

# THE MYSTICIAN

ELECTION ISSUE BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. October 16, 2020

Aspiring to Give Every Student a Voice

[bscmysticmedia.com](http://bscmysticmedia.com)

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: CHOOSE FROM THREE OPTIONS

### Donald Trump and Mike Pence



Donald Trump is the 45th President of the United States and is up for re-election for the 2020 presidential election. Trump is the running candidate for the Republican party. Before entering into politics he was a businessman and TV personality. Running as his Vice President is current V.P. Mike Pence.

**REPUBLICAN**

### Joe Biden and Kamala Harris



Joe Biden was formerly the 47th Vice President of the United States and is running for the Democratic Party in the 2020 election. Biden served alongside President Barack Obama from 2009-2017. Biden also served as a Democratic Senator from 1973-2009. Running as his Vice President is American politician and attorney, Kamala Harris, who is also a current senator.

**DEMOCRATIC**

### Jo Jorgenson and Spike Cohen



Jo Jorgenson is the candidate running for the Libertarian Party and is a known political activist. Jorgenson is the first woman to lead the Libertarian Party in the Presidential ticket. She ran previously for the 1996 Election as Vice President candidate to running mate Harry Browne. Running alongside her in the 2020 election for Vice President is Spike Cohen.

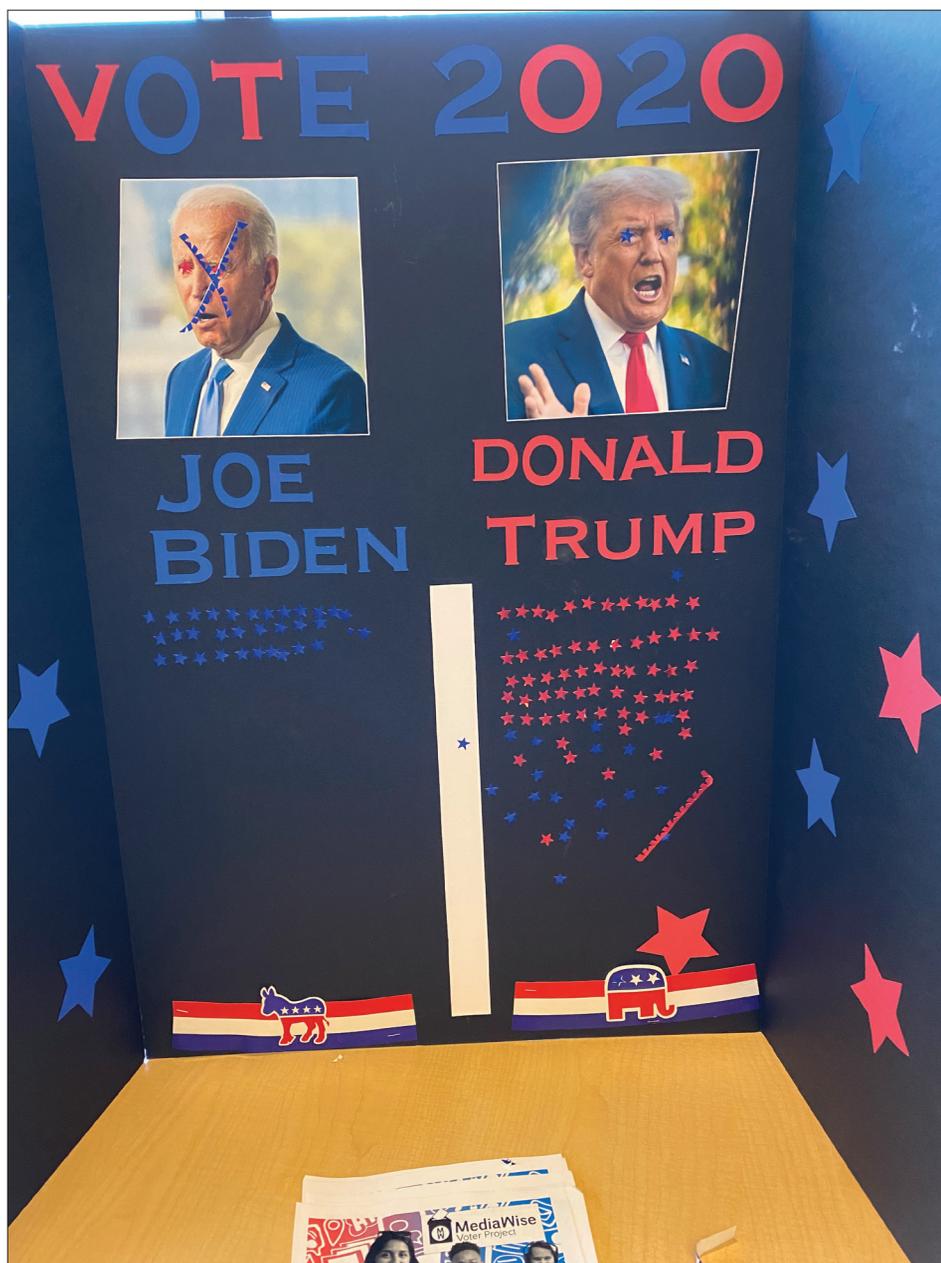
**LIBERTARIAN**

### Positions on Major Policies

REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	LIBERTARIAN
<b>ABORTION</b> Plans to further stop publicly funded abortions	<b>ABORTION</b> Seeks to stop laws that prevent and draw out the process of abortions	<b>ABORTION</b> Remove government intervention from the process
<b>COVID-19 RECOVERY</b> Previously made an agreement with Pfizer to produce 600 million doses of a vaccine	<b>COVID-19 RECOVERY</b> Will pass mask mandates and re institute Obama administration pandemic procedures	<b>COVID-19 RECOVERY</b> Make tests widely available for Americans while reopening the economy to prevent recession
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise the federal minimum wage	<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise it to \$15 an hour	<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Against raising and will eliminate federal wage standards
<b>STUDENT LOAN DEBT</b> Previously changed the way FSA offers and services student loans	<b>STUDENT LOAN DEBT</b> Favors federal debt forgiveness in certain circumstances	<b>STUDENT LOAN DEBT</b> Opposes any federal intervention in tuition payments for colleges and universities
