

FINAL ROUND



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ELECTION WAS DECIDED BY
154,188 VOTES IN MICHIGAN**

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Election Day: Nov. 5, 2024

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A note from the editor-in-chief



By Lauren Rice
Editor-in-chief

It's amazing what's possible when working with a team — and the right one. For the first part of my life, I was bound and determined to do everything alone, just to prove that I could.

This printed paper that you're holding is proof to the opposite. Not proof that I am incapable of something, but proof that so much more is possible with help.

When the semester started, the paper that you're holding was just an idea, a goal that felt distant. If I had been the only one working on it, it wouldn't have come to fruition as beautifully as it has.

The team that put this paper together, along with the articles that we didn't have room for and the content that can't be printed, has far exceeded my expectations in the best possible way. I'm lucky to work alongside so many individuals with a zest for this public service of journalism and the gumption to keep at it.

As I sit here, with a pipe and a velvet smoking jacket in front of my fireplace (OK, not really), I'm reminded that this is a more-broadly applicable idea. I'm reminded that not only do I work in an office full of intelligent people who can achieve great things when we work together, I also live in a country full of interesting, intelligent and passionate people.

That is what keeps me hopeful about the future of our country. Regardless of your political affiliation, there is fear of negative change on both sides. That's not an unreasonable thing to worry about.

But what's more prominent in my mind is disunity. I won't go down memory lane to times where everybody loved everybody else, regardless of political affiliation, because I don't have those memories. I never lived in those times. I sometimes wonder if they ever really happened.

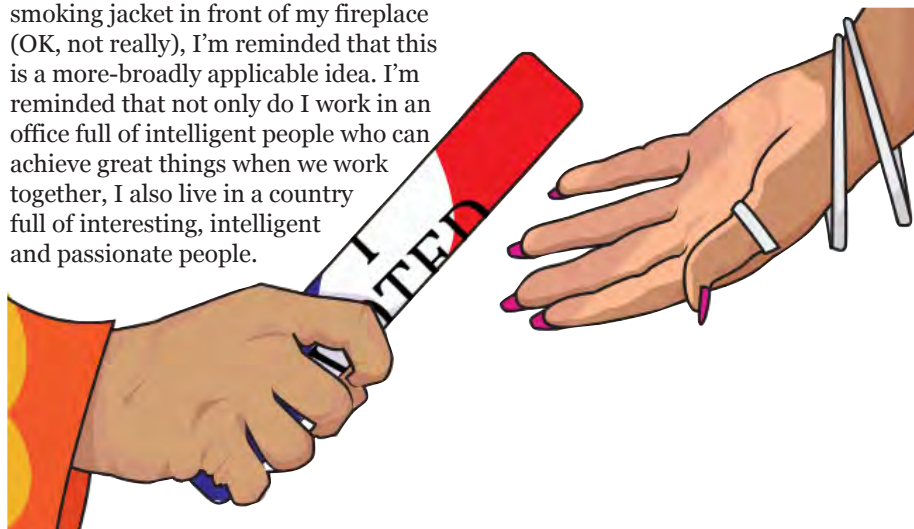
Instead, I will keep dreaming. Not in a dismissive way, but in a "first step" kind of way. And I encourage you all to keep dreaming; to keep imagining the way you want the world to work, with reliable, trustworthy politicians responding to the needs of their constituents.

Maybe your dream is more inclusivity or less civil unrest. Maybe your dream is government reform, guaranteed freedoms, or safe schools to send your children to.

A dream without plans will stay a dream, and plans without action will never leave the ground. So find some like-minded people, make a plan and demand that your dreams for the state, country and world become a reality. If I can do it, so can you. All I ask is that you educate yourself while doing so.

We hear a lot about "Donald Trump's America" or "Kamala Harris's America," but please take ownership of your country. This is not one person's country. This is our country.

Lauren Rice is Central Michigan Life's 2024-25 editor in chief. She is a senior majoring in journalism and minoring in political science and public law.



On the cover and above: CM Life illustrations by Zoey Lawrence

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Ballots in Isabella County will ask voters to approve or deny a request for funding for the County Sheriff's road patrol. Find out what other residents are thinking.



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Odds are this isn't the first news coverage of the election you've seen. You might be tired of it, but so are we! Our editorial board explains why we keep working anyway.



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If you're stressed, confused, fearful or just ready to shut down this election season, you're not alone. The good news is, there are plenty of ways to care for yourself amid the onslaught and anxiety.



