

# THE CAVALIER DAILY

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EMMA KLEIN & WINSTON TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY  
COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## HISTORY ON HOLD



Trump says he's going to Supreme Court to demand vote counting be stopped

Warner  
re-elected to  
Senate

Biden claims  
Virginia, some states  
undetermined on  
Election Night

Good defeats  
Webb for  
VA-05

## NEWS

# This week in-brief

CD News Staff

## Students, community activists discuss issues of policing, abolition at Know Your Rights event

Over 40 students attended a panelist discussion with Charlottesville activists Oct. 29, the last event of a three-day series for Know Your Rights Week, which is designed to inform students about how to use their rights to fight oppression. The panel — which was organized by the Black Student Alliance, Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society and undocUVA — featured local activists.

Last year, Know Your Rights Week was condensed into a single day, but in a change to that formatting this year, groups spread out their events over the course of the week. Events included a “Policing and Protests 101” information session Oct. 26 and an undocUVA training Oct. 28 which discussed community issues of policing and the roles of the three organizations in their activist work.

“We got a large range of people that we probably wouldn’t have gotten if we’d just done [the events] at one time,” said third-year student Batten student Donavon Lea, who moderated the panel.

Issues of police misconduct and racism dominated the discussion, including the mislabeling of incarcerated people, links between Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and local police and police abolition. Student participants posed questions about student engagement and hope amid the current political climate.

The speakers — all activists in the Charlottesville area — included former member of the Charlottesville Police Civilian Review Board Don Gathers, Donna Gasapo from ICE out of Cville, Luis Oyola from the Legal Aid Justice Center, Black Lives Matter community organizer Angeline Conn and Director of Lending Hands Cherry Henley.

10.29 10.30 11.2 11.3

## U.Va. administration address election security, student well-being and spring semester at town hall

During an hour-long town hall for parents Oct. 30, University President Jim Ryan and other members of administration discussed how the fall semester has progressed as well as challenges the University faces heading into the spring semester.

Ryan spoke to parents about the challenges that students have faced on Grounds this semester while expressing that he was proud of how the majority of students have been responsible in trying to limit the spread of COVID-19.

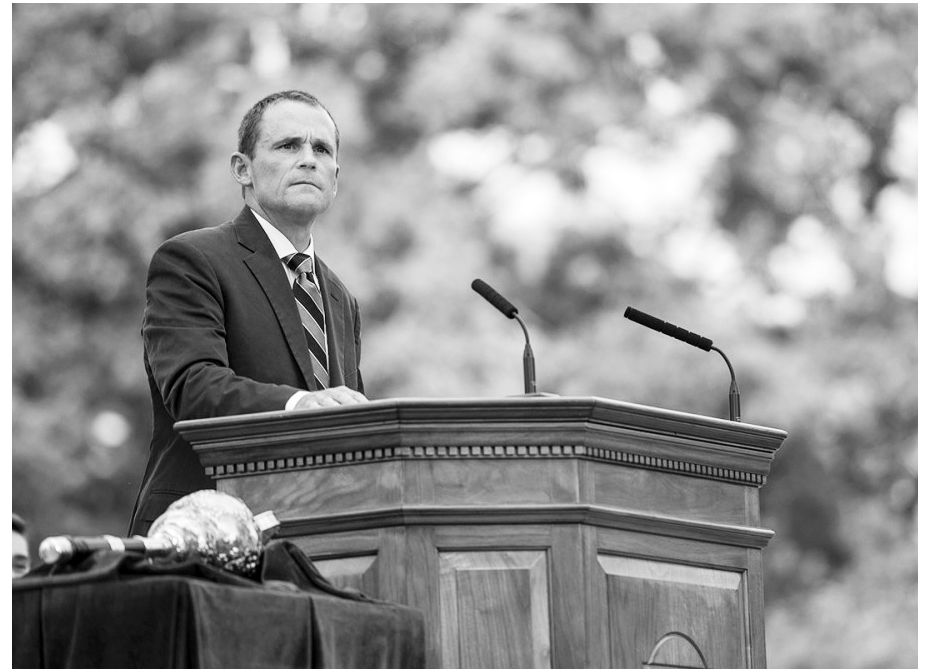
“Even with all of the changes, all the students I’ve spoken to are just happy to be here — happy to have the opportunity to be here and to see their friends and to participate in the life of the University,” Ryan said.

Ryan acknowledged that students have faced feelings of isolation and stress over the course of the semester and said that the University is working to bring more students into classrooms in the spring, although the course of the virus has a significant impact on the practicality of doing so. Roughly 27 percent of classes this semester are in person.

Ryan also talked about the University’s interaction with bars in Charlottesville and on the Corner, stating that University leaders have spoken with the owners of Corner bars on “a number of occasions” and that the issue of potential COVID-19 spread at bars is on the top of many University administrators’ minds.

“We continue to monitor and continue to point out to both local health officials and the bar owners just how risky bars are just inherently, especially when people are indoors,” Ryan said.

After Ryan finished delivering his remarks, the meeting shifted to a question-and-answer session between parents and University leadership.



CHRISTINA ANTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

When the outcomes of both the presidential and congressional races do become clear, however, Ryan urged students to express their diverse ideas and views in a respectful manner.

## University President Jim Ryan addresses U.Va. community on the eve of the Election Day

University President Jim Ryan offered students advice and guidance in dealing with the results of Election Day in a University-wide email Nov. 2.

In his email, Ryan said that it is possible that the outcome of the presidential election — and potentially several congressional races — may not be known for days or even weeks following the closure of the polls, as the United States Postal Service has reported delays in returning mail-in ballots in key swing states.

When the outcomes of both the presidential and congressional races do become clear, however, Ryan urged students to express their diverse ideas and views in a respectful manner.

“The diversity of ideas and perspectives people bring to U.Va. is one of our greatest strengths,” Ryan said. “We will all be better off if we approach those conversations as opportunities to learn from each other and resist the urge to diminish or demean people with whom we disagree.”

The University established a command post Oct. 30 in order to monitor any potential threats that may result from the results of the election. In an email to The Cavalier Daily, Chief of Police Timothy Longo said that students can expect to see an increase in law enforcement presence on Election Day, as is expected when “special events” are held on and around Grounds.

Ryan noted that regardless of the outcome, members of the community may choose to engage in peaceful protests or other demonstrations.

## U.Va. reports total of 1,115 cases of COVID-19 since Aug. 17

Since Aug. 17, the University’s COVID tracker has reported 1,115 positive cases of coronavirus in the University community — including faculty, staff, students and contracted employees. University students make up 964 of the total positive tests. There are currently 32 active cases, 14 of which are students.

These numbers are only reflective of students who have tested positive through the Student Health & Wellness or the U.Va. Health Clinic. The University COVID tracker dashboard does not include the number of positive student cases that may have been detected with pre-arrival testing.

The dashboard also reports 4 percent of the student quarantine rooms to be currently occupied and 1 percent of student isolation rooms to be occupied. These numbers include students who are in post-travel quarantine.



# Student groups work to get out the vote

Both groups have been hosting in-person and virtual GOTV events in the weeks leading up to the election

Raghda Labban & Erin Rafferty | Staff Writers



RAGHDA LABBAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

While UDems focused campaigning efforts in VA-05, College Republicans campaigned heavily in VA-02 and VA-07.

University Democrats and College Republicans have ramped up get-out-the-vote efforts in recent weeks in preparation for Tuesday's general election. Though COVID-19 has impacted each group's operations this semester, club members have been gathering outdoors in masked and socially distanced groups, as well as virtually over Zoom, to participate in campaigning events.

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, 33,095 voters — or 16.6 percent of active registered voters — have voted in person in Charlottesville. An additional 10,494 people voted early in person, comprising an additional 31.7 percent of active registered voters. Mail ballots are not included in these counts, and local election officials have until Nov. 10 to certify election results in Virginia.

This semester, the University Democrats have heavily focused their campaign efforts on Cameron Webb, who ran on the Democratic ticket in VA-05 against Republican candidate Bob Good. Additionally, they have campaigned for Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic incumbent running for re-election in VA-07 against Republican Nick Freitas, as well as for Democratic candidates in competitive Senate races in states like Maine, North Carolina and Arizona. They have also been phone-banking and

text-banking voters in swing states for the presidential election.

Kiera Goddu, UDems president and fourth-year College student, said that coronavirus-related restrictions have not significantly limited member participation this semester, as students staying home have joined virtual phone-banking and text-banking events on Zoom — ahead of the weekend before the election, UDems reported making over 7,000 phone calls and 200,000 text messages to voters. She said that the club's GOTV efforts will have important impacts on student participation in the election.

"We're anticipating really high student turnout," Goddu said.

With respect to in-person events, the University Democrats have gathered in open University spaces like the Lawn in masked and distanced groups of less than 10. Instead of canvassing — going door-to-door to speak with voters — as they would in a normal semester, they have been completing literature drops, in which students leave fliers for candidates on the doorsteps of voters to limit contact.

Goddu and other members of University Democrats are excited but nervous about the upcoming election.

"I would say I'm cautiously optimistic but preparing for the

absolute worst, because I think part of the problem last [presidential election] is that we were completely caught off guard," Goddu said.

She said that University Democrats will remain a welcoming institution for marginalized students regardless of the election's outcome.

"Especially because of my position, I realize that I'm going to have to have a brave face on no matter what and be there to support our membership especially if it doesn't go our way," Goddu said.

College Republicans have been phone banking and deploying members to go door-to-door knocking to try to get out the vote. Over the weekend, the club had 28 members knock on over 3,000 doors. Sean Piwowar, a member of College Republicans and third-year College student, said that their goal is to maximize voter contacts. Members will also be staffing the polls on Nov. 3.

The club has focused their efforts in this election on VA-02 and VA-07. Members participated in a call night for VA-02 — in which Republican candidate Scott Taylor is running to take back the seat from Democrat Elaine Luria — and Taylor joined a College Republicans Zoom call to speak last week.

Campaigning in VA-07 has

consisted of phone banking and several trips to the district to knock on doors to increase voters in the race between Freitas and Spanberger. Deployments of door knockers have also campaigned for Daniel Gade, who is running against Democrat Mark Warner for Virginia's open Senate seat this election cycle.

Although the University's COVID-19 restrictions have only allowed for small groups to gather for in-person activities and restricted travel outside of Charlottesville, members of College Republicans have persisted in going to VA-02 and VA-07 for door knocking. They have been traveling in groups of five or fewer, wearing masks and keeping their distance to make sure everyone is comfortable.

"It's given us a chance to get close, and it's really nice for first years who want to get involved to feel like they're part of a community," said Caleb Flowers, College Republicans member and third-year College student. "It gives them that smaller group interaction, and then people outside of the small groups have been hanging out in their own time and getting to see each other."

Additionally, College Republicans have been making sure that students are able to participate in getting out the vote from both on and off Grounds. Calls can be done remotely, so students who

are at home can still phone bank.

"It's really all hands on deck, and the nice thing is we're able to do things like calls virtually," Piwowar said. "People can just do a call night from their apartment, and I think that's what I plan on doing."

This way, students who stayed at home for the semester or those who are in quarantine still get the benefit of increasing voter turnout in some form.

Piwowar said that he feels that the GOTV efforts of College Republicans have been worth their time in highly-contested districts like VA-02 and VA-07. These parts of Virginia are toss-ups with unclear polls thus far.

"It's clear that young people working to get out the vote really has an impact on those races in what the outcome is going to be next week," Piwowar said.

Piwowar said the overall goal of GOTV activities is to make sure people know their voting rights and encourage people to come out and share their voice.

"I think Tuesday is going to take a lot of heat off of our shoulders until the [next] Virginia elections roll around in 2021, and then we get busy all over again," Flowers said.



# A pivotal election: Charlottesville and Albemarle voters cast ballots on Election Day

Ali Sullivan and Eva Surovell | News Editors



SOPHIE ROESHE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Over 2.7 million Virginia voters cast early ballots this election season, up from 574,872 in 2016.

While some races were declared soon after polls closed Tuesday night, the results of others — such as the VA-05 congressional race — remained up in the air until Dr. Cameron Webb conceded the race to Republican candidate Bob Good early Wednesday morning. The Webb campaign conceded when the number of outstanding ballots was unable to make up the difference between Webb and Republican candidate Bob Good.