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Withdrew from Paris Climate Agreement and seeks to institute a new Affordable Clean Energy Rule	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Create milestones to be met by 2025 for introducing a clean energy economy and reach net-zero emissions	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Remove energy subsidies to allow competition in nuclear energy
<b>MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS</b> Seeks to improve U.S. relationship with Israel and bring other nations on board with the opening of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology	<b>MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS</b> Favors bringing troops home and will end support for Saudi intervention in Yemen	<b>MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS</b> Will withdraw United States aid to Israel and Saudi Arabia's conflict with Yemen
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Repealed the Affordable Care Act and will focus on the ongoing opioid crisis in America	<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Will improve on the Obama administrations Affordable Care Act	<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Will institute competition and reduce the cost of legacy health care programs.

Information and Photos Provided by BallotPedia. Visit [BallotPedia.org](http://BallotPedia.org) for more details





# Letter from the Editor

“I don’t really want to get involved in politics. It’s just too messy.”

I have heard these words from family, friends and random folks far too often to count. They do make a point, politics are messy and highly divisive. Then again, they have no real reason not to participate. As much as politicians and their policy making may not affect you, there are those whose very lives and livelihoods hinge on policy. There is so much more going on at the local, state and national level than one could normally grasp just watching the news every once in a while.

I’m going to level with you, I once thought the same thing. I grew up in a very well-to-do household in a suburb just outside Seattle in my life. I always had access to health care even when I got pneumonia like clockwork as a child, and I was always well fed. My family was able to afford the best education for my sister and me all the way to college level. When I went on to work minimum wage, or just above minimum wage jobs, I was still set from the moment I was born.

