

Competing for the

In just five days, polls will close and American citizens will have selected their next leader, either the Republican incumbent, Donald J. Trump, or the Democratic nominee, former vice president Joseph R. Biden. With many issues sparking controversy across the nation, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy, unemployment, climate change, election interference, police brutality, immigration, education, healthcare, social media and a Supreme Court justice nomination, much is at stake in this election. As the contentious race nears its conclusion, upperclassmen state their viewpoints on some of the candidates' policies. Here's where members of the 10600 Preston Rd. community stand on various issues.

soul of the nation

Where to VOTE

According to the Dallas County Elections website, here are Dallas County voting centers in the 75230 zip code for Election Day. Registered voters may vote anytime from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at these locations Nov. 3.

- Unity Church of Dallas** 6525 Forest Ln.
- George B. Dealey Montessori Academy** 6501 Royal Ln.
- Arthur Kramer Elementary School** 7131 Midbury Dr.
- Hillcrest High School** 9924 Hillcrest Rd.
- Benjamin Franklin International Exploratory Academy** 6920 Meadow Rd.
- Preston Hollow United Methodist Church** 6315 Walnut Hill Ln.
- Churchill Recreation Center** 6906 Churchill Way

Topic: Foreign Relations

BIDEN

- > Pledged to bring back the "vast majority" of troops stationed in Afghanistan and focus on ISIS and Al-Qaeda, according to his foreign policy plan.
- > Said the US embassy "should not have been moved [to Jerusalem]," but he does not support reversing the decision.
- > "The real question is not how much we invest — it's how we invest," Biden's campaign told The Washington Post during the primary. "We have to move away from investments in legacy systems that won't be relevant for tomorrow's wars, and we have to rethink the contributions we and our allies make to our collective security."

TRUMP

- > The peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, mandated by a deal signed by the United States and the Taliban in February, are a key foreign policy objective for the Trump administration as it looks to withdraw additional U.S. troops from Afghanistan.
- > Trump announced a historic peace agreement between Israel and United Arab Emirates (UAE) in August. Although Trump's Middle East peace proposal allows for Israeli annexation of portions of the West Bank, his peace agreement puts that possibility on hold.
- > Trump upended decades of U.S. policy by formally recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordering the relocation of the US embassy to that city.

STUDENT OPINION

"I'd say that Trump making Jerusalem the official capital of Israel wasn't a good move because it totally destabilized things and was an unnecessary change, but Biden is right to oppose reversing that decision because it would just cause even more uncertainty, which is the last thing we need in the Middle East right now."



Junior Henry Morgan

Topic: Climate Change

BIDEN

- > Introduced a \$2 trillion plan to fight climate change that pledges to eliminate carbon emissions from the electric sector by 2035, enforce stricter gas mileage standards, invest in weatherizing millions of homes and commercial buildings and upgrade transportation systems
- > Wants to end new oil, gas and coal permits in public water and on public land, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska

TRUMP

- > Has dismissed the science behind climate change, reduced many Obama-era environmental restrictions, withdrawn the U.S. from the Paris Agreement and heavily promoted fossil fuels
- > Opposed the Paris Agreement on the grounds that it would compromise U.S. sovereignty and cause many Americans to lose their jobs.
- > Opened much public land to oil and gas extraction, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

STUDENT OPINION

"During these trying times, I feel that the last thing the country needs is to spend the massive amount of money that the Biden administration is proposing on efforts to slow climate change. This pandemic has put our thriving economy in a very tough position, putting more American jobs at risk with his plan to eliminate fossil fuels. While it's a nice idea, it's not what the people of America need right now."



Junior Henry Piccagli

With that being said, I feel that Trump's stance on climate change is my biggest issue with his policies. He simply has not come out with a plan to combat the issue. If I had to choose between the two, I would choose Trump's plan, simply because it prioritizes American jobs in a time when they have never been so important.

If the circumstances were different, I have faith that Trump would place more emphasis on climate change, but unfortunately, they are not. I have always been a firm believer in the ideology that America should fix its domestic issues before attempting to solve the issues of the world."

Topic: Regulating Social Media

BIDEN

- > Clashed with Facebook over its policies on political ads and manipulated videos.
- > Was the only Democratic presidential candidate who called for revoking Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, a key internet law that largely exempts online platforms like Facebook and Twitter from legal liability for users' posts.
- > Called for Facebook to fact-check politicians' ads in the two weeks ahead of the presidential election.

TRUMP

- > Has long accused the companies of censorship against conservatives.
- > Signed an executive order that seeks new regulatory oversight of tech firms' content moderation decisions, and backed legislation to scrap or weaken Section 230 to prevent social media platforms from moderating content on the internet, like the fact-checking of his tweets.