“While this is not the outcome we hoped for, it has truly been an honor to represent this district in Congress,” Webb said in a press release late Tuesday night. “This campaign has been a battle of ideas about how to best serve the people of our district and I cannot give enough thanks to everyone who made it possible.”

In a press release early Wednesday morning, Good said that he thinks his win is a triumph for biblical principles, the sanctity of

life, religious liberty and the importance of faith and family.

“Tonight is a victory for the conservative values that founded and sustain this nation,” Good said. “The voters have proven that a bright red conservative can win by standing on principle, despite being vastly outspent from outside the district.”

Registrars throughout Virginia were instructed to stop counting ballots Tuesday night at 11 and resume counting on Friday.

VA-05 is a historically Republican district, having voted for a Democratic candidate — former Rep. Tom Perriello in 2008 — only once since 2000. Still, the race was widely considered to be among the most competitive congressional races in the country, and Center for Politics director Larry Sabato’s Crystal Ball rated the race as leaning toward the GOP.

The 5th District includes the City of Charlottesville and the

surrounding Albemarle county, as well as counties from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge region up to Fauquier County near Northern Virginia.

Good beat out first-term Congressman Denver Riggleman in the GOP’s primary convention last June. Riggleman lost the support of many conservatives when he officiated a same-sex wedding last year.

Good’s platform included ramping up protections for law enforcement, restricting immigration, growing and maintaining American jobs, supporting the Second Amendment right to bear arms, increasing rural broadband for internet access and shifting towards greater domestic energy production. The former Campbell County supervisor has also described himself as “unashamedly 100 percent pro-life from the moment of conception.”

Meanwhile Democratic candi-

date Dr. Cameron Webb, a University graduate and current Director of Health Policy and Equity at the University’s School of Medicine, ran on a platform that prioritized healthcare and educational equity, expanding rural broadband access, maximizing clean energy and addressing the issue of affordable housing and long lasting effects of redlining in Charlottesville.

Webb supported what he termed “humane” immigration policy reform that would have created a clear pathway to citizenship for newcomers to the country. Further, he supported a woman’s right to choose and was an advocate for increased funding for Planned Parenthood and access to reproductive care.

The Associated Press also declared Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris the winners of Virginia’s 13 electoral votes Tuesday at 7:36 p.m., and

Senate incumbent and Democratic candidate Mark Warner was declared the winner of the Virginia Senate race immediately after the polls closed Tuesday at 7 p.m.

## Voter turnout

Over 2.7 million Virginia voters cast early ballots this election season, up from 574,872 in 2016. In Charlottesville and Albemarle County, 52.7 percent and 50.7 percent of registered voters cast their ballots ahead of the election, respectively.

As of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 53.14 percent of voters cast ballots early in Albemarle County, while 22.8 percent of eligible voters cast ballots on Election Day — about 75 percent voter turnout. In Charlottesville, 51.9 percent of voters cast ballots early, while 16.6 percent of voters voted in-person on Election Day as of 4 p.m. — about 68 percent voter turnout.

## Voters and campaigners discuss voting in-person on Election Day

Campaigners and election officers at Venable Elementary and Slaughter Recreation Center said turnout surged when the polls first opened Tuesday at 6:00 a.m. — a trend that Jamie Otey, chief election officer for Venable Elementary, said is common on Election Day.

Voters in the 202 precinct of Albemarle County — which encompasses first-year dorms — cast ballots at Slaughter, while voters in the 401 precinct of the City of Charlottesville — which spans much of the housing on the Corner — voted at Venable.

About a dozen campaigners at Venable arrived with campaign signs and sample ballots early Tuesday morning to ply voters with last-minute candidate information.

Third-year Law student Chance McCraw was among those campaigning for Republican candidates on the ballot. The “top door-knocker, unofficially” in all of Virginia and president of the Law Republicans, this year’s election is the first for which McCraw has campaigned.

He said his background as a first-generation high school graduate prompted him to get involved in the Trump campaign.

“I want to support the person that makes it easier so more people like me can be at the law school,” McCraw said.

Tuesday’s election also marked



the first time Katie, who preferred not to share her last name, got involved in campaigning, too. She joined other members of the C'ville Dems Tuesday to pass out Bodo's bagels and encourage voters to vote for the Biden-Harris presidential ticket and for Webb at Venable.

For Katie, this election is of pivotal significance.

"A lot of change needs to happen right now," Katie said. "[This election] is probably more important than any election that I've ever lived through."

Meanwhile at Slaughter, members of both C'ville Democrats and University Democrats gathered under tents to encourage voters to "triple their vote" by texting three friends and reminding them to head to the polls. In exchange for vote tripling, voters were given Bodo's Bagels — which had been dropped off by the Biden campaign earlier that morning — and candy.

Jackson Postal, second-year College student and communications chair of University Democrats, said that he woke up at 5:30 a.m. to paint Beta Bridge and had been working at the polling location, as well as phone banking, with other U Dems members since 8 a.m.

Postal said that the outcome of the congressional race in VA-05 between Good and Webb will be especially important for the University community.

"Bob Good has routinely proven that he was nominated to be the Republican running in this race because of his opposition to LGBT rights," Postal said. "Standing against him is something that for the University of Virginia and for Central Virginia at large, is so important."

Additionally, Postal said that he thinks this election is especially important for young people.

"This election will determine the ability of our country to function for young people," Postal said. "If we have four more years of Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Senate and a Republican-controlled judiciary, our country will look very different. This is a last chance to escape from the vision that Republicans have for this country."

College Republicans did not campaign at Slaughter throughout the day on Tuesday and did not respond to a request for comment. The club never endorsed Bob Good and instead chose to focus its campaign efforts on races in VA-02 and VA-07, a decision Postal expressed concern about.

"If you're ashamed of your party's nominee, you should have the courage to say that and that that's why you're not doing something," Postal said. "This is the district where you live, this is the district where you go to school ... We are extremely proud to be voting for Cameron Webb. If you are not

proud to be supporting or to be voting for Bob Good, I think that's something that should be said."

College Republicans has also sent members to VA-02 and VA-07 on deployments to knock doors in an effort to maximize voter contact — something that Hunter Hess, second-year College student and campaign chair of U Dems, said that U Dems has chosen not to this election cycle so as to not "put our members or anyone else's health or safety at risk" during the pandemic.

Many of the students who voted in-person on Tuesday said this year's presidential election was their first. Among these students was second-year College student Kaeli McGrath, who voted at Venable Elementary School Tuesday afternoon.

McGrath opted to vote in-person on Election Day after a bout of sickness left her unable to vote early and in-person in October and because she "didn't know what was going to happen with all the mail-in ballots." So, she donned a sunflower-decorated mask and cast her vote for Biden at Venable.

"I think this is a really pivotal election," McGrath said. "I feel like people who haven't voted a lot re-

cently, or don't normally vote, are all coming."

Second-year Lila Murphy also decided to vote in-person after her friends' absentee ballots took a "really long time" to arrive in the mail. An out-of-state student from New York, Murphy switched her voter registration to Virginia ahead of Tuesday's election.

While New York has reliably turned blue in every presidential election since 1988, Virginia has elected democratic presidential candidates only since 2008. In 2016, then Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton won the state by a margin of 5.45 percent.

"Voting in Virginia, I think, is a little bit more important than voting in New York," Murphy said.

First-year College student Zoe Falkson also decided to vote in-person on Election Day because she thought that her vote would be more important in Virginia than in Massachusetts, where she's from. Falkson also said that she felt like choosing not to vote would be dishonoring the women before her who didn't have that right.

"This election has to do with people's rights, I don't really see it as politics at this point," Falkson said. "Even if a lot of those rights

don't have to do with me, it's just really heart-wrenching and it kind of sucks that people don't see that."

Unlike other first-time voters, Charlottesville resident Nate French has voted in prior presidential elections, and he walked over to Venable on Tuesday to vote for Biden. Although he's voted in the past, French said that, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, this election holds particular importance.

"With everything that's going on with coronavirus, it's important to have a leader that is thoughtful and listens to scientific evidence and manages the crisis well as a good communicator," French said.

First year College student Jonathan Short also emphasized the importance of leadership in this year's election.

"It's important that we elect faithful leaders who represent American values, what America was founded on," Short said.

Chad Wellmon, principal of Brown College and a professor in the German department, brought his son Whit along to vote in-person at Slaughter on election day. Like French, both father and son agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the main reasons why voting this year was especial-

ly important, and added that they think a Biden presidency would be better than Trump for a multitude of reasons.

"Hopefully [there will be] no more Nazis marching across our front yard," Wellmon said.

Third-year Architecture student Sasha Paul said that she wanted to vote on Election Day because of the experience of voting in-person and because as an out-of-state student, it was easier. Paul stressed the importance of voter participation this year.

"Every election is important, but especially this one," Paul said. "We really need to have full participation."

An out-of-state student like Paul, first-year College student Ben Wiggins also chose to vote in-person due because it was easier in comparison to voting early. Still, Wiggins said that voting this year was of the utmost importance to him.

"There's a lot riding on this election," Wiggins said. "I didn't want to be someone who complained without actually trying to do something about it, so I just felt like it was important that I put my voice into the hat."



ANKIT AGRAWAL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Campaigners and election officers at Venable Elementary and Slaughter Recreation Center said turnout surged when the polls first opened Tuesday at 6:00 a.m.



# Students face stress, uncertainty ahead of election

The stakes of the election were anxiety-inducing for some

Lauren O'Neil | Staff Writer

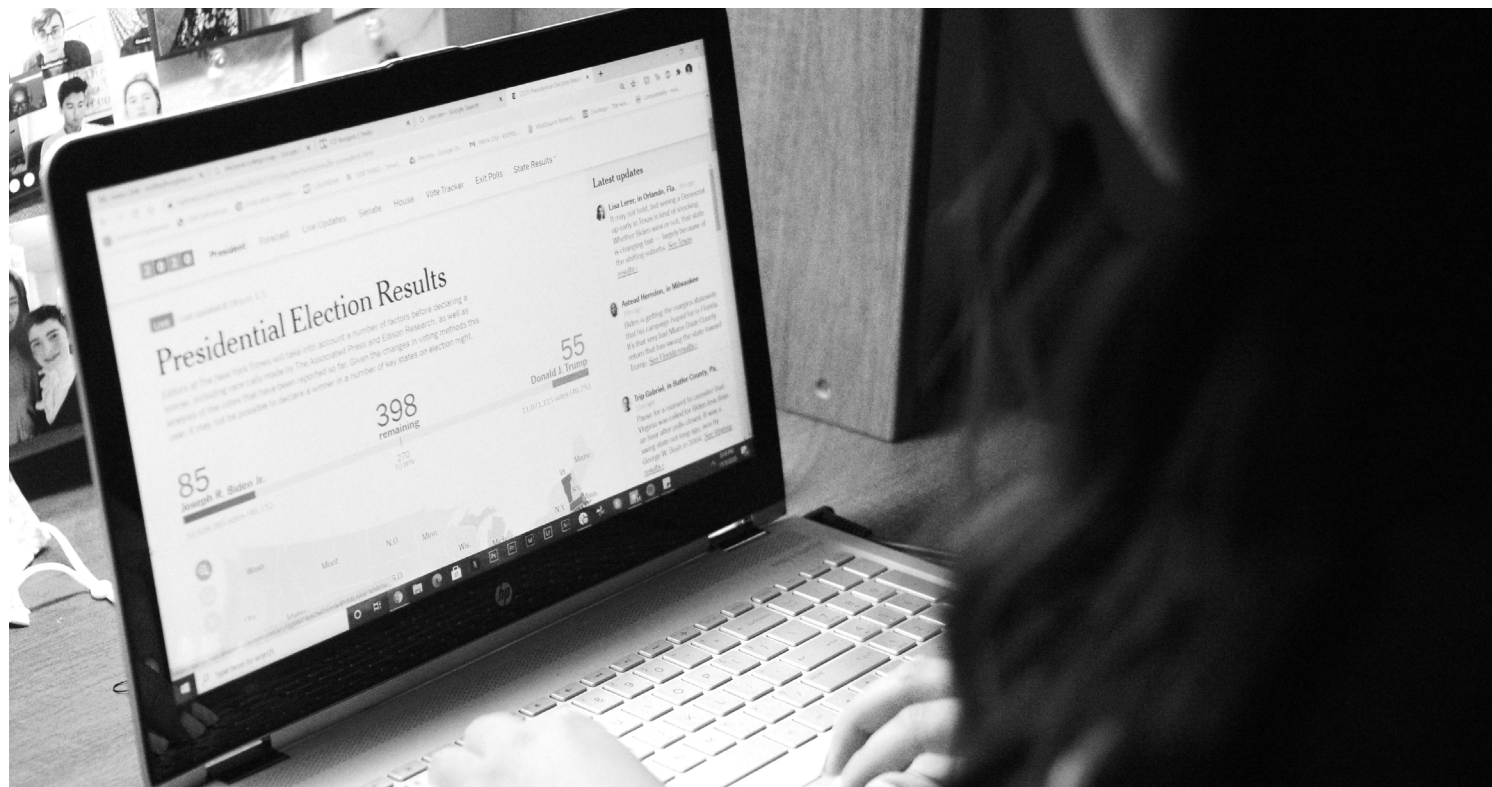
Some students are expressing concerns over the impacts of election season on their mental health, ability to focus in class and overall stress levels. Despite election anxiety, political organizations on Grounds have been particularly active this cycle, with many students volunteering for local campaigns in addition to the presidential ones.