ONLINE



Dig deeper

This Election Year, *Central Michigan Life* undertook an intensive initiative to cover campus, city, county, state and federal government and politics. Scan the QR code to read the entirety of our coverage.

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NEWS

Pain in the gas

A case study in inflation

Whether powering homes or fueling cars, rising energy costs have been a cornerstone of concern for American adults for several years. According to a June survey of 2,467 American adults conducted by consumer technology, services and trends publication CNET:

- 78% of all U.S. respondents said they were concerned about rising home energy costs
- 32% of respondents said they were relying on borrowing and payment plans to afford their energy bills.

The following is a quick look at the peaks and valleys of American fuel rates throughout the 21st century.

Consumer prices of gasoline

Dollars per gallon; source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

\$1.127

December 2001

\$5.032

June 2022

\$3.261

October 2024

Consumer prices of natural gas

Dollars per thousand cubic feet; source: American Gas Association

\$7.77

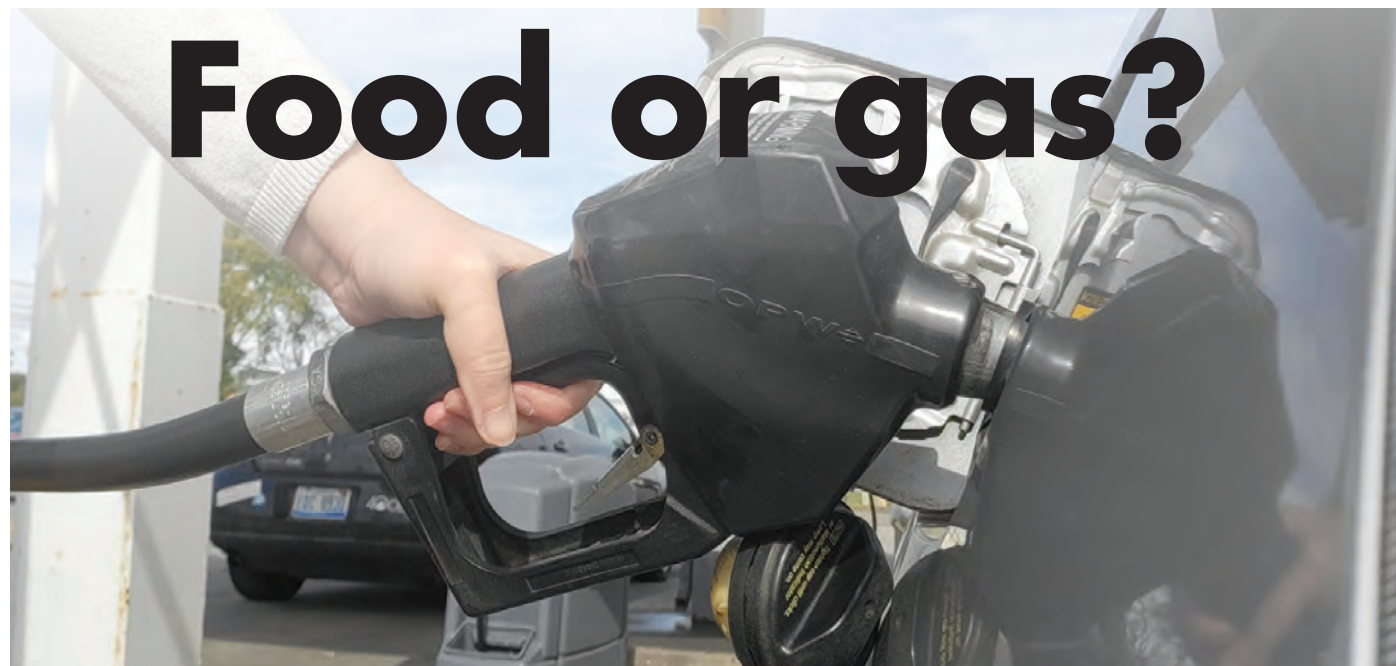
2000

\$15.19

2023

\$12.83

2024



How inflation is shaping voters, policies

By Courtney Boyd and Lydia Soltis
News editor and Staff reporter

Shoppers in downtown Mount Pleasant are all too aware of high grocery bills.

“Everything is expensive,” Barbara Lockwood, a resident of Mount Pleasant, said. “Bread and milk used to be four for a dollar when I was young. Now people on fixed income have to prioritize everything: ‘Which is more important to me this month?’”