The truth is, politics affect me, but not nearly as much as those in a different situation. There are still families in dire poverty or even homeless here in the United States. They live paycheck-to-paycheck and kids still go to school hungry. There are programs both public and private to help them, but it is still not enough. I’m well set in my convictions that nobody should go without their basic needs fulfilled. Do you agree? I would hope so. Here’s the good news, you’ve just taken your first steps to being political. Congratulations!

Whether you like it or not, economic and social practices are so intertwined with politics in the United States that to try and separate them and live an unpolitical life would be a fool’s errand. I say all of this because of that picture. During the October Mystic Media Day, The Mystic Media staff set up a small polling booth in the Student Union. It got a decent amount of turnout actually and below it were handouts that would guide students to becoming more vote conscious from the Poynter Institute, the world’s leading instructor and resource on informed citizenship.

Then last week, someone vandalized it.

If only we weren’t trying to better inform people. Honestly, I couldn’t care less about the vandalism, I only care about what it represents. You, the vandal, clearly don’t care about the process or smart voting in any meaningful way. If you did, you would have stuck a star under either candidate, taken a sheet, and promptly gone to the MediaWise Project to learn more about politics and the voting process. Maybe, in that time, you would become an informed voter in time for the upcoming election. You could then go home and be proud that you took part and took an honest critical look at both candidates while waiting for the results.

I would say something along the lines of, “This is why we can’t have nice things.” But we should be able to vote as we please in this country. I’m well set in my political stances, and I am certain you readers are as well, if you aren’t on the fence. Truth is, the best we can do in a case like this is laugh at their smooth-brained minds and go out to the polls or register to vote by mail. Don’t let the weenies sully the process. Be critical and informed this election season and view news sources carefully under a microscope if you find something on social media. More importantly, stop getting your news from social media. Go to your computer and type in a url or do a Google search to find reliable sources.

Be safe, be smart, and go to BallotPedia.org to find information on the ballot for your state as well as links to candidates you will be voting for this election.

**The Mystic Media posterboard in question. Though tensions are high with politics, we ask that the student body not deface other’s works. (Photo Provided)**

**Robert Mechaley III**  
Editor-in-Chief

## THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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**MYSTICAST**

Come Join Us!

### The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students.

We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices.

We strive to give a voice to student issues

and policies within the local community.

Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The BSC Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

#### Contact:

**Robert Mechaley III, EIC,**  
with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

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## North Dakota Governor Race

Gov. Doug Burgum (R) Dr. Shelley Lenz (D)



**Douglas James Burgum** is an American entrepreneur and politician currently serving as the governor of North Dakota and is a member of the Republican Party.

Burgum believes in budgeting for a better economy without raising taxes. While in office he and legislative partners have successfully decreased the general fund budget by over \$1 billion. They have also increased teachers and state employees' wages and reduced property taxes without raising taxes. Through these methods they have been able to stabilize the state's finances and begin building North Dakota's reserves.

Burgum wants to make sure that North Dakota always keeps its fresh and pure air and water intact. To ensure that we continue to have some of the cleanest air and water in the world, he has created the Department of Environmental Quality.

Burgum believes in helping students be choice ready for their adult lives. By helping them explore career paths early on and providing hands-on internships and programs, they can identify their career paths much easier based on their interests. This choice-ready method empowers North Dakota youths and addresses workforce shortages at the same time, which positively affects North Dakota communities.

Burgum has been and is still opposed to Obamacare.

*Information taken from respective candidates online campaign bios.*



**Dr. Shelley Lenz** is a veterinarian, businesswoman and humanitarian. She lives in western North Dakota and has a Ph.D. in neuropharmacology and a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Lenz runs local and international economic development programs that focus on financial independence of the individual and the business, agricultural independence with an emphasis on soil health and improving people's lives through community efforts.

Lenz supports locally-owned businesses that have been around a long time and new ones that want to start up. These businesses can make connections with other businesses such as oil, coal and farmers making sure everything is local so that it improves our economy.

Lenz is a supporter of animal agriculture and grasslands. Lenz is also a supporter of revenue streams. This influx of income would assist our agriculture sector financially when it came to any kind of disaster that may strike.