Asked what issues they believe are on the line this election season, students cited COVID-19 recovery, reproductive rights, police violence, systemic racism and access to affordable, high quality healthcare. But other students — including second-year College student Molly Hayes, who worked for U.Va. alumnus Dr. Cameron Webb's campaign in VA-05 — noted that this list doesn't encompass the issues they feel matter.

"Everything is on the line," Hayes said. "The list does not end."

Hayes said that she thinks the heightened anxiety among students is attributable to concerns about the stability of democratic institutions and realizations — brought on by the federal government's response to the pandemic — about the impact of politics and policy on their everyday lives.

"People are beginning to realize the personal effects that policy/politicians can have on their lives — i.e., how fast the pandemic will go away/when they can return back to normal," Hayes said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. "In the past, many young — often privileged — people have felt



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Asked what issues they believe are on the line, students cited issues like COVID-19 and police brutality.

that politics doesn't directly affect them. COVID has abolished that misconception."

Students living on Grounds also expressed concerns about mail-in absentee ballots reaching their home districts by Election Day.

First-year Engineering student Daniel Bojo said that he waited with friends to order an absentee ballot due to uncertainty about whether the University would send students home or not

by Election Day. Bojo said that he now worries that because he waited to order his ballot, his vote may not reach his home district in time.

Despite uncertainty over absentee ballots being counted in time, Bojo said that he thinks University students have been active this year in making plans to vote.

"This year especially, people have been very intentional about making sure that they have a vot-

ing plan and making sure that they know what to do," Bojo said.

Students' election anxiety over policy outcomes and uncertainty over how to participate in these democratic processes is compounded by rising anxiety about a variety of national crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, according to Kiera Goddu, University Democrats president and fourth-year College student.

"Anxiety about the election is mixed with a lot of other forms of anxiety that are heightened right now," Goddu said. "There is a lot of turbulence in students' lives because very few things are the same for us right now, including how we vote."

Both Hayes and Bojo pointed to open political dialogue between students, making definitive voting plans and educating peers on how to vote by mail or in person as strategies that have helped to ease election anxiety.

Despite the stress of this year's election, political organizations on Grounds like U Dems and College Republicans have ramped up campaign efforts. U Dems members have been working locally in VA-05, as well as on a variety of close Senate races and in swing states for the presidential election. Goddu said that she appreciates that members have been particularly active this year.

"UDems members have been making calls, sending texts, registering voters, taking students to vote early and participating in literature drops to get involved," Goddu said. "From today until Election Day, we will be running at least one if not multiple events to help get out the vote."

Chris Tomlin, president of College Republicans and fourth-year College student, said that he is also proud of the efforts by members to continue canvassing and campaigning despite COVID-19.

Tomlin said that he believes that voters are more concerned with the results of this election season than in years past and thinks that campaign efforts will continue through Election Day.

"With more than 25 people signed up to deploy to various areas to knock doors on the last Saturday before Election Day, we have far exceeded my wildest expectations for this year," Tomlin said.

The stakes of this election, while anxiety-inducing for some, have also made students like Bojo appreciate that this is the first election of many he and his peers will be able to participate in.

"This election is a start of our generation becoming more active and shaping the future that we want as adults, that we want our kids to have," Bojo said.



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The stakes of the election have also made some students appreciate that this is the first election they can vote in.



## LIFE

## U.Va. community voices why they believe voting matters

Events over the past year have demonstrated that this election could be a turning point in history

Madeline Choung, Elise Kim &amp; Pauline Povitsky | Features Writers

2020 has been consequential, to say the least. COVID-19 — a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic — has had painful effects on the economy, revealed structural issues in the American healthcare system and highlighted inequities in education. Movements against systemic racial inequality have been reinvigorated, and wildfires have demonstrated the dangers posed by climate change. All of these variables and more have been recognized by voters across the country as threats to the unity of American democracy. In the midst of this political and social turmoil, students and faculty members have shared their outlook on what voting means to them and why it matters, especially for this Election Day.

According to Sidney Michael Milkis, White Burkett Miller professor in the Department of Politics and senior fellow at the Miller Center, voting at the polls is a civic duty for Americans and an election represents “the soul of the country.” This belief in civic responsibility is what has been driving him to the polls to cast his ballot.

“I like to go to the polls,” Milkis said. “I like to soak it in because I think voting is an important part of being a citizen in the country ... [and] an important part of our civic culture. We’re such an individualistic society that one of the few communal activities we have is voting.”

Third-year College student Emily Moosher echoed this sentiment, adding that voting allows people to have their voices heard.

“I think what drove me [to the polls] — aside from it being the first presidential election I could vote in — was just experiencing the last four years and knowing that I would have the chance and opportunity to have my voice heard and have influence in the next four years,” Moosher said.

Additionally, students like fourth-year College student Marjan Saud have identified the importance of utilizing political advocacy to keep politicians accountable for the resolutions they have promised.

“People have to hold politicians accountable for their actions because they unfortunately cannot always be trusted in properly representing their constituents or passing necessary policies,” Saud said. “It is the responsibility of the government to take care of its citizens, but accountability must be placed at the forefront of concerns over the success of that government and

its role to serve the people it represents.”

Some students, including fourth-year Architecture student Molly Nealon, believe that the events that have culminated over this past year have created an important turning point in history — a time when one’s vote may matter more than ever. Additionally, the drastically different visions provided by former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump demonstrate the significance of this

to the process. Common reasons that Americans do not vote include indifference to the political process itself and low political efficacy — the perception that one’s vote does not matter and cannot impact broader government policies. The 2016 election appeared to highlight this voter apathy, as only 55.7 percent of the U.S. voting age population cast ballots. But Politics Assoc. Prof. Justin Kirkland argues that, actually, there is little evidence to back up the claim that “my vote

Third-year College student Sidney Stephens hypothesized that the increased turnout may be due to effects of social distancing. As people are stuck at home with limited things to do, many have chosen to dedicate their attention to the political events decorating their news screens and social media feeds.

“I think a lot of people are intellectually bored this year, especially because we have been void of a lot of social interaction,” Stephens said. “We’re kind of looking

ing numbers are over four times higher than in the 2016 election, as more than 2.7 million Virginians have already voted. However, its effects are not evenly distributed across demographic groups, as mail-in voting remains inaccessible for certain populations. For example, mail-in ballots from voters of color have been disproportionately flagged for rejection, which is not a new problem and has continued this election season.

Moving forward, professors at the University encourage students to participate to increase young voter turnout rates, which are historically lower than other age groups. According to work on voter turnout rates by John Holbein, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy assistant professor, researchers have found that young voters know just as much about politics as older voters do, but restrict themselves because they believe that they lack confidence to participate in politics.

“We need to do a better job at educating young voters about ... their capability of voting,” Kirkland said. “That they’re perfectly capable in participating in politics but they think that they’re not. They believe themselves to be under qualified to vote, so they don’t show up to vote even though they know just as much about politics as the people who are voting.”

According to Stephens, democracy requires full participation in order to be effective. With that being said, University professors and students stress the importance of participation in the political process and the difference a vote can make when a community contributes together. Despite all of the social and political divisiveness leading up to the election, Milkis shares a reminder of unity and what it means to be as American.

“I believe what makes the country special — what America is at its best — is this never ending pursuit of a more perfect union,” Milkis said. “A union not made up of people of the same color or born in the same place, but all deriving a sense of America from this basic understanding of the individual pursuit of happiness. Americans have different views on what that means and we’ve fought over different views of what that means and it’s changed overtime. But to me, that’s what really ... it is to be what is an American.”



MADELINE CHOUNG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

University professors and students stress the importance of participation in the political process and the difference a vote can make when a community contributes together.

election’s outcome to the future direction of the U.S.

“America, and the rest of the world frankly, is at a turning point, and this election is providing us an opportunity to say in which direction we want to move forward,” Nealon said. “As we have been continuously reminded over the past few months of the issues we face surrounding social justice, health care and climate change, this election will have lasting impacts on the world.”

While these students and faculty emphasize that voting is a democratic privilege and right, many Americans have become resigned

doesn’t matter.”

“We just don’t have a lot of evidence that individual votes don’t matter,” Kirkland said. “There’s lots of evidence that individual votes don’t switch elections ... but [votes] universally send signals to candidates about whether their country wants more liberal or conservative policy, whether we want the Republicans to have greater power or whether we want the Democrats to have greater power.”

Despite this trend of voter apathy, news media sources like CNN are predicting a possible record-breaking voter turnout this 2020 presidential election.

for something to channel our brain power to, and being informed on the candidates and the hot topics that have kind of been something to look to. I think living in a pandemic and witnessing the events and the ongoing events of the BLM [movement], we want better, so we’re being driven to vote because that’s kind of one of the easiest avenues that constituents have to have a voice in government.”

Particularly, due to COVID-19, Americans are increasingly choosing to vote via mail rather than in person as a safe and contact-free voting method. In fact, according to NBC12, Virginia absentee vot-



# Navigating anxiety during an unprecedented election

How voting, leaning on others and holding onto hope helped me cope with election anxiety

Yasmin Teixeira | Life Columnist

I know I'm not the only one who has lost sleep over the 2020 election. The past few weeks have been stressful, and I think it's safe to say that this election has made many people feel vulnerable.

Quite frankly, I'm scared. I'm scared for the outcome, and while I want to be hopeful, it seems to be an anxiety-arousing kind of hope. We cannot say with certainty that presidential candidate Joe Biden will win this election, so in the event of another four years with incumbent president Donald Trump, we need to be prepared.

The lives of many are up in the air. The reality is this election will have major consequences on everyone's lives. In the midst of ongoing conversations about systemic racism and injustice, climate instability and a pandemic, proper leadership is crucial. Plus, with the recent appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, the futures of reproductive rights and same-sex marriage are also uncertain.

Many political and social issues I hold dearly are being held in contention. How does one reconcile this? How does one cope with the consequential fear and dread?

The stress crosses party lines as the future of this country worries 77 percent of American, with two-thirds of Biden supporters and one-third of Trump supporters saying they are nervous about the country's future. The political climate is tense, and it's a high-stakes election. Understandably, no one wants their desired candidate to lose — personally, I don't want to see Biden lose.

While a common experience, election anxiety is not often talked about. For some, this anxiety can manifest as being nervous when you receive an election-related news notification on your phone or being scared you didn't fill out your absentee ballot correctly. In 2020, nearly 70 percent

of Americans say that the election is a significant source of stress, up from 52 percent during the 2016 election cycle.

strengthens our community because we are taking a collective action to produce our desired result and give us a say in matters

I'm actively serving as a voice of opposition in an attempt to dismantle all the discriminatory systems he has fostered.