Inflation is a measurement of how well supply and demand are balanced. COVID-19 was a major factor in the 2022 inflation spike, for three major reasons:

- Businesses closing
- Government stimulus checks to citizens
- The Federal Reserve handing out money

Jason Taylor, an economist at Central Michigan University said that inflation rises when supply and demand are out of balance. The inflation rate is the year-over-year percentage change in the consumer price index (CPI), which measures the cost of many specific goods and services.

Taylor said that international trade was also a big contributor, as most companies use parts from overseas, even if they build in America.

“Like an American car made by Ford,” he said. “Many parts of that car are made in Mexico or other places around the world. ... Don’t see this as a bad thing; Ford can charge a lower price for their car, which makes them more competitive in the global market.”

Taylor said that Donald Trump’s proposed taxes on imports would actually increase inflation.

“By increasing the cost of imports which, many of the parts in the supply chain are imported, that’s gonna cause the cost of many items in the supply chain to go up,” he said.

Housing costs are also increasing. The cost of homes has risen faster than the average income, and it’s one of the many

economic concerns on the ballot this election.

Both presidential candidates have acknowledged the housing prices. Kamala Harris has promised a \$25,000 grant to first-time home buyers if elected.

Real estate specialists have also expressed concerns over the rising costs. Patrick Bowen, the president and founder of Bowen National Research, said the housing crisis has been building for the last 13 years because of the lack of inventory getting added.

“It is going to take years to get closer to more balanced market conditions,” he said.

Bowen said two generations are affected by the rising costs: Millennials and Baby Boomers. He said rising mortgage rates are effectively locking the market.

“As Baby Boomers retire and downsize, they don’t have anything to downsize to, so they stay in their homes and that freezes the housing market,” he said. “When my wife and I bought our house, the rate was about 3, 4 percent. If I sold now and had to borrow again, it’d be double that.”

He said this is why rent keeps increasing, as developers need to make money off of their projects — an increasingly more-expensive proposition.

“Developers are seen as the bad guy, but they’re really handcuffed because their starting point keeps rising in cost,” he said. “They know there’s a need ... but they can’t make the numbers work.”

In Mount Pleasant, affordable housing options are available through the Mount Pleasant Housing Commission. Annessa Haist, executive director of the commission, said it offers low-income housing and Section 8 housing.

She said rising housing costs have been impacting the Mount Pleasant community for a few years, and families are moving away from the town as a result

“We are all just one unexpected event ... away from needing affordable housing,” she said. “Life’s unpredictability means that financial stability can change quickly, making affordable housing a crucial safety net for anyone.”

Residents unsure about Sheriff's millage

By Lydia Soltis
Staff reporter

Isabella County's ballot includes a yes/no vote for a new millage to support the County Sheriff's department.

The millage would increase the housing tax by \$1.45 per every \$1,000 of assessed taxable value. That would cost the owner of a \$100,000 taxable valued home \$145 per year.

It would keep 22 law enforcement staff plus animal control and admin working at the County Sheriff's Department. If the millage doesn't pass, all deputies working for the county department, which includes road patrol, the sergeants and the detectives could be cut.

"Taxes (would be) up to \$10.89 a month (for me)," said Leigh Clark, wife of one of the County detectives and member of the Friends of Isabella County Facebook page. "I get it that no one wants to pay more, I understand, but \$10.89 a month to keep our deputies on the streets, it's worth more than that."

The Isabella County Sheriff department responds to around 16,500 calls yearly, according to the County Sheriff's website.

"The Sheriff's Office has historically been funded through the county's general fund, which is supported by a separate millage," according to the County Sheriff's Department website. "As funding needs and operational costs have evolved, the Sheriff's Office is now seeking to establish its own dedicated millage to more effectively address the growing demands of public safety."

"If the millage does not pass, the Isabella County Sheriff's Office faces significant budget cuts (that) will result in the reduction or termination of essential services," according to the website. "This includes the elimination of road patrol services, marine and dive team operations, K9 unit activities, accident investigation capabilities, emergency response team participation, community event patrols and support for local law enforcement agencies."

Clark is one of about 14 members of a committee which aims to spread accurate and reliable information about the millage. She said that she is directly affected by the millage through her husband's work, but it also concerns her that Isabella County wouldn't have police in its rural areas.

