshmen, and I'm not going to force them to be involved in a podcast when they don't have the experience yet."

Newest members are first taught the ropes, and the ins and outs of how a show runs before being placed onto their own.

All members are still able to collaborate together to create exciting content for their listeners.

Ferris education freshman Alyssa Parson found out about Bulldog Radio through Bulldog Connect. She

had always wanted to try it out so she took this opportunity. Parson runs the Book Hub, a podcast where she takes about everything from reading books to writing books. Although she has had complications that have made it hard to go to every meeting Parson said that the podcasts are going smoothly, that they are nice to listen to.

"I am the only host for my show," Parson said. "There wasn't really anyone else that wanted to do reading so I took it upon myself. I do all the editing and uploading."

Parson only does one episode a week so it takes up about three hours of her time because she will research what she is talking about. Talking to herself because she does her podcast by herself was one thing Parson had to get used to. Getting the hang of making the starting and endings less awkward is another Parson

"I've always liked reading and talking to people," Parson said. "Finding like minded people who actually want to hear what I have to say is interesting."

In the past they have done music and hope to re-vamp their radio by getting back into it soon when things become safe for everyone and they can have more interaction with others.

At the moment bulldog radio has four podcasts. Members record a new episode twice a week and are gearing up for more episodes and podcasts to be heard later this spring.

Bulldog Radio provides an opportunity for all students who want to share their voice, and get creative digitally. If students are on the fence about whether they should get their own podcast they can reach out to hosts and ask to be a guest on their podcast.

Students interested in learning more about Bulldog Radio can email them through Bulldog Connect.

Marissa Russell and Cora Hall contributed in the reporting and writing of this story.

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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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November 3.

You can vote early.

You can vote  
by mail.

You can vote on  
Election Day.

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