It's comforting to know that I am not alone. There have been lighthearted moments. My roommates and I have projected the debates onto the wall in our apartment. We laugh at the blatantly ridiculous statements that the candidates have made, their facial expressions and petty banter — mostly in awe that this is, in fact, our reality. We've used our sense of humor as a way to cope.

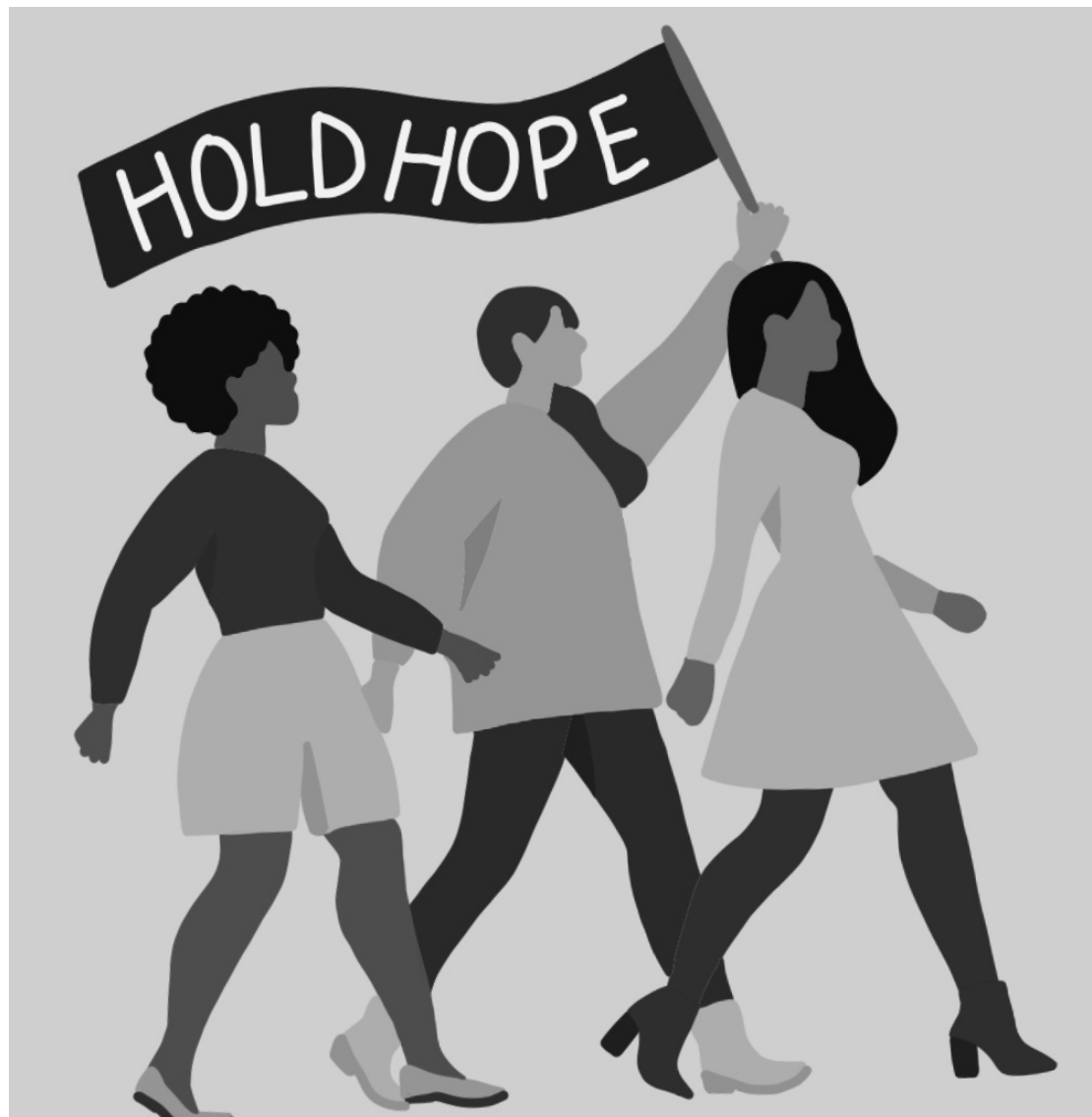
Another reassuring aspect has been the widespread calls to vote made by young voters in particular. It's encouraging to see people offer resources, education and support on social media during this time. It's evident that many people feel this sense of urgency and are aware that this is not the time to be complacent.

My friends and I were witnesses to one another's mail-in ballots, and we cheered each other on as we dropped them in mailboxes. This shared connection is notable. It's comforting to know that there are so many other people out there who are in a similar position and who are experiencing the same joys and fears.

Without this acknowledgement, the situation seems bleak. There's a seemingly countless number of issues in contention this election, but one of the biggest issues I see this election concerns simply that of human rights. It's upsetting and frustrating — understandably so — when you feel like your core tenets and values are up for debate.

Although cliché and even sometimes dangerous, holding onto hope can be beneficial. Hope presents itself as one of the few certainties here. We can hold onto hope — hope for a desired outcome, hope for a better future and minimize this election anxiety together.

EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY



While the nature of this election doesn't allow us to evade our fear, there are ways to mitigate it that I have found helpful — primarily through voting and leaning on others for support.

This year, there has been an outcry of requests for Americans to exercise our right to vote. Voting provides us with agency and

that are important to us. Because of that, each of us has a responsibility to vote.

This is the first major election that I voted in, and as a woman and person of color, it was empowering to vote. It's no secret that Trump is, in fact, racist and sexist, among other things. Voting against him made me feel like

Another point of stress was out-of-state voting. I sent my ballot several days in advance, but I was still concerned that it wouldn't arrive in time. Thankfully my ballot did arrive in time, but the U.S. Postal Service is overworked with such a high influx of mail-in ballots, and this presents an issue for many.



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# Top 10 ways to stay stress-free, informed after this election

Political stress may be indefinite, so adopt practices now that will keep you feeling less anxious

Madison Workman | Top 10 Writer

## I. Research information on your own

When it comes to debriefing after an election, one of the most important ways to reduce the stress you may be feeling is to research information on your own, form your own opinions and don't let other outside opinions influence or shape yours. When we get too caught up in others' opinions, we often limit ourselves from the wide scope of information that is available to us. We think, "Well because my best friend thinks that way or because my parents told me this, they must be right." The fact is, there is no "right" or "wrong," and others' opinions don't always align with our own views and values. Being able to construct our own personal opinions is one of our fundamental rights as citizens — so do your own research. Look into the elected president's policies, open your perspectives and establish your opinion based on the information you collect.

## 2. Go directly to the source

After the election, when you stumble upon political actors', celebrities' or other people's posts who have a large pull in the public media sphere, make sure you additionally go directly to the source. While we may feel inclined to trust a politician or celebrity who we are a fan of, they may not always be correct in their dissemination of information about the elected candidate. Be sure to validate the information by visiting the elected candidate's website, reviewing their social media pages and checking news stories from sources you trust in order to avoid being swayed by misinformation.

## 3. Fact check what you read, watch or listen to

While the internet is an incredible tool and resource, it can sometimes misguide us and place information in front of us that reinforces our preexisting political beliefs. Every time we click, watch, browse or share something, search engines and social media platforms take note of this and use algorithms to create a personalization of information that caters towards what we 'like,' or rather, what the internet thinks we like. Author Eli Pariser refers to this as a "filter bubble" — "personal ecosystems of information which fundamentally alter the way we encounter ideas and information." Before accepting things at face value, such as news articles or social media posts, be sure to conduct some further research and review information and don't be afraid to look at the topic from different perspectives.

## 4. Take a break from social media

Chances are, most of you have some sort of social media account, whether it be Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat or TikTok. Social media can be madly addicting, and it isn't always the best thing for our mental health. Likely every time you accessed social media in the past couple of months, your feed has been filled with information that can be hateful, upsetting and rumor-ridden. It can be stressful scrolling through immense amounts of social media posts filled with controversy, disputes and conflicting conversations. After the election, this political uproar will only continue. Remind yourself to take a break from social media every once in a while and focus on information from sources that don't bring you this type of stress and anxiety.

## 5. Establish a news routine

We are all very busy — whether it be with school, jobs, sports, extracurricular activities or clubs — and it may feel overwhelming to engage with the news every day. That said, it's still vital to remain informed. I suggest that you incorporate a news routine into your schedule that also sets limits. For example, make it a priority that every morning you read over the latest headlines in the news for 15 minutes or subscribe to a news channel that sends you a daily recap of news stories via email. This will make it significantly easier to stay informed while eliminating stress.

## 6. Limit unhealthy political discussion

While it can be informative and valuable to have political discussions and listen to others' opinions, especially when their views contrast with your own, it can also be difficult and stress-invoking to openly relay your beliefs and opinions to someone who is attacking you or undermining your perspectives and thoughts. If you find yourself in a situation when others are getting inflamed over politics, whether it be in a large group or in a one-on-one discussion, simply leave the room or politely tell the other person you do not want to broach the subject any further.

## 7. Find news sources you trust

Even now that voting is over, it is still just as important to turn to credible news sources that you trust in order to establish a political environment that is informative. No matter your political affiliation, there are plenty of sources that report trustworthy and accurate information. Finding news sources that report objectively is necessary to help diminish the stress that stems from reviewing conflicting, unreliable and false information. If you are questioning the reliability of your news sources, research them to discover how reputable and trustworthy they are. This will help you to determine whether the source is accurate or whether it is known for distributing biased news.

## 8. Focus on the issues at hand rather than the scandals

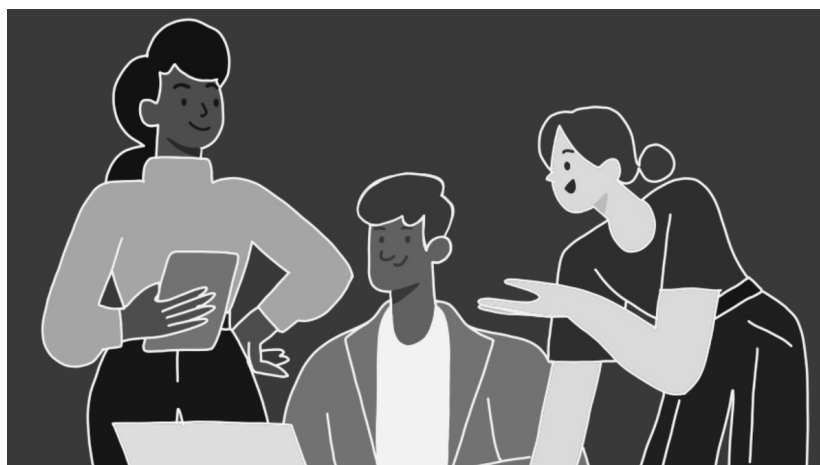
As human beings, we tend to get tied up in political scandals or negative news stories that circulate about political leaders. In order to diminish some of the stress that these stories can arouse, it is important for us to focus on the actual issues at hand rather than the scandalous stories that focus on the elected candidate's personal life, instead of their plans of how to run the country. When reading up on news stories that spread about the elected candidate, try to remember that there are multiple sides to every story and the news we come into contact with does not always accurately depict the candidate's personal life.

## 9. Learn to talk to people you disagree with politically

Regardless of your political standing, it is important to facilitate constructive discussion with those you disagree with politically. When we start to guide conversations about this sensitive topic in a more positive, useful direction, it becomes clear that this can help us to reduce the political stress that often stems from unhealthy discussions with people whom we disagree with. Finding common ground is one tool that I have found particularly useful in guiding a political conversation in a more positive direction. Instead of reacting strongly to others' opinions, try to find a topic on which you share the same viewpoint and agree in order to facilitate more productive conversations that incorporate healthy sharing of opinions and active listening.