"We have family of sheriff deputies, we have just concerned citizens with no ties to law enforcement, we have a retired deputy (Dave Patterson)," she said of the committee.

She said the members also share a Facebook page: Friends of Isabella County.

Without the Isabella County Sheriff's department, the County would rely on the State and Mount Pleasant police. The Tribal Police are open on weekdays, and CMUPD is available 24/7 but mostly patrols campus.

Clark said it would take longer for the State police to respond to calls, in case of an emergency. She said that

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.45

The annual cost per \$1,000 assessed value of a property, if the millage were to pass

\$145

The annual cost per \$100,000 of assessed value of a property, under the proposed millage.



CM Life photo | Michael Livingston | File

An Isabella County Sheriff police cruiser sits parked outside the Isabella County Jail at 207 Court St. in this March 2021 file photo.

the Michigan police department is already drawing up plans in case the millage does not pass.

"A few years ago, (people in Mecosta County) voted down the millage," Clark said. "But now they have passed a road patrol millage. They can't fill their vacancies.

"\$10.89 a month, that's the cheapest form of insurance," Clark said. "I will pay \$10.89 10 times over to make sure that someone will respond to emergencies."

Citizen opinions on the millage

People in Isabella County disagree about whether the millage should pass. Many people said that the Sheriff's department has stretched its budget building the prison.

The prison spendings are on budget, although raw materials became more expensive mid-project, according to the County Sheriff's website.

Mitch Reetz lives west of town at Lake Isabella. He said he is undecided about how to vote. He said that some people don't want to pay the extra money after the County's recent budgeting.

"I don't think that's a good thing but I also know how that all goes back to the last election, people are still put off by it after the last election too," he said. "I think people are sour about the jail being built, and now people feel like they have to bail them out."

"I've got mixed feelings about it," Seth Wisney, who lives five miles outside of town in the Mineral Springs area said. "I feel like they took some of the money and used more than they should have on the jail. I'm a hundred percent about supporting the sheriff's department, though."

Wisney said he'd probably vote yes on it just because he thinks they're understaffed.

"Police need resources so I'm probably always going to be in favor of giving police resources," Nicholas Blond, a small business owner in Mount Pleasant said. "They protect our community. They're stretched thin as is."

Jeremy Couturier, a resident of Mount Pleasant, said he wasn't aware of the millage, but he supports funding the County Sheriff's Department.

"I think that living in the community, we have to have public services and to me that seems like an essential one," Couturier said. "If we as a community need to raise more money to do that then we have to. There are a lot more services than running the county sheriff's department."

Couturier listed scenarios like domestic situations and child crises, beyond road patrol, that benefit from police support.

"The situations can escalate quickly and even just having the police support there helps," he said.

Seally Busch is a sophomore attending CMU. She said she has mixed feelings about the millage too.

"I've thought about it and I haven't fully made up my mind what to vote for," she said. "I do believe there is a lot of hypocrisy in Isabella County."

Busch said that last year the county agreed to the prison's construction, but "there's lingering frustration from last year when we voted down the pool." Busch said that it would have helped the community, which has no public pool for swim meets.

"While I haven't made up my mind, it's frustrating," Busch said. "Unfortunately taxes are what's needed for society, and we need to chip in for the good of our community."

"I'll probably vote (yes) but I haven't quite made up my mind."

More than two ideas

Abortion debate continues, even within party lines

By Lauren Rice
Editor-in-chief

The debate between presidential candidates might make the conversation about abortion seem two-sided: allow it, or don't. But for a lot of people, even within the same party, it's not that cut-and-dry.

Part of the debate is also whether to have a national policy, compared to state-by-state policies.

Vice President Kamala Harris said in the presidential debate on Sept. 10 that, if elected, she would sign legislation into law to reinstate the guidelines of the Supreme Court Case *Roe v. Wade*, which was overturned in 2022.

In turn, former President Donald Trump has taken credit for appointing three of the justices to the Supreme Court that ruled to overturn *Roe* with *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, and thanked those justices for having the "courage" to do it.

But what do those cases mean? And what do people who aren't politicians want for abortion regulations?

Roe, Dobbs and impact

The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* case was based on a woman's challenge to a Texas law banning abortions, with only exceptions for the health of the mother.

According to Oyez, a project through Cornell Law School that summarizes and compiles Supreme Court cases, there was one central question to resolve: "Does the Constitution recognize a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?"

In this case, the justices ruled that it does, based on a right to privacy, but it depends on the trimester of the pregnancy.