STUDENT OPINION

"I think it's interesting that both Trump and Biden agree

on weakening Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. [Biden] is trying to hold social media firms more accountable for what users post. I think that strikes a contrast with how our system currently works. [For example], Springfield Armory wouldn't get prosecuted if someone used one of their guns to commit a crime.



Senior Sam Morgan

But I do think it's a good idea because sometimes, a lot of bad things happen thanks to social media. If someone sees a post that incites him to do something, but it was a fake news post, I think the person who posted the fake news post should be held accountable, not Twitter. I think social media needs to do a better job in choosing what they regulate. It's been a little partisan, honestly.

The fight between Trump and social media, especially Twitter, has been somewhat petty. They're slapping restrictions on him as disrespect to him or as a political point against him. But if something is directly linked to violence, and [the criminal says], 'I saw this article,' and it's found out that Twitter kept it up, maybe they should be responsible in that case, although they can't check millions and millions of posts a day. In a marginal situation, where it wasn't reported or looked into, then I think Twitter or Instagram shouldn't be held accountable for that."

Topic: Healthcare

BIDEN

- > Vowed to bolster Obamacare with a plan that costs \$750 billion over 10 years and would be financed by increasing taxes on the wealthy (those making more than \$400,000 a year) and on corporations, according to his campaign.
- > Plans to greatly expand Obamacare's subsidies to make the private insurance policies available on the exchanges more affordable.
- > Will create a new "public option" similar to Medicare that people could buy into.
- > Those covered by employer-based health insurance plans could also choose the public plan if they prefer it.

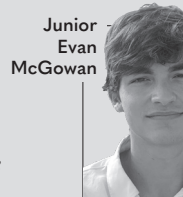
TRUMP

- > Campaigned against the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) on the runup to his presidency. While the Republican-controlled Congress failed to repeal the law, Trump has taken a number of executive actions to undermine it, including making it easier for Americans to access alternative policies that have fewer protections and benefits.
- > Promised to reduce drug prices and unveiled a blueprint to do so in 2018.

- > Currently pushing to allow drug imports from countries such as Canada, and to tie the price of drugs in the US to their cost in other developed nations.
- > In an effort to lower health care costs overall, the administration also issued a rule requiring hospitals to post the rates they negotiate privately with health insurers, starting in 2021.

STUDENT OPINION

"While I do not wholly agree with either stance on the issue, I believe that Biden's healthcare plan will end up making healthcare more accessible to a larger number of people."



Junior Evan McGowan

However, his plan would require a drastic increase in taxes. On the other hand, Trump has continuously utilized executive acts to undermine Obamacare and get around the obstacle of congressional approval. He has also focused more on repealing the previous healthcare plan than he has creating and instituting one of his own.

I believe that Biden's healthcare plan, while extremely expensive and impractical, is a better option to attempt to provide quality healthcare to all Americans."

Topic: COVID 19 Immigration

BIDEN

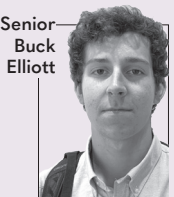
- > Claims Trump was banning immigrants to distract from his administration's pandemic response.
- > Believes "immigrants help grow our economy and create jobs," in reference to Trump's decisions.
- > Commits to pausing deportations for 100 days after taking office, but his campaign did not comment on the coronavirus-related border rules.

TRUMP

- > Dramatically reduced immigration and travel into the United States.
- > Argues that the steps he took were needed for health reasons and to protect jobs for U.S. workers.
- > Restricted the entry of many foreign workers and immigrants seeking "green cards" for permanent residency.
- > Implemented a public health emergency policy permitting US officials to rapidly deport migrants caught at the US-Mexico border.

STUDENT OPINION

"I would have to agree with Trump's policy. With many Americans already out of jobs, it feels like letting in more immigrant workers is only exacerbating the problem."



Senior-Buck Elliott

Topic: Race and Criminal Justice

BIDEN

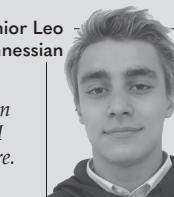
- > Resisted activist calls to "defund the police" and promises to invest \$300 million in the Community Oriented Policing Services program, which offers grants for minority police officers and training them to develop less hostile relationships with communities.
- > Supports "funding for public schools, summer programs, and mental health and substance abuse treatment separate from funding for policing — so that officers can focus on the job of policing," as stated by Biden's campaign spokesman Andrew Bates.

TRUMP

- > Reacted to the nationwide protests over George Floyd's death by threatening to deploy federal troops, notably in Portland in July.
- > Signed an executive order for police reform, which encouraged police to maintain the latest standards for use of force and banned chokeholds unless an officer's life is in danger.
- > Democrats criticized the order for permitting certain exceptions to the chokehold ban and placing no restrictions on warrants that allow police to enter a suspect's property without knocking.

STUDENT OPINION

"I think you can support aspects of both of them. The nation was really split when the George Floyd riots started. I would side more with Biden here. He's giving more funding and separating funding from social things like schooling from funding for the police, and I think that his diversity actions into the police force are creating a better atmosphere altogether."