## 10. Don't let your frustration get the best of you

Whether or not your preferred candidate is elected, it is important to not let your frustration get the best of you. It is valid to feel frustrated if the elected candidate does not support matters that you feel strongly passionate about, considering our political beliefs are a larger part of our identities. Although, in order to control this frustration it is important to find alternative ways to get involved and support matters that you feel strongly about, especially if they are not significantly represented in the elected candidate's policy goals. For example, if you feel strongly about gun control or climate change, find ways to get involved by joining a lobbying organization or promoting ways to help the environment to people in your community.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY



# ELECTION 2020

## Election Summary

CD News Staff

\*Data as of 2 A.M. EST

### Presidential: Electoral College

225

Joseph R. Biden Jr. | Democrat  
66,049,505 votes (49.8%)

100

Remaining  
270 To Win

213

Republican | Donald J. Trump  
64,415,232 votes (48.5%)

### Presidential: Virginia

Joseph R. Biden Jr. | Democrat ✓

Donald J. Trump | Republican

Other Candidates

Percent	Votes
52%	2,320,050
46%	1,780,582
2%	58,409
82% reported	

### Senate: Virginia

Mark Warner | Democrat ✓

Daniel Gade | Republican

Percent	Votes
54%	2,064,233
46%	1,752,516
81% reported	

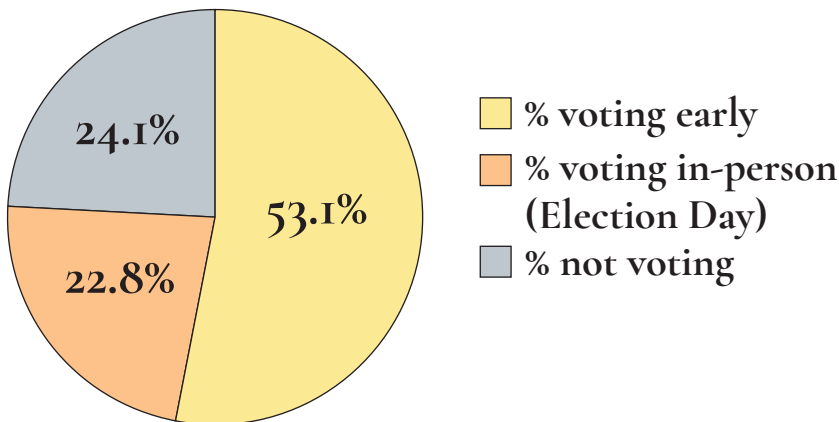
### House: Virginia-05

Cameron Webb | Democrat

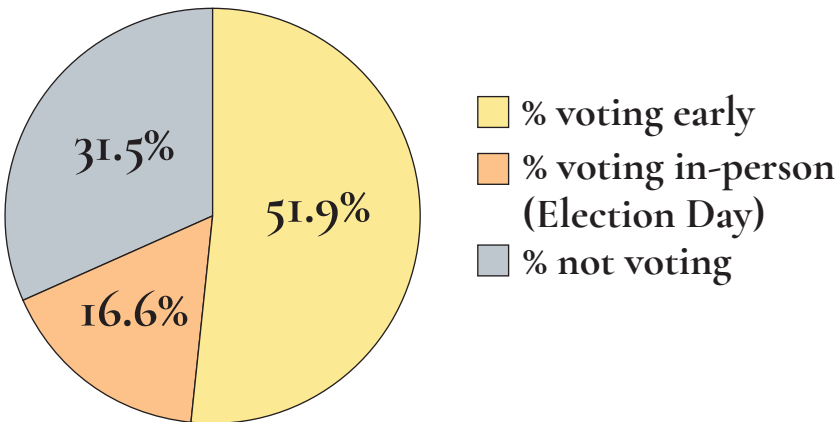
Bob Good | Republican ✓

Percent	Votes
47%	182,983
53%	202,355
>99% reported	

### Albemarle Turnout



### Charlottesville Turnout







ANKIT AGRAWAL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

First-time voters were enthusiastic about voting in-person, while other students emphasized the importance of voting in such an important election.



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The race in VA-05 was considered to be one of the most competitive races in the country this year.



ANKIT AGRAWAL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

VA-05 is a historically Republican district, having voted for a Democratic candidate — former Rep. Tom Perriello in 2008 — only once since 2000.



CYRENA MATINGOU | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Democratic candidate Dr. Cameron Webb conceded the race to Republican candidate Bob Good late Tuesday night.



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Campaigners and election officers said that turnout surged early in the morning after polls opened.



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Both University Democrats and College Republicans have been working to get out the vote this week.



# OPINION

## LEAD EDITORIAL

### You deserve a voice in this election

*With countless instances of voter suppression this election, fight to make sure your vote was counted*

With the results of the election unknown as of Tuesday night, it is likely that election-related litigation could decide the legitimacy of millions of ballots. Both Republicans and Democrats have already made it clear that they are lawyered up — and this is already one of the most litigated elections in U.S. history. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that voters throughout the country fight to make sure their vote is counted and that their voice is heard in this historic election.

President Donald Trump's claim that mail-in ballots could be “manipulated” should scare you. Don't worry — your ballot was likely not manipulated. Instead, the Trump administration's rhetoric and fear-mongering about voter fraud has created a distrust in our voting system. Trump even tweeted misleading information early Wednesday morning about voting rights after polls close — claiming that Democrats are trying to “STEAL the Election.” In an election as monumental as this one, the voter fraud conspiracy is dangerous and borderline dictatorial.

Voter fraud is not the issue that

the Trump administration wants you to believe it is. In fact, incident rates for voter fraud are extremely low, between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University. However, because Trump has pushed these ideas for months, many of his supporters see this as a legitimate issue. For this reason, we've seen efforts in numerous states to strip thousands of their right to vote, largely based on false narratives.

As such, we could see a wave of lawsuits challenging absentee and mail-in votes. Hundreds of lawsuits have already been filed and we very well could see more in the coming days.

For the members of our Editorial Board, this is the first presidential election in which we were eligible to vote. For us as young voters — and for future voters everywhere — how are we expected to have faith in a democracy where the legitimacy of our ballots is questioned? We shouldn't have to be nervous that our absentee ballots won't be counted. We shouldn't feel the need to vote in person during a

pandemic because we're unsure our vote will be counted otherwise. We deserve to know that our ballots count and that our voices matter in this election and every election.

Right now, it is reasonable that we're all anxious — this is a historic moment for our country. Even though get-out-the-vote campaigns have been monumentally successful and access to voting has expanded immensely through early and mail-in voting, so many of us still have anxieties about the legitimacy of our votes. Political initiatives aimed at stripping Americans of their fundamental right to vote have only increased. When we cannot expect our government to support voting in its expanded capacity, we must begin to make sure the courts and our representatives understand one of our most basic rights — we have the right to vote and that vote should count.

Voter suppression has been a clear and critical issue in this election. One Republican lawyer even wrote that “the Trump campaign and Republican entities engaged in more than 40 voting and ballot court cases around the country this

year. In exactly none — zero — are they trying to make it easier for citizens to vote. In many, they are seeking to erect barriers.” This is unacceptable — it is time to fight to ensure this suppression does not continue.

During the heavily contested Bush-Gore election in 2000, the Brooks Brothers Riot served as an abhorrent halt to a necessary democratic process, but it also showed us the power that the public voice can have in influencing political outcomes. Just as the Brooks Brothers Riot stopped the manual recount of votes in some counties in Florida during the 2000 election, protests in the aftermath of our current election must push for votes to be counted. This decision may not rest solely with judges or political operatives — public calls for vote recounts can make a huge difference.

Scream from the steps of the courts deciding if your vote counts — you have a right to have your voice heard. Even if you know your vote was counted, you should still be outraged — the thousands of ballots that could be thrown out disproportionately represent voters of

color. It is essential to let our courts and administration know that we need every vote to be counted. Our voices are the most impactful as a collective — speak up.

Even in races where the election is not a close call, the American electorate deserves the reassurance that our votes will always be counted. We are ashamed to live in a country where the incumbent president is misleading the public so that the votes of marginalized people will not be counted. We are worried that a country with such an intense and violent history of suppressing the votes and voices of people of color is attempting to continue this disgusting tradition. This clearly isn't right.

Your vote and your voice deserve to make a difference. Shout it from the rooftops until you know it was heard.

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# U.Va. cannot afford four more years of Donald Trump

*The University community has experienced first-hand the impact of Trump's divisive rhetoric and abysmal leadership*

Three years ago, in a moment that will forever be seared into the collective consciousness of our community — and by extension the nation itself — scores of white supremacists and neo-Nazis marched through Grounds carrying tiki torches. These individuals desecrated the very space that we call home with their racist and antisemitic bile — rhetoric that is strikingly reminiscent of what was heard at the height of Jim Crow and in Nazi Germany during the 1930s. The hate in their eyes and veins bulging from their necks were not shrouded in white robes. Instead they were plainly visible. Indeed, the sheer audacity and callousness of their actions seemingly underscored the empowerment which these white supremacist groups felt in the wake of President Donald Trump's electoral victory ten months earlier.

At a time when any other leader — Democrat or Republican — would have strived to bring the country together in a moment of national unity and reflection, the president instead remarked that there were “some very fine people on both sides.” To characterize these comments as a dog whistle would be an understatement, to say the least. Rather, they were an overt

and unmistakable air horn blast by a president who has, from the very moment he announced his candidacy, fanned the flames of hate and division.

For our community, these remarks carry an especially profound meaning, as the painful memory of Aug. 11 and 12, 2017 has yet to fade and still remains viscerally present. Trump's equivocation was more than a damning soundbite — it was an outright

Heyer, Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Berke M. M. Bates — lost their lives. White supremacists like Richard Spencer and Jason Kessler — who terrorized our community — are the antithesis of “very fine people” and should be regarded as nothing short of the pure embodiment of evil itself.

Trump has still refused to apologize for these remarks along with those he made in the immediate aftermath

and attended by white supremacists and in no way was affiliated with other groups like the Monument Fund, which have argued that the statue should be preserved for historical reasons. To make matters worse, the president has lacked the decency to even visit the community in the wake of the violence or provide at least some semblance of sympathy and support.

It should come as no surprise that

White House and have ceased to capture the same disgust and horror that they rightly deserve.

Perhaps this is what is most frightening about the prospect of another four years of this administration. We as a country have gradually become numb to the horrors that have occurred — horrors that have taken place with increased frequency.

Charlottesville is more than just a buzzword, just as the Lawn is so much more than a backdrop in a campaign ad. Those who were attacked by men wielding torches were more than just figures on a screen — they were members of our very own community. The destruction this administration has inflicted on the very fabric of our democracy should be felt by every member of this community — students, faculty, staff and alumni alike. While there undoubtedly remains more work that needs to be done, we cannot forget the incredible damage which the Trump presidency has caused here, especially when at the ballot box this November.

**THOMAS DRISCOLL** is an Opinion Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at [t.driscoll@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:t.driscoll@cavalierdaily.com).

“Charlottesville is more than just a political buzzword, just as the Lawn is so much more than a backdrop in a campaign ad.”

denial of the unspeakable horror that our community experienced firsthand.

The very idea that someone would label white supremacists and counter-protestors alike as being “very fine people” is both morally repugnant and unfathomable. Before the entire world, these men chanted slogans like “Jews will not replace us” and “white lives matter” while brandishing tiki torches, swastikas and semi-automatic rifles. In the carnage that ensued the following day, three people — Heather

of the violence, in which he stated in equally abhorrent terms that there was an “egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides.” Actually, the president has actually doubled down on his earlier remarks, describing them as “perfectly” delivered. He claimed that he was actually alluding to those exclusively in favor of preserving the Robert E. Lee statue in Market Square. However, this claim is undermined by the very fact that the rally itself was explicitly organized

white supremacists and neo-Nazis have not only embraced the President but have also felt emboldened by actions in the aftermath of the events of Aug. 11 and 12, 2017. Indeed, during the first presidential debate several weeks ago, when asked to condemn groups like the Proud Boys, President Trump refused to do so and instead called upon them to “stand back and stand by.” Over the past four years, divisive and thinly veiled comments like this have become commonplace at the

## Your voice exists beyond your vote

*The actions we follow up our vote with often speak louder and firmer*

You've voted. Maybe on Election Day, maybe a month ago. You're eagerly awaiting election results with fear, with excitement or with hope. You feel as though you've carried out your civic duty by voting, so often deemed an essential pillar of civic participation.