- First trimester: The decision can only be made by the pregnant person and their doctor.
- Second trimester: The state can impose regulations to protect the health of the pregnant person.
- Third trimester: When the fetus can live outside the womb, states can regulate and/or prohibit abortions.

That ruling was the standard for almost 50 years, until the 2022 case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* came along.

The *Dobbs* case, according to Oyez, started with a law passed in Mississippi in 2018 that would ban abortions after 15 weeks. According to Oyez, the key question to answer here is "Is Mississippi's law banning nearly all abortions after 15 weeks' gestational age unconstitutional?"

Here, the Supreme Court said no, overruling the *Roe* decision and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* (1992), and effectively delegating the issue to be decided by individual states.



CM Life photo illustration | Nico Mendoza | file

In the time since, the Guttmacher Institute has documented (as of Oct. 16) 13 states that have put a total abortion ban in place and four more passed a ban after six weeks of pregnancy.

Guttmacher also recorded four states, including Michigan, that added abortion as a protected right in their constitutions. Here's what Michigan's neighboring states have put in place:

- Wisconsin: Banned 20 weeks after fertilization with several legal restrictions
- Illinois: Only banned after fetal viability, with legal protections for privacy and insurance coverage
- Indiana: Completely banned with minimal exceptions
- Ohio: Constitutional protection, but some legal restrictions

To the states?

Erica Shekell is the communications director for Michigan Planned Parenthood Votes. She said having those inconsistencies between states can also make it harder for people in protected states to access health services.

"Having out-of-state people in Michigan not only delays abortion services, but other types of care," Shekell said. "It really creates a domino effect having different states banning care."

The effects are a higher barrier to entry, she said, where people who need an abortion have to save up money and vacation days to access it. In turn, that waiting forces people further along in their pregnancies, until they've violated their state's time limit.

Shekell said having different states with different regulations creates a "confusing patchwork of laws." Instead, she said a national policy "like Michigan's, but better" would be ideal.

That sentiment was echoed by Steven Alee, president of College Republicans at Central Michigan University. The national policies he and Shekell are interested in are different, but both expressed an interest in national regulations.

Within the Republican party, Alee said people have different approaches to the issue, with some in favor of the *Dobbs* decision and state decision making.

Alee said he, and other Republicans in the organization, would prefer a national policy to only permit abortions in cases of rape, incest or health risks to the pregnant person.

"We have to remember that the people on both sides of this issue aren't coming from a bad place ... we just have a different moral basis, which is hard to resolve," Alee said.

'One thing I'm personally taking to the polls'

Immigration is a major talking point in 2024. How much does it matter to young voters?

By **Blace Carpenter**
Staff reporter

Since the founding of America, immigration has played a role in the development of the country's history, culture and politics. Today, it is a highly continuous topic for Americans and remains one of the leading concerns for voters in the upcoming election.

Is immigration a key issue for registered voters at CMU?

A recent survey from the Pew Research Center shows that nearly 6 in 10 registered voters say immigration will play a major role in their decision at the polls on Election Day.

The topic is the second leading issue (82%) for supporters of former President Donald Trump. In contrast, only 39% of Vice President Kamala Harris's supporters who were surveyed said it was a main concern.

Ammy Nguyen was born in Vietnam and immigrated to America at 4 years old. Now in her senior year at Central Michigan University, Nguyen says she will be thinking about her family and their journey to become United States citizens when she votes this November.

"It's probably one of the bigger issues I'm touching on, especially with all the rhetoric that's been going around," Nguyen said. "That's one thing that's been really isolating and harmful towards immigrant communities. So that's one thing I'm personally taking to the polls."

Nguyen said that her father spent time as a refugee in Laos after the Vietnam War at 14 years old, and later emigrated to the United States. Nguyen said that she is disappointed in the country's current system.

"I have family that have been waiting almost 20 years to immigrate to America," Nguyen said. "Once my father passed in 2021, their (relatives) paperwork wasn't even allowed to transfer to my mom."

"So what we spent 18 years on was completely lost because she wasn't considered family to them because there was no blood relation."

Jordan Craighead is a senior at CMU and a fellow for One Michigan, a youth-led immigration organization. She said she has also been "disheartened by the rhetoric around immigration." She said she feels like it is "dangerous" and "un-American."

"I think it's terrifying the way that some people choose to speak about immigration," Craighead said. "I think it's our duty to make sure we are a country that does not subscribe to hate."