Lenz is a strong believer that one of the state's main jobs is to fund public education. Lenz believes that the best way to serve all students is to invest in them and their education. Lenz also believes that when the state funds public education, a base for communities to thrive and grow is created.

Lenz thinks that the health care systems across North Dakota are very weak and brittle. Lenz wishes to provide better, more affordable and high-quality preventative care and health care to North Dakota citizens, which is a key component of the overall success of everyone within North Dakota communities.

### North Dakota Constitutional Measure 1

Measure 1 involves the Board of Higher Education. It states that if passed, the number of members will go up from eight to 15, the appointed members would get a longer term length (from four to six), and state employees, officials, and legislators will

be prohibited from becoming members of the Board. If voted no, the number of members will stay the same, their term length will stay at four years, and state employees, officials, and legislators are eligible to become members of the Board of Higher Education.

### North Dakota Constitutional Measure 2

Constitutional Measure 2 will change the way future measures are included on the ballot and put forward to a vote. If passed it will give the legislative assembly the right to say yes or no to future measures. Measure 2 requires initiated constitutional amendments passed by voters to be submitted to the legislature; if the legislature does not approve the measure, the measure would need to be placed on the ballot again, and will become effective if approved by the voters a second time.

A "yes" vote supports the amendment to require initiated constitutional amendments passed by voters to be submitted to the legislature for approval and in the case of rejection, require the measure to be placed on the ballot again at the next statewide election to become effective if approved by the voters a second time.

Currently the process to get a measure on the ballot is for a person or group to petition a proposal to change the state's constitution and law with the process of gathering signatures voting yes or no.

A measure is what qualifies a petition for a ballot and which is considered a measure.

Both a measure and petitions are referred to as an initiative.

Constitutional initiatives amend or enact new portions of the North Dakota constitution.

A "no" vote opposes the amendment to require citizen initiated constitutional amendments to be submitted to the legislature after voter approval.

*Information on ballot measures provided by BallotPedia.org*

## North Dakota General Election Candidates



**Kelly Armstrong (R)**

**Representative Kelly Armstrong (R)**, has the following to say on policy as North Dakota House Representative:

-Education: Opposed to federal education curriculums and supports local control over major decisions.

-Agriculture: Wants to make sure North Dakota farmers are properly heard.

-Judicial: Continue to serve on the House Judiciary Committee as he once did for North Dakota's

**Zach Raknerud (D)** has the following to say on policy:

-Education: Eliminate tuition



**Zach Raknerud (D)**

payments for public colleges and trade schools around the country. Students would still pay other expenses such as room and board.

-Agriculture: Would like to mass produce and use hemp products on a federal scale.

-Judicial: End the criminalization of drug addiction in favor of rehabilitation programs and ban private prison facilities.

While **Steven Peterson (L)** has a campaign page on Facebook, it does not display policy positions.



**Steven Peterson (L)**

# STUDENT VOTING

## A Student's Guide to Voting

By Robert Mechaley III  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Some students may want to vote by mail this election and have no idea where to begin the crucial process, especially if this is their first time taking part in the process. The process is seemingly daunting, but rest assured, it is as easy as finding the right url and filling out a few lines. In fact, that was my exact experience with the process.

The first step is to go to [vote.nd.gov](http://vote.nd.gov). This will be one of the only addresses needed in the process as long as your residential information is up to date. Once you're on the home page, the third graphic box down will allow you to select the form of ID you will be using. Choose from one of the following:

- Driver's License
- Long-term care certificate
- Non-driver's ID
- Passport or military ID
- Tribal ID
- Application without ID

Because I have a North Dakota driver's license, I had to fill out two separate forms. The first was to enter my License Number and then my Date of Birth. Clicking continue, brought me to a page confirming I am the person filling out the application. After, it asked to confirm my residence information. Due to having moved since getting my ID, I had to click the button confirming it was not my residence.

The next page contained a link to the address change page with the North Dakota Department of Transportation. I had to wait a few days for the process to go through, but once it processed I could continue.

