



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMMI MEEKS

YOUNG DEMOCRATS AND
YOUNG REPUBLICANS
DISCUSS HOW THEY
STAYED INVESTED AND
INFORMED THIS ELECTION
YEAR

And the 46th President of the United States is...
Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.
After four years, Donald Trump was no longer the president of the United States.
“This election was so nerve wracking,” senior Samantha Mudgett said. “Voting is so important, I truly cannot stress that enough.”
Junior Michael Owens’ thoughts about voting in the U.S. were quite similar.
“The parties’ platforms are so exponentially different that the outcome of this election, whatever it may be, will determine our nation’s future,” Owens said.
The two students both anxiously awaited the results and paid close attention to the updated poll percentages. In comparison to the mock results of the Shawnee Mission School District, the majority of kids wanted Biden winning the election which was the end result.
“I used lots of different news sources, and I have the CNN app on my phone so I got election updates pretty frequently,” Mudgett

said.
Social media has had a big impact on some of its users involving politics, but the information found on platforms isn’t always true.
“I find after working with and being around members from both parties, social media is not an accurate representation of what is actually true,” Owens said.
As a result, social media wasn’t a reliable source. Statements often represented personal opinions or unsourced “facts,” which allowed people from both parties to believe inaccurate or falsified information.
“I never recommend getting political information from social media, it’s better to look at unbiased sources,” Mudgett said.
During the 2020 election cycle, the clash between Trump and Biden resulted in the most contentious campaign in recent memory.
“I always try my best to be kind and respectful because everyone is entitled to their own opinions, so I tend to expect the same from other people,” Mudgett said.

“As long as they are respectful, I have no problem with criticism. Ultimately, I am not going to change their minds and they are not going to change my mind, so arguing is pointless.”

Politics were a huge part in both Owens’ and Mudgett’s lives. Owens plans to pursue a job involving politics and is already working with Roger Marshall. Although Mudgett has different career plans, she still wants to be involved with politics in order to stay informed.
Being a part of the Young Democrats club has provided Mudgett with a group of like-minded peers.
“I love how empathetic and caring the party is, always putting the needs of other people before themselves,” Mudgett said. “It is really special, and means the world to me.”
Owens, too, felt a connection with the beliefs expressed by members of the Young Republicans.
“I am a proud American who loves his flag, his family and the opportunities that

hard work presents,” Owens said.
As the clash over the election results continued into Jan., Owens and Mudgett both had different reactions to the outcome. “I am definitely disappointed with the results of the election,” Owens said. “He [Trump] will be missed, and I hope he has inspired a new wave of Republicans.”
Owens hopes to continue the growth of the organization for the Young Republican’s Club, and move the party forward.
As for Mudgett, she had a different reaction to the outcome of the election. “I was pretty content with Biden’s win, he represents progressive change in America,” Mudgett said. Now, she is putting more time into holding meetings with members of the Young Democrats Club and finishing out the school year.
Even though the outcome of the election will have a different impact on the two, they both will continue to proudly speak for what they believe in.
STORY BY KATEY BUSTAMANTE

TRUTH BE TOLD
MOCK ELECTION RESULTS

SMNW	BENNINGHOVEN	TRAILRIDGE
Trump/Pence – 243 Biden/Harris – 544	Trump/Pence – 39 Biden/Harris – 74	Trump/Pence – 163 Biden/Harris – 383
BROKEN ARROW	TOTAL % OF ALL SCHOOLS	
Trump/Pence – 13 Biden/Harris – 48	TRUMP/PENCE – 24.82%	
	BIDEN/HARRIS – 70.08%	