Senior Madison Rioux said that the topic of immigration is important, but there are other issues she is more worried about as a voter.

"Just with me going into education and different



CM Life photo | Ella Miller | file
A name tag reading 'Dreamer' sits on the table next to the panelists during Empowering Immigrant and Undocumented Students in Higher Education in this September 2023 file photo.

things like that, I may have more focuses a little bit higher — somewhere else — but it's not discarded," Rioux said.

America was built on immigration. Now what?

The Pew Research Center shows the U.S. is currently home to 46.1 million immigrants, nearly 14% of the U.S. population, and continues to be the leading country in immigration globally.

CMU Professor Alejandra Rengifo specializes in Caribbean, Colombian and Latino literature and culture. Raised in Cali, Colombia, and immigrating to the United States herself, she said that immigration has played a vital role in the nation's history.

"We all know that this country was founded on immigration," Rengifo said. "Especially (from) England, and later on the Irish and all other parts of the world."

"The 19th century and 20th century was a little bit of a change. ... (People) stopped coming from Europe but started coming from down south."

She said that immigrants bring growth to the U.S. economy and contribute to a variety of fields in the workforce.

"I'm a professor and I'm here," Rengifo said. "I can tell you about doctors who are Spanish-speaking and CEOs. ... A huge chunk of the economy of the U.S. depends on migrant workers."

In April, the Associated Press reported that immigrants helped close labor shortages and boost produc-

tivity by opening up small businesses or creating patents, fighting off a potential recession.

Rengifo said that immigration continues to contribute to the country's education, history and culture.

"Immigration is a richness. Immigration is good not only because of the workforce but for the academia and artistry," she said.

Where do presidential candidates stand on immigration?

Steven Alee, president of CMU's College Republicans, said Trump supporters are concerned about the increase in unauthorized migrants to the U.S. since President Joe Biden took office.

"Immigration is a big concern for me and other Trump supporters because we are really concerned about the high number of illegal immigrants coming across the southern border," Alee said. "We are concerned about all the other issues like that, such as the human trafficking, increase in fentanyl overdoses, increased crime rates that may cause, and the strain it puts on our resources."

Trump promised voters that he would conduct mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, using agencies such as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and state and local authorities if elected, according to the Washington Post.

"When you look at Trump's past, he was able to get illegal crossings down a lot more through increased security measures," Alee explained. "I think he will take a similar approach as he did in his first term, which did bring down a lot of the illegal border crossings."

During Trump's presidency, the government had a strict "zero tolerance" policy, which allowed authorities to deport any adult who crossed the U.S. border illegally.

In the Sept. 10 presidential debate, Trump repeatedly claimed that crime has skyrocketed and that much is being caused by immigrants.

This past June, the FBI reported that crime has been decreasing over the past year, with data showing that violent crime rates dropped by 15.2% and murder rates by 26.4% compared to the first quarterly report of 2023. A subsequent story published in USA Today, showed immigrants commit significantly fewer crimes than people born in the U.S.

Harris, who is a second-generation immigrant, she supported the bipartisan border bill, a bill that would have tightened asylum laws and allowed the president more power over border regulations. The bill was blocked by Senate Republicans in a 43-50 vote.

"I know that her campaign is focused on keeping families together and making sure that (they have) the dignity and the self-determination that they need to live a successful life," Craighead said.