Next, the process asked to select the ballot for the election I will be voting in and I requested for the General Election on November 3. After confirming what address it will be delivered to, it will ask about military service or if you are a US citizen living overseas. There will be a final overview of entered information to ensure everything is accurate and finally a choice of delivery options.

Needless to say, the process is very similar across the board with some options requiring more paperwork than others. I look forward to voting this year the same as the last election, and I hope you are too.

## Your Vote Matters

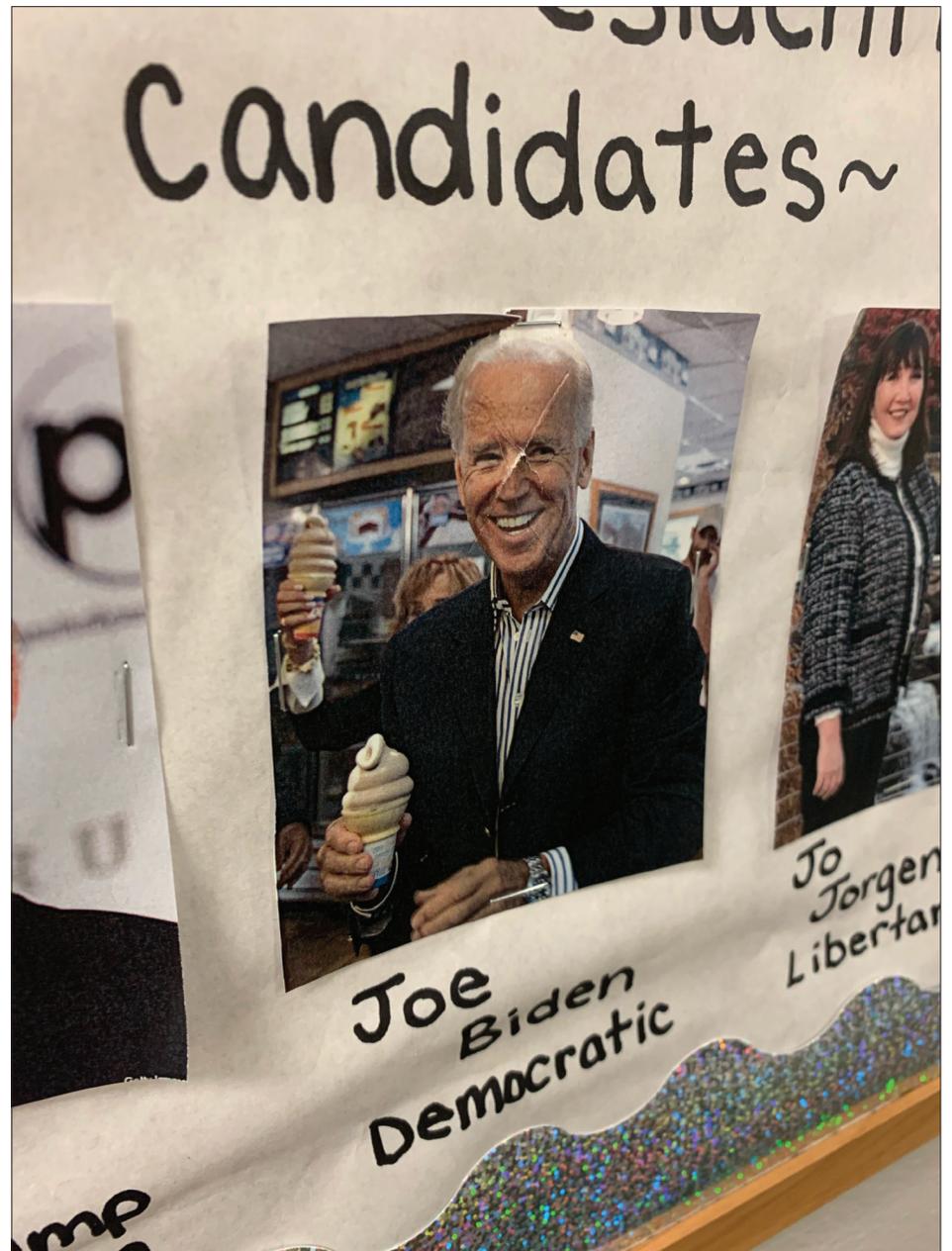
By Caden Shean  
REPORTER/COLUMNIST

The year 2020 has been nothing short of unexpected and out of the ordinary to say the least. With the election day coming upon us, it is time to get out and cast your vote. If you are old enough, it is highly encouraged to let your vote be heard.