While voting is undoubtedly important, let's take a moment to recognize that voting is not the end. It's not the solution to a problem, but merely a recommendation on who you think will best solve those problems. Someone votes for Vice President Joe Biden because his and Sen. Kamala Harris's plan to ban chokeholds appeals to their want for justice in the policing system. Another person votes for Donald Trump because he supports the use of chokeholds. And yet — despite Biden's eight-year vice presidency and Trump's almost four years thus far in the White House — George Floyd died from a chokehold.

Who we elect to national, state and local offices, indeed, have a great deal of power. However, our individual voices — not reproduced through a representative but actually embodied in the day-to-day lives of people who live in the United States — matter most. But our vote does not equate our action. Politics didn't prompt a national conversa-

tion on chokeholds — people protesting did, prior to and after Floyd's unjust death.

In June, I attended Chesapeake, Va.'s largest protest against racial injustice this year, which saw around 500 marchers shut down one of my hometown's main roads. As hundreds of people, including Black leaders from local churches, gathered in front of city hall, protestors far outnumbered the local and state officials that came to speak. Though

ism and imperialism that remains in the veins of so many Americans today. Toussaint Louverture led the revolution in Haiti that rejected French domination over the colony, thus prompting the creation of a free nation. The very event that established the American notion of “We the People” was one not of idleness — the American Revolution was a firm stance against British injustice, albeit a stance that favored equality for only a few. The point remains,

nority-owned small businesses by purchasing their products in order to counter capitalism's prioritization of the richest, most privileged Americans. We must protest racial, sexual, ethnic and gender injustice. We must find the strength to ignore people who assert that brick walls and glass storefronts are more valuable than human lives.

We must use our voices in ways that are both firm and understanding. We can and should use social

voice, we must also recognize times when it is simply not our time to speak. If you are a man who feels the need to constantly interject himself on matters of women's issues, hold your tongue. If you are a straight person who critiques queerness, just stop. Your voice should not limit the free speech of people who actually live the lives you try to impose yourself on. Being a real ally means that you utilize your voice to promote the rights of others, not that you use your voice to drown theirs out. Simply put — respect others.

Whoever takes the White House will never be stronger than our collective body. A representative democracy provides us the illusion that our strength exists only through our vote. But that's just not true. Our strength lies in our hearts and our brains, in our lives and our beliefs, in our love and our hope for a brighter future. We are complex beings — establishments are simply contrary to our nature. Don't let anyone reduce your complexity to those few seconds spent at the ballot box.

**BRYCE WYLES** is a Viewpoint Writer for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at [opinion@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:opinion@cavalierdaily.com).

“Noise generates the change that will never happen in a courtroom or oval office.”

they voiced support, it was blatantly evident that the power of America does not lie in those we elect. When we speak out and pool together, we make noise. Noise generates the change that will never happen in a courtroom or oval office.

Throughout history, long-lasting change only came about through collective statements made by the people. The 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, led by Vladimir Lenin, produced the visualized Marxist statement against capital-

though. Action drives conversation, and conversation drives change.

As important as voting is, we must follow up our ballot with our voice and our actions. We must donate to organizations protecting and defending our freedoms and our health — organizations like Planned Parenthood, the Human Rights Campaign, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, the Black Career Women's Network and more. We must support mi-

media as a means of spreading and commenting on current events. We should speak up in our classes when these matters arise. Next time you read a racist, classist or sexist author in a class, don't accept their prejudice as a sign of the times — call these prejudices out, whether they come from writers, professors or fellow students. Right here at *The Cavalier Daily*, you can submit guest pieces that address your concerns to readers.rs

While considering the use of our

# HUMOR

## School is fake

Do you guys remember what a normal Monday-to-Friday used to look like? Classes used to consume our entire day. We woke up earlier, picked out outfits, packed our backpacks — remember those? — and we would actually WALK all day from class to class. We'd bump into people we knew, waving and stopping for a chat. Our professors were more than a figure on a laptop screen. Our classmates were our peers, study partners and even friends. Maybe we skipped over to the Corner for lunch or met some friends at one of the dining halls. My point is, our days were all about our classes.

These days are quite the opposite. There are no outfits to choose, no backpacks to pack

and we rarely walk on Grounds anymore. The way I describe it makes it sound depressing, but I don't see it that way. It seems to me that classes used to consume our days, but now they are just little computer appointments that we can log onto anywhere. Wanna sit on your porch? Bring your computer outside. Would you rather lay in bed? Go right ahead. I cannot even count the number of times I've seen people sprawled on their beds taking class in their pajamas.

The most amusing feature on Zoom is the "stop video" feature. I feel for the professors who have to lecture to a class of black screens. Once that video is stopped and the mute button is on, all bets are off — our profes-

sors have no clue what their students are doing. They could be scrolling through TikTok, fixing themselves a snack, making calls, watching Netflix or just wandering aimlessly around their room. I myself am guilty of losing focus, as I'm sure everyone else is.

This is not to mention the fact that our exams and quizzes are now online and many are also open-note. Because of this, we spend less time studying, less time stressing over exams and more time doing other things. For the most part, we don't even go to libraries anymore. There are fewer study groups and study guides, and as a result, there's way more time to chill out and relax. Not too shabby, eh?

So, now for some advice —

stop whining about school and embrace the new freedoms you have. I'm not saying you need to fully zone out and bomb your classes, but take a load off! Let's not forget about another fantastic, beautiful, amazing gift that the University has given us. No, I'm not talking about the University's decision to increase the number of people we can hang out with from five to 10 — I'm talking about our fantabulous credit/no-credit option.

If you're still taking some hard classes and want to embrace the whole "school is fake" thing that I'm trying to sell you on, or if you're feeling extra stress from that thing we call COVID-19, there are solutions right in front of you. Did you get a C on a pa-

per? Forgot to take a quiz? Oh wait, don't panic. Just log into your SIS account, check a few boxes and make all of your troubles fade blissfully away. So, stop it with the worrying and chill out for a second! Shut off that computer, make plans with your friends and have some fun.

TESS TOLAND is a Humor columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.

# CARTOON

## Election night

Alyce Yang | Cartoonist





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## The voice of a movement

How protest music this year has contributed to a longstanding tradition of expression

Sydney Seligman | Staff Writer

On June 6, thousands of protesters stood on 16th Street in Washington, D.C. with yellow scuff marks on the bottom of their shoes from the newly commissioned mural spelling “Black Lives Matter” under their feet. Kendrick Lamar’s song “Alright” blared from the speakers as the crowd chanted along with the chorus, “We gon’ be alright.” This unifying phrase has echoed through the streets of countless cities during Black Lives Matter protests since the release of the song in 2015. Although demonstrators have added “Alright” to the canon of protest music, Lamar did not intend for his song to galvanize the nation into action.

“It’s not like he deliberately wrote the song with an eye towards thinking it would become the song of this movement,” said Jack Hamilton, an associate professor of media studies and American studies and Slate pop critic. “The movement itself has done this.”

Protest music transcends genre and has no defined audible characteristics. Rather, what characterizes a song as a piece of protest music is the relationship between audience and artist. Lamar’s lyrical commentary on the perpetuation of injustice and racism in the country became the anthem of the Black Lives Matter movement because supporters needed to hear that everything would be okay.

Artists are inherently reactive to the stimulus around them, so when the country goes through a period of notable change, they create art. American songwriter and poet Abel Meeropol wrote “Strange Fruit” — nominated for Time Magazine’s Song of the Century in 1999 — in 1937 after he saw a photograph of a lynching of two Black men in Indiana. Jazz Singer Billie Holiday recorded her rendition of the song with Commodore Records in 1939 after her label, Columbia Records, denied her recording request. She released the record during the height of the anti-lynching movement. Prior to the release, protest music had not been commercially viable, nor had a star of her stature made such powerful political statements through their music.

Amidst the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement, folk artist Bob Dylan paved cultural space for protest with his 1963 album

“The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan” — featuring the famous protest songs “Blowin’ in the Wind” and “Masters of War” — and his 1964 album “The Times They Are A-Changin’.” Acclaimed singer-songwriter Sam Cooke heard “Blowin’ in the Wind,” which inspired his own expressive freedom, manifesting itself in the form of another timeless protest song, “A Change is Gonna Come.”

1968 — which has been compared to 2020 in several accounts by historians and writers — was a year of political and social turmoil. From the assassinations of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy while troops fought overseas in the widely contested Vietnam War to the presidential election of Richard Nixon during the outbreak of the H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> virus, there was widespread dissent in

the country. Criticisms of Nixon’s presidency intensified during the Watergate scandal in the 70s, and artists — like Stevie Wonder with “You Haven’t Done Nothing” — used their platforms to protest the state of the government.

“Any time that there is a mass political movement like we have seen in the last several years — which I would say has certainly intensified over the last four years — there’s going to be a soundtrack to that,” Hamilton said.

The soundtrack of protest music today is predominantly hip-hop — the dominant genre in popular music over the last few decades. The genre has a rich history of politics and protest with hip-hop groups N.W.A. and Public Enemy in the 80s and 90s, and the commercial viability of protest music in the hip-hop

genre has not dwindled. Streaming services like Spotify created 2020 protest music playlists to maximize streams. Some of the featured songs include “I Can’t Breathe” by H.E.R. and “The Bigger Picture” by Lil Baby.

The advent of social media increased the ways in which these songs can be popularized. A few months ago, “This is America” by Childish Gambino trended on TikTok as users stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Social media has made forms of protest more accessible than ever. This is demonstrated in its ability to reach a younger audience — which is powerful because children act as moral symbols in movements against violence. Twelve-year-old singer Keedron Bryant released his single “I JUST WANNA LIVE” in June after a video of him per-

forming the song went viral.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, the issues of systematic racism and police brutality at the forefront of the protest music scene will still require more action. The pain, bruises and scars from a history of inequality and unjust violence will not disappear this week. Protests were already being scheduled in anticipation of the wake of the 2020 election.

The beauty of protest music is how it adapts to the times and characterizes the time period in which it is created. The music industry will continue to reflect the reactions of the public in the following months. Once again, “the times they are a-changin’,” but there is hope that it’s going to be alright.



COURTESY WILLIAM P. GOTTLIEB

Billie Holiday recorded her rendition of “Strange Fruit” with Commodore Records after her label, Columbia Records, denied her recording request.

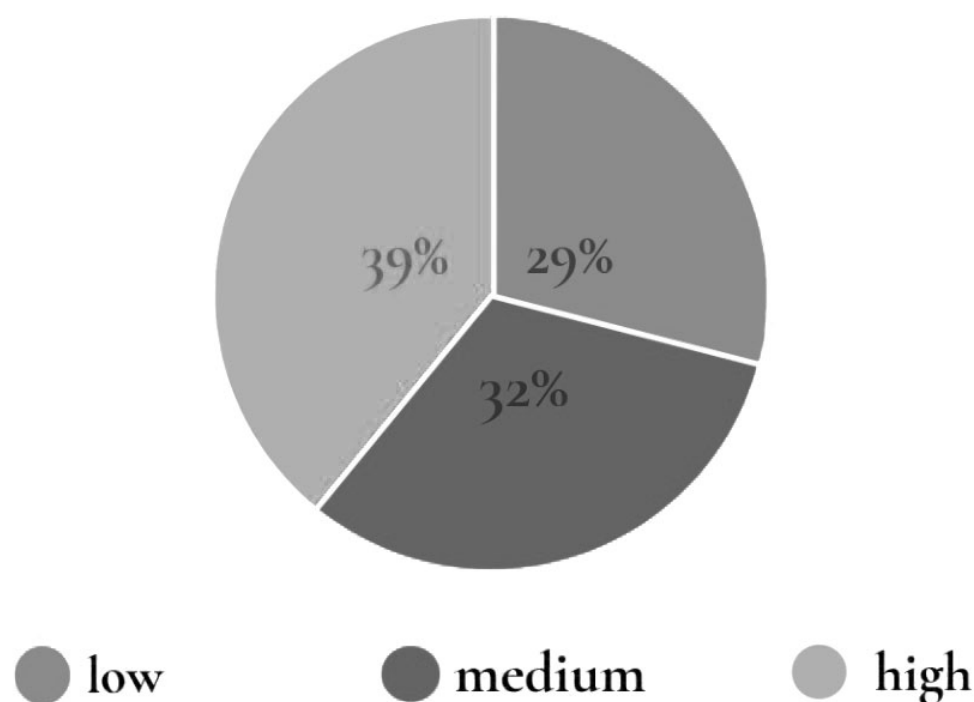
# HEALTH & SCIENCE

## Scientific literacy of utmost importance for elections

With issues like climate change, masks and vaccines on the ballot, professors emphasize scientific literacy in voter education

Lucie Rutherford | Health & Science Editor

### Average American Level of Scientific Knowledge



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In America today, 39 percent of Americans are classified as having high science knowledge, 32 percent are classified as having medium-level scientific knowledge and 29 percent with low scientific knowledge. These statistics come from a nationally representative science survey from the Pew Research Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan fact tank and one of the U.S.'s most trusted public polling centers. The questionnaire is made up of 11 basic science questions, such as the cause of Earth's seasons, what is considered a fossil fuel and the steps present in the scientific process. Those who qualified as highly scientifically literate answered between nine and 11 questions correctly, medium-level literates answered five to eight questions correctly and low literacy was classified as zero to four correct answers.