United States President

THE ISSUES



KAMALA
HARRIS

DEMOCRAT



DONALD
TRUMP

REPUBLICAN

| See guides.vote for online guides with links & source | kamalaharris.com | donaldjtrump.com |
|---|--|---|
| ABORTION Ban or legal? | Legal. “Every woman should have the right to make decisions about her own body.” “This fight is about freedom.” With Biden, strengthened abortion pill access and abortion patient protections, overturned Trump Planned Parenthood federal funding ban. Would sign national abortion rights bill if Congress passed. | Ban. “After 50 years of failure, I was able to kill Roe v. Wade.” Did so by appointing three anti-abortion Supreme Court Justices. It was “a miracle.” States should decide for themselves, potentially monitoring women’s pregnancies and prosecuting women for getting abortions. Abortion is “really not that big of an issue.” |
| CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? | Yes. We’re seeing the climate crisis “every day...in real time.” “We must do more.” Cast the deciding vote to commit \$369 billion to climate and clean energy, the biggest investment in US history. Supported \$1.2 trillion in infrastructure; includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions. No longer would ban hydraulic fracking. | No. Climate change is a “hoax.” The world will “start getting cooler.” Withdrew from the Paris climate pact. Will expand coal and oil production. “I want to drill, baby, drill.” Asked oil and gas executives to donate \$1 billion so he could reverse Biden’s climate initiatives. |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement? | Police are dedicated public servants. As a prosecutor increased felony convictions by one third. But “public safety requires community trust.” Has supported better training, banning choke holds, and prosecuting police misconduct. | Police are “under siege.” Cut back active federal oversight of excess force, though supported a database to track it. Admires Chinese approach of quick trials and a death penalty for drug dealers so there will be a “zero drug problem.” |
| ECONOMY How to improve the economy and make daily life more affordable. | Expand child tax credit. Give tax credits for affordable housing builders and subsidize first-time home buyers. Restrict price gouging on groceries and lower drug costs by negotiating prices. Supported bipartisan infrastructure bill. | Increase taxes (tariffs) on imported goods. Cut housing demand with mass deportations. To lower prices, would deregulate businesses, rein in “wasteful federal spending” and unleash American energy. Opposed infrastructure bill. |
| EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity? | No. In Florida “extremists... passed a law, ‘Don’t Say Gay,’ trying to instill fear in our teachers.” Now, “they want to replace history with lies,” teaching “that enslaved people benefited from slavery.” Children should be “taught the truth.” | Yes. Certify teachers who “embrace patriotic values.” Would “cut federal funding” for any school “pushing critical race theory, gender ideology.” Restricted diversity training for federal employees and contractors. |
| ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden win the 2020 Presidential election? | Yes. “The [election] results were certified by state after state and reaffirmed by court after court.” “On January 6, we all saw what our nation would look like if the forces who seek to dismantle our democracy are successful.” | No. Called the election a “Big Lie” and a “Massive Fraud” that would justify “termination” of parts of Constitution. Called those who stormed U.S. Capitol “unbelievable patriots.” Would pardon them fully. |
| GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun regulations? | Tighten. “Every person deserves the freedom to live safe from gun violence.” Supported the bipartisan gun safety bill and required background checks for gun show & online sales. | Loosen. To NRA, “no one will lay a finger on your firearms.” Plans to roll back Biden gun restrictions. Reversed Obama-era background checks for those with mental illnesses. |
| HEALTHCARE Repeal or expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare? | Expand. “Health care is a right, not a privilege.” Cast a tie-breaking Senate vote to expand ACA & lower Medicare drug prices, including a \$35 monthly insulin cost. Would link drug costs to costs that comparable wealthy nations pay. | Repeal. “Terminate.” “Obamacare is a catastrophe.” As President, promised to replace it with “something terrific,” but repeal failed in the Senate by one vote. Supported an unsuccessful lawsuit to overturn it. |