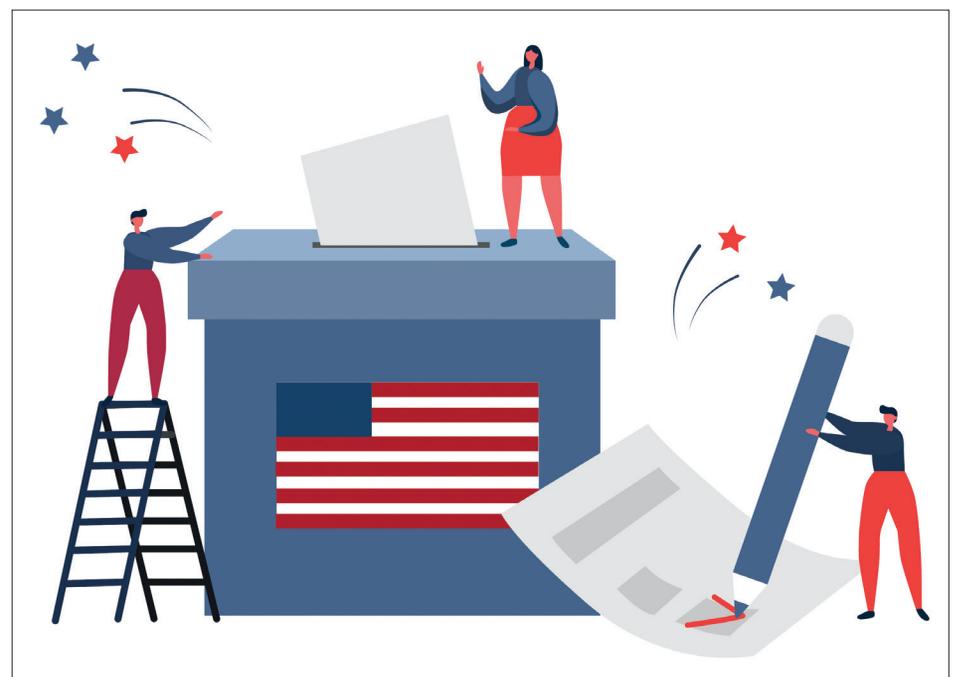
It is important for us as American citizens to let our thoughts and opinions be heard and seen. There has been so much happening this year, with the coronavirus pandemic as well as the Black Lives Matter movement that our country has almost completely divided up. This is my first year that I will be able to vote for the presidential election. I have never paid much attention to political views until this year, but seeing what has been going on in this country is really sad. I am not trying to say that it has anything to do with either candidate, but just the population as a whole has become divided.

This is why your vote matters. Your vote can be the change you want to see happen in this country. We all may not have the same political views but in the end we all want this country to be the best it can be. Your vote can help be that difference and deciding factor. The vote you hold does not only have to be for the presidential election, but also in your local community. If you do not know who you want to lead this country, that is alright. The power of your vote can start small with your area and with the changes you want within the community. With new officials attempting to take office and new measures trying to take place in your state, your vote can say what you want to happen to better the community as a whole.

Change is going to happen regardless and officials will be elected this November. If you have a specific vision or thought that you want to happen, go out and vote to make it known. It is safe to say no American wants this country to be a poor place to live and grow up. So do yourself a favor as well as your community and let your vote be heard. Because at the end of the day, your vote matters.



Another defaced picture of Joe Biden, vandalized in the exact same way as the Mystic Media voter polling booth in the Student Union. This posterboard in Gate City Bank Hall serves as another reminder that elections give way to divisive attitudes towards the political candidates (Credit: Kyleigh Hilbert)



Graphic Credit: The Poynter Institute