In the 2020 election cycle, multiple science topics — including climate change, vaccine research and mask-wearing — have been heavily politicized. According to Biology Prof. Sarah Kucenas, these topics do not necessitate complex scientific

knowledge, but rather are general concepts that the average American should understand in order to make autonomous decisions about their lives.

For Kucenas, science literacy is the ability to gather information, from sources like Facebook or the news, do homework on that information and then decide to agree or disagree.

"I think what the American people need to do in an election is be able to make a decision for themselves ... then vote in a way that you feel mirrors those truths that you decided to gather and that are important to you," Kucenas said.

Looking back on the history of science literacy, Kucenas says this time period is experiencing the biggest pushback against science that America has ever seen.

"We have people now trying to deny these emergent truths, these things that science has been working towards for decades," Kucenas said.

Kucenas cites the current U.S. presidential administration's skepticism of climate change as an example of this pushback.

In a world where information

is so easily accessible, Kucenas explains that it is very easy for a person to get the entirety of their information from a single source, making them easy to manipulate.

"If you only get your information from Facebook, you become very quickly controlled by their algorithms," Kucenas said. "That ... takes away the ability of an independent, autonomous human to make a decision."

Astronomy Prof. Kelsey Johnson also sees science literacy as a fundamental component in life and a foundation for society.

"If people don't understand basic principles in science, they are fundamentally disenfranchised in the modern world," Johnson said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Johnson describes science literacy as a weapon against confirmation bias — or the tendency for an individual to see new evidence simply as confirmation of one's existing beliefs and theories — which Johnson feels is at the root of many societal issues. Without an understanding of empirical inquiry, she says, society is left in the dark.

"Science literacy is not about

memorizing facts," Johnson said. "What is far more important is understanding how science proceeds, what counts as evidence and how we establish degrees of confidence in a claim."

When it comes to becoming scientifically literate, Kucenas stresses that the first thing people need to understand is that they have the tools and autonomy to do so. The biggest hurdle is realizing that everyone has the ability to educate themselves.

In comparison to past elections, Kucenas points out that there is a scarcity in websites that voters can use to understand the stances of political candidates regarding science issues. Reflecting on the 2016 presidential race between then-candidate Donald Trump and Secretary Hillary Clinton, Kucenas says candidate answers to STEM-related ques-

tions were readily available.

"What scares me about scientific literacy is I feel like we're being even less open about those things this year," Kucenas said. "There's not a one-stop shop like there has been in the past to help voters collect that information in a really streamlined way."

Despite the policalization that has been brought to many science issues, Johnson says that at its core, science is apolitical.

"It is a search for truth and understanding," Johnson said. "I hope that we can all agree on wanting to know what is true."

### — ADVERTISEMENT —

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# Pollsters work to increase accuracy after 2016 election

Learning where 2016 polls went wrong is important for analyzing 2020 projections

Shakti Kasirajan | Staff Writer

With hundreds of polls online predicting election outcomes, it is important to look into how election polls work to understand how to interpret them for the 2020 presidential election. Research has helped identify where the 2016 election polls went short, including the underweighting of location and education, so pollsters hopefully can deliver more accurate polls this year.

President Donald Trump was announced as the winner in the 2016 presidential election despite many polls indicating that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton would win, increasing public scrutiny about the accuracy of election polls. Looking into how election polls work can help us understand where the 2016 election polls fell short and what we can expect from the 2020 election polls.

“An Evaluation of 2016 Election Polls in the U.S.” by the American Association for Public Opinion Research reveals that national polls were actually fairly accurate in 2016, only overestimating Clinton’s lead over Trump by one percentage point in the popular vote. The popular vote relates to the number of voters cast nationwide for a candidate, regardless of how their vote relates to the Electoral College — which is composed of 538 electors representing all 50 states and Washington, D.C. and officially elects the president.

However, it was at the state level — especially in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — where polling fell short, according to politics Prof. Paul Freedman.

“The polls miscalculated ... in part because they failed to give enough weight statistically to — in particular — white voters from rural areas without college degrees,” Freedman said.

Weighting — a polling technique used to adjust how much weight a polled individual’s vote has to more properly align the sample group’s demographic breakdown with the demographic breakdown of population they’re sampling — is an important aspect of election polling because polls collect data from samples of the population, which may not be perfectly representative of the population they’re polling. Statistics Assist. Prof. Gretchen Martinet describes sampling in many polls.

“With election polls ... most of the reputable ones are going to take a sample covering someone from all 50 states, and so they would then do something like stratified sampling, but then within the strata, they may do other forms of sampling,”

Martinet said. “It can get really complex, which is why weighting is important, because as you go down to the sample level, you have to weight back up every level that you sample.”

There are an abundance of factors that pollsters weight for when calculating polls. According to Politics Assist. Prof. Alex Welch, racial demographics, education and gender are three factors that are particularly important when weighting to ensure that all parts of the population are accurately accounted for.

However, certain factors, including education and location, played a greater role in contributing to election results in the 2016 election than in other years. According to Martinet, pollsters did not account for these factors enough and are trying to give more importance to this year.

In an effort to make a more accurate model, graduate Data Science students Matthew Thomas, Chad Sopata, Ben Rogers and Spencer Marusco have created their own forecasting model for the 2020 election. When asked about the 2016 election, Thomas and Sopata agree with Martinet that education and location weren’t weighted enough. However, Thomas brought to light another problem that contributed to the inaccuracy of the 2016 election polls — in 2016, 20 percent of voters were undecided before Election Day.

“If someone was trying to predict the election, what they would typically do is ignore the undecided voters, or they might assume it splits roughly 50-50,” Thomas said. “But, what ended up happening is that ... a huge majority of those undecided voters went to Trump.”

This is another problem to keep in mind when evaluating 2020 election polls as a significantly smaller portion of the electorate is undecided heading into Election Day — only 3 percent were undecided a week from the election as compared to 11 percent at the same time in 2016.

One more thing we can learn from the 2016 election when looking at polls this year is the importance of state election polls. According to Freedman, at the end of the day, it’s the electoral vote — the vote cast by a state’s Electoral College members — that matters rather than the popular vote, which is why state-level polling is so important.

“[As part of the forecasting model], we looked at state data going back to 1990 to get an idea of, fundamentally, where each state was sitting three or four or five months out from the election,” Sopata said.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

This is what the data science team believes makes its forecasting model unique from most other models that forecast on the national level.

Although pollsters are generally learning from the 2016 polling mistakes, it can be difficult to predict how accurate the 2020 election polls will turn out to be.

One common polling myth is that they will be completely accurate. According to Welch, statistical uncertainty and margin of error, measurements of how unsure statisticians are about the data, must be taken into account.

“People don’t seem to understand statistical uncertainty and margin of error,” Welch said. “Those kinds of issues that make it so that polls are not going to get it completely 100 percent on the number.”

While 2020 polling has aimed to fix several of its errors from 2016, Martinet points to response bias and leading questions as two sources of error that still might prevail in the election polls this year. Leading questions are when the questions asked in polls are phrased in a way to lead respondents toward one answer. Response bias is when the person does not answer the questions truthfully, according to

Martinet.

“So another thing that may have happened in the 2016 election is that voters for a certain candidate weren’t truthful with the pollsters,” Martinet said.

With the complex nature of polling, how then do we interpret the 2020 election polls? Freedman explained that it is important to understand that polls will never be perfectly accurate because they are measures of public opinion, which inherently change day-to-day. His advice for readers is to not just look at one poll, but rather an aggregate of polls, which can be seen on FiveThirtyEight or The New York Times.

“One of the reasons that we like aggregation is that some polls are better than others [and] some pollsters are better than others,” Freedman said.

Welch also recommends looking for polls associated with colleges including Quinnipiac University and Franklin and Marshall College.

Although it may be difficult to predict exactly how accurate the polls this year will be, pollsters have been able to identify some problems from the 2016 election that they are taking into account

this year, which is a promising sign. Additionally, Thomas described how the polls have been pretty stable this year compared to the previous presidential election, in which the polls were unsteady and susceptible to weekly changes based on the news.

“Some news would come out, [and] Clinton support would go up,” Thomas said. “Something else would come out, [and] her support would go down.”

Sopata uses his own forecast model to support the stability of polls this year.

“Once we started adding the polling data in, even if it was 50 days out, we didn’t see much change in our outcomes moving up to this week before the election,” Sopata said. “I think in a typical election cycle, we would have seen quite a bit of up and down with our own predictions.”

A weighted average poll made by FiveThirtyEight.com currently predicts Biden leading with 51.8 percent of votes. However, it is likely that the world will have to wait until after Election Day to truly see how accurate 2020’s polls were.

## SPORTS

## Jocelyn Willoughby makes impact as WNBA rookie

Willoughby competed in her first season in the WNBA amid the pandemic and used her platform as a professional athlete to influence change

Rachel Lisner | Feature Writer

Former Virginia guard Jocelyn Willoughby left Virginia as one of the most highly decorated women's basketball players in recent program history. After averaging 19.2 points and 7.7 rebounds per game her senior season and earning numerous honors for both athletic and academic excellence — including winning the 2019-20 Kay Yow Award and being named to the All-ACC first team — Willoughby was selected 10th overall in the WNBA draft. In her first season in the WNBA, she has already begun making a name for herself through actions both on and off the court.

After initially being drafted to the Phoenix Mercury, Willoughby was traded to the New York Liberty, a team with seven total rookies — the most in the league. This certainly presented a challenge for the Liberty, but Willoughby felt well-prepared for this unique situation, as she likens it to her experience during her senior year at Virginia.

"The majority of the team my senior year, or fourth year, was freshmen, or first years, and so just having that perspective of what it takes to bring the better players and young players together to create a program and unit that's competitive, I think that was definitely very helpful for me," Willoughby said.

Even in normal years, without the reduced number of practices and condensed schedule caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the transition to the WNBA can be a tough adjustment for rookies. However, Willoughby once again points to her time as a Cavalier as being beneficial in preparing her for the change and enabling her to face the challenges presented by being on one of the youngest teams in the league.

"I had a lot of that experience at U.Va., being in different types of games — games where you start off with a lead and then the lead slips away and you have to fight your way back, games where you're down and you're fighting your way back," Willoughby said. "[There were] just so many different circumstances that I found myself in, whether it was in practice or in games, [that] I think definitely prepared me."

Willoughby was able to make a notable impact on her team, averaging 5.7 points and 2.4 rebounds in 17.4 minutes per game

and earning five starts in her 22 games played. Additionally, Willoughby recorded a season-high 21 points against the Los Angeles Sparks Sept. 9 and shot a team-best 40.5 percent from three-point line during the season.

"She's everything you really want in a teammate," said Sabrina Ionescu, New York Liberty guard and 2020 No. 1 overall draft pick, to The Next. "She's very supportive, always listening. Works very, very hard and is very talented on both sides of the floor, offense and defense."

Hard work and coachability are certainly strong suits of Willoughby. She constantly works to improve her game, day in and day out.