Senior Leo Ohannessian

STORY Austin Williams, Sai Thirunagari. Keshav Krishna
ARTWORK Cooper Cole

Editor's Note: Candidates' positions obtained from articles in Reuters, The Washington Post, CNN and The Wall Street Journal.

By the numbers

From a poll of 350 (out of 413 total) **Upper School** students:

49.4 percent say they would vote for Biden

48.9 percent say they would vote for Trump

1.7 percent say they would vote for other

From a poll of 210 (out of 339 total) **Middle School** students:

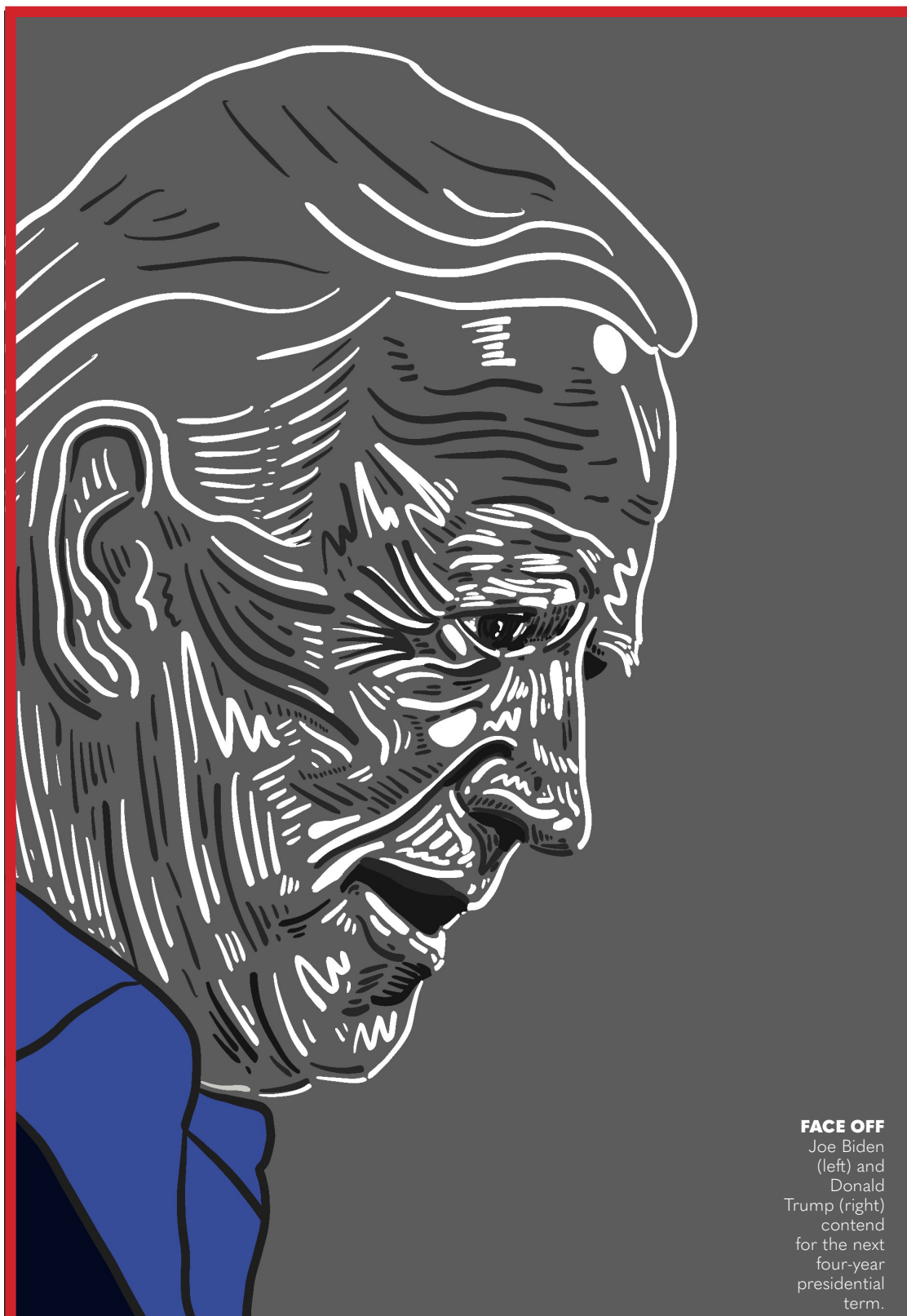
61.9 percent say they would vote for Biden

32.4 percent say they would vote for Trump

5.7 percent say they would vote for other

From a poll of 86 (out of 102 total) **seniors**:

36 percent will be eligible to vote in this election



FACE OFF
Joe Biden (left) and Donald Trump (right) contend for the next four-year presidential term.