"Anything we ask of her, she does, and even if it's a little thing that I might have mentioned in a side conversation under my breath, it's like the next day I see Jocelyn doing it," Liberty Coach Walt Hopkins said to The Next.

Growth is a constant goal of Willoughby's. With the conclusion of the 2020 WNBA season, Willoughby is setting her sights on overseas play, as she plans to play in Israel for Hapoel Petah Tikva with the aim of further developing her game during her WNBA offseason.

"I am definitely looking forward to just growing in the areas that I started to grow in the WNBA season and just expanding my game and continuing to build," Willoughby said. "I think that's what it's all about — showing growth, showing improvement, because that's what gives you an opportunity to keep playing."

Looking towards her next WNBA season, Willoughby has a clear focus. She hopes to be more consistent in her second year in the league and become even more of an impact player for the Liberty. And as a young but talented team, New York shows plenty of potential to develop over the next few years, and Willoughby is poised to earn a role as an impact player on the team.

But the 2020 WNBA season was about more than just basketball for Willoughby. The players, coaches, sponsors and affiliates of the league have all played a part in speaking out on issues of social justice. The WNBA dedicated the season to Breonna Taylor, an EMT who was shot



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

This past season, Jocelyn Willoughby and the other WNBA players wore Breonna Taylor's name on the back of their jerseys.

and killed by plainclothes police officers who had executed a no-knock warrant in her apartment on March 13, and partnered with the Say Her Name campaign, which aims to spread awareness about the Black women and girls who have been victims of racist police violence and provide support to their families.

This past season, Willoughby and the other WNBA players wore Breonna Taylor's name on the back of their jerseys, not only to honor her memory, but to spread awareness about the injustice of her death. Educating and spreading awareness have been the focus of much of the WNBA's initiatives this past season.

Over the course of the year, through the Social Justice Council of the WNBA, players hosted virtual discussions and podcasts on social media platforms to have conversations on issues regarding race and inequality.

Willoughby, who was voted New York's player representative to the Women's National Basketball Players Association, has taken to heart the importance of her role in initiating change.

"For me, it's been about being intentional and authentic in what I'm saying when it comes to issues of social justice," Willoughby said. "Not that this is a new awakening for me, because

I think I've always been inclined and invested in these issues, but it's been more intentional in how I'm sharing information, in how I'm informing [people] and just mobilizing around what's going on in our world right now."

Another focus of the WNBA this past season has been on encouraging its fans to register to vote. One of the ways the league promoted this was through Unite the Vote — an initiative where nine WNBA teams, including the Liberty, provided personalized voter registration information, accessible to fans in any location and competed to register the most new voters.

Several WNBA players have also teamed up with the NBA as ambassadors for the Hoopers Vote campaign and posted images and messages on social media encouraging fans to register to vote and providing them with information on how to do so.

Willoughby has been very active on her own social media accounts, posting videos and images encouraging her followers to vote and engage in matters of social justice.

It was certainly an unusual season for the WNBA players who competed while inside a "bubble" at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla. because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However,

Willoughby and the women of the WNBA were still able to make the most of it and leave their mark on the world.

"The experience has been really inspiring," Willoughby said. "It's been really unique just to be in a situation where literally a whole league is committed to doing the work ... I think that level of investment's been really inspiring and just gives hope for the future."

What the former Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy student accomplishes off the court is of utmost importance to her, so as she sets her sights on the future, her goals extend beyond the game of basketball.

"To continue impacting the world beyond sports, giving back to the community — that's one thing I'm really excited about," Willoughby said.

The year 2020 has certainly had its ups and downs, but through the adversity, Willoughby has remained earnest in her commitments to basketball and social justice. Through it all, she's made quite the impact this past season, and she hopes to continue to accomplish even greater feats in each of her endeavors.



# Former U.Va. athletes speak up on politics and social justice

Sports and politics have always been intertwined and former Virginia athletes have been deeply involved in this synthesis

Jacob Tisdale | Columnist

From the Black Lives Matter movement to kneeling during the national anthem to protests over the gender wage gap, it'd be easy to label this era as a time when sports and politics are more interwoven than ever. This theory is supported by players, teams and now even the president rejecting ceremonial White House trips, controversy regarding players and owners commenting on foreign affairs, and teams choosing to stage walkouts during important games. However, it is an idea that Bonnie Hagerman, assistant professor of women, gender and sexuality, rejects.

"This is not a moment in time without a historical context," Hagerman said. "There is a historical context for athletes using their platform in various different ways to promote social justice."

Rather than identifying the state of sports today as an individual moment of protest and dissatisfaction, she instead views it as the continuation of a long standing tradition of sports acting as a mirror of the issues that a society faces at a given point in time. She cites Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, Tommie Smith and John Carlos as precursors to the outspoken athletes we are familiar with today like Colin Kaepernick and LeBron James. Though an athlete's engagement in fields beyond athletics can often be controversial, Hagerman believes the line between sports and political issues to be not just blurred, but nonexistent.

"A lot of people would like to keep sport and politics separate," Hagerman said. "There's just no way you can do that. Sport is a reflection of society. There's no getting around the fact ... you can't separate the two. It's going to reflect the inequities [and] the inequalities [and] not just in terms of race, but in terms of gender and sexuality, issues of ability and economy."

Hagerman views the ability of players with large platforms to speak out as a "privilege" and spoke of the Virginia men's basketball team kneeling in 2016 as just another in the long list of examples of athletes using their platforms to promote ideals they believe in. She made special note of the coaches' and administration's support of the demonstration.

"The tact we need to take at UVa. is to support those student-athletes that are interested in using their platform to draw attention to important issues," Hagerman said.

Perhaps because of the support they received at the University, or simply because their convictions are strong, Virginia Athletics alumni have made their voices heard on an assortment of pressing topics.

## Malcolm Brogdon

While the former Cavalier guard and 2017 NBA Rookie of the Year award winner has made a name for himself as one of Virginia's best basketball players, Malcolm Brogdon has also been busy off the court. The Atlanta native has focused on tackling a variety of issues, including water insecurity in East Africa and the struggles Black Americans face today. In 2018, Brogdon founded Hoops20 and is an active supporter of Hoops4Humanity, organizations which work to build water wells in Tanzania.

Brogdon also took an important stand regarding protests taking place in the United States following the death of George Floyd, speaking at several demonstrations that followed.

"This is a moment," Brogdon said at a rally in Atlanta. "We have leverage right now ... We gotta keep pushing forward."

Following the NBA restart in the bubble, Brogdon chose the phrase "I can't breathe" to embellish the back of his jersey in order to bring more attention to the issue of police brutality. In an interview with The Undeclared, Brogdon's views on his role as an athlete and activist were neatly summarized.

"Basketball is my job — I love it," he said. "It's the dream. But honestly, my life passion is not basketball. It's helping people and using my resources that I have gotten from basketball [to do so]."

## Dawn Staley

Along with being a Women's Basketball Hall of Fame player and coach, an Olympic gold medalist and a distinguished Virginia women's basketball guard, Dawn Staley has committed herself to promoting diversity and equity. Over the summer, she spoke at a protest against racial injustice and police brutality in South Carolina.

"My heart told me to speak out," Staley said. "My heart feels for George Floyd and his family and all the deaths that happened in our country. It leaves us answerless. I just felt like I've got to get up and do something."

Staley's activism on social media and across the internet has also increased since the incident. She is vocal on Twitter and recently wrote an essay for The Player's Tribune titled "Black People Are Tired". In the essay, she expresses the frustration and exhaustion people of color experience having to watch what seems like endless instances of injustice without reform.

"People are mad because NOTHING HAS CHANGED," Staley wrote. "If you don't like something, if you don't like the laws that we have to live by, you gotta get out and VOTE."

She is now a member of the SEC Council on Racial Equity and Social

Justice where she aims to promote strategies such as increasing access and representation for underrepresented minorities in the SEC.

## Becky Sauerbrunn

Instrumental to the recent string of success that the U.S. Women's National Team has experienced, former Virginia center back Sauerbrunn has been equally instrumental in the fight for equal pay and unionization that women's soccer players have brought to light. She has also stood in solidarity with the Muslim community and supported her teammate Megan Rapinoe as the US Women's National Team criticized President Trump. Sauerbrunn told to the Guardian in 2019 she would not attend a White House visit after the USMNT won the World Cup.

In 2017, Sauerbrunn and her teammates negotiated a collective bargaining agreement that improved pay for its players, in some cases by as much as 30 percent. While it did not guarantee equal pay with the men's team, it was a huge step towards more fair and equitable payment for female athletes competing in the United States. That same year, she lobbied the state of Oregon to pass an equal pay bill, making her position clear to the legislature as pay equity was debated.

"The issue is not just about money either — it is about our basic treatment as players compared to our male counterparts," Sauerbrunn said. "From the type of field we lay on to the way we travel, there are big differences between genders in spite of our shared employer and shared profession."

## Sean Doolittle

Former Cavalier and current Nationals reliever Sean Doolittle is noted for his outspoken nature as well as his career accomplishments which include a 2019 World Series ring. A vocal supporter of veterans, Doolittle participates in the Nationals' Salute to Service project, engaging with surviving family members of American troops before games at Nationals Park. He is also a supporter of Operation Finally Home, which builds and furnishes housing for wounded soldiers once they return home from duty. He has taken to Twitter on a number of occasions to make his stances clear on a variety of issues, including LGBTQ+ inclusivity, Syrian refugee aid and the rejection of the white supremacist views on display at the "Unite The Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 11 and 12, 2017.

"People say, 'If we don't give them attention, they'll go away,'" Doolittle tweeted in August of 2017 in a thread regarding the rally. "Maybe. But if we don't condemn this evil, it might continue to spread."



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In 2017, former Virginia football star Chris Long donated his NFL game checks to educational institutions, promoting learning accessibility and opportunity for children that may not otherwise receive it.

More recently, Doolittle has been open in his criticism of President Donald Trump, even rejecting the White House invitation that followed his 2019 World Series championship, citing his mockery of the disabled and his own support of LGBTQ+ rights.

"I used to care a lot about what other people thought, like teammates," Doolittle said in a 2018 interview with The Washington Post. "But then, I feel like in this atmosphere, and in general, if people can tell that you're being genuine — if this is something you really care about, if this is something you know a lot about — people will respect that."

## Chris Long

It would be negligent to discuss Virginia Athletics alumni and activism without mentioning Long. The former Rams, Patriots and Eagles defensive end, two-time Super Bowl champion and 2019 NFL Man of the Year supports a host of causes and the Chris Long Foundation has no shortage of initiatives. One such initiative is the Grub4Good fund that benefits the Charlottesville community by providing for free meals as well supporting and supplementing lost revenue to local restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Long is also the architect behind the Waterboys initiative, the foundation which inspired Brogdon's work, as both organizations strive to raise funds and awareness towards clean water in East Africa. Like Doolittle, Long supports veterans and their families by making donations to Homes For Our Troops and Merging Vets and Players as well as hosting events for those that served our country.

In 2017, Long donated his game checks to educational institutions,

promoting learning accessibility and opportunity for children that may not otherwise receive it. This was in part a response to the "Unite the Right" rally and the controversy surrounding it in the Charlottesville area.

"Educational opportunity and equity are the best gateway to a better tomorrow for everyone in America," Long said on his foundation's website.

Like Doolittle, Long is active on Twitter and is open in his criticism of Trump. After he won his second Super Bowl, he declined the White House invitation extended to him, citing the President's comments about the Charlottesville rallies as one of the reasons in which he remarked that there were "very fine people on both sides." Long was unequivocal in his stance and emphasized this in an interview with CNN, stating that the decision was beyond political preference.

"For me, it's not just about politics," Long said. "To me, it's about doing the right thing. It's not about choosing sides or anything. It's simply about right and wrong."

These athletes, along with many other Virginia Athletics alumni, perpetuate and continue the history of using sports as a platform to lift up viewpoints or causes that are topical and important in society. We have already seen a new generation of student athletes discovering their voices as activists at the University such as football's Groundskeepers Initiative or the Barnett twins and their Instagram account, @athletes4blm.

"This idea of a long history of activism, of sports men and women using their platforms to talk about social justice issues is really important," Hagerman said.





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all-of-us  
thing.**



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