| ISSUES | HARRIS (D) | TRUMP (R) |
|--|--|---|
| IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children? | Supports “comprehensive immigration reform.” Backed the bipartisan Senate border security bill. Rejects mass deportation of undocumented immigrants. “We are a nation of immigrants.... let us all address [the issue] with the urgency and seriousness it requires.” Supports pathways to citizenship for DACA participants and undocumented spouses of citizens. | Illegal immigrants are “poisoning the blood of our country.” Will use the National Guard and local police, with possible detention camps, to deport 15 to 20 million illegal immigrants. Opposed the bipartisan Senate immigration bill. Tried to end DACA; Supreme Court overruled. Would renew his Muslim ban and end automatic citizenship for everyone born in US |
| ISRAEL/GAZA Response to Israel’s invasion of Gaza following October Hamas attack? | “We need” a cease-fire & a two-state solution. “Israel has a right to defend itself.” But “too many innocent Palestinians have been killed... Civilian suffering... [is] devastating.” Palestinians and Israelis both “are entitled to security.” | Has supported Israeli action, “get the job done.” Says Israel releasing images of bombed Gaza buildings loses “the PR war.” Gaza protesters are “raging lunatics and Hamas sympathizers.” Would deport student protesters. |
| LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize? | Easier. “Unions built” the American middle class. “We are fighting to protect the sacred right to organize.” Backs pro-union laws. Walked UAW picket line. Build “an economy where every person, not just the wealthy,” can thrive. | Harder. Made it harder for unions to organize. Restricted federal employee collective bargaining. Praised employers who fire striking workers: “They go on strike...and you say... ‘You’re all gone.’” Striking Auto Workers were “sold down the river by their leadership.” |
| LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights? | Expand. In 2004, officiated some of the nation’s first same-sex marriages. Helped repeal California’s anti-gay marriage initiative. Biden administration protected LGBTQ medical patients from discrimination. | Limit. Weakened an Obama order protecting LGBTQ federal contractors from discrimination. Banned transgender military servicemembers and ended anti-discrimination protections for transgender patients. |
| MARIJUANA Ban or legal? | Legal. “Nobody should have to go to jail for smoking weed.” Legalize and regulate. Supports Biden’s easing federal prohibition. | Unclear. It does “significant damage.” Reversed Obama rule to not prosecute in states where legal, but ultimately didn’t prosecute. |
| MINIMUM WAGE Raise federal minimum from \$7.25 an hour? | Yes. Supports Congress raising the national minimum wage to \$15. Biden administration raised to \$15 for federal contractors. | No. A \$15 minimum wage would “eliminate jobs.” Threatened to veto. Questioned need for a federal minimum wage: let the states decide. |
| SOCIAL SECURITY Cut Social Security or raise retirement age to stabilize program? | No. Would protect and stabilize Social Security by making wealthier Americans pay into Social Security at the same rate as everyone else; they’d keep paying in above their current \$168,600/year income cap. | Mostly yes. There’s “a lot you can do in... cutting.” Also flags bad management. Proposed \$35 billion cuts in Social Security disability programs. But “will never do anything” to “hurt Social Security.” |
| STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them? | Yes. Supported Biden forgiving \$144 billion for over 4 million borrowers, after the Supreme Court blocked the Biden-Harris \$430 billion forgiveness plan. | No. Called student loan forgiveness “unfair” to those not attending college. Vetoed forgiving loans of defrauded students. Proposed cutting support programs for student borrowers. |
| TAXES Raise or lower taxes on the wealthy and corporations? | Raise. Voted against Trump tax cuts, which included the largest corporate cut in US history. Supported increasing corporate tax rates. To boost teacher salaries, proposed raising estate taxes on the very wealthy. | Lower. His 2017 tax cut included the largest corporate cuts in US history and major tax cuts for the wealthy. Would extend and expand when they expire in 2025. Raising business taxes “will lead to the destruction of your jobs.” |
| UKRAINE/RUSSIA Support defending Ukraine against Russian invasion? | Yes. “Regarding Putin’s unprovoked, unjustified war against Ukraine... we are committed to... defend democratic values and stand up to dictators.” | Mostly no. To end the war, will push Ukraine to give up territory to Russia. Russia should “do whatever the hell they want” to NATO countries that don’t pay enough. |
| VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier? | Easier. Pass bills to protect voting rights and make voting and registration easier. Biden administration directed federal agencies to help people register. | Harder. Has long supported stronger voter ID requirements. Sued to bar ballot drop boxes. Encouraged Republicans to vote early but said early ballots “get lost” or are “phony.” |

guides.vote is a nonpartisan effort to show where candidates stand. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We include candidates polling 15% or more; use the QR code on the right for online versions, including links to credible sources and other candidates. **Vote411.org** offers guides to local races and how to vote. For campuses, see Campus Vote Project’s state-specific guides to student voting rules.



OPINION

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

— *The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*

YOUR TURN

We welcome letters to the editor and guest columns. All submissions columns must include a name, address, organization university affiliation (if any) and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. *Central Michigan Life* reserves the right to edit all letters and columns for style, length, libel, redundancy, clarity, civility and accuracy. Letters should be no more than 450 words in length. Longer guest columns must remain under 750 words. CM Life reserves the right to print any original content as a letter or guest column. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Covering politics, serving democracy

Trust us, we get it. Every newspaper page you flip, every news website you visit, any search engine or social media website you open, you're getting politics shoved in your face.

As the ones writing about it and reporting on it, we're getting just as tired of it as you.

What makes it "worse" this year is it's an election year; it's inescapable. We know that after a certain point, even the mostly politically invested people get tired of it. But at the same time, the abundance of information is beneficial, and even necessary, to understand every aspect of this election.

Who is still looking into whether Vice President Kamala Harris worked at McDonald's in the 1980s? Or found that former president Donald Trump's "small loan" from his father was much larger than he claimed?

Who were the ones hosting and fact checking the president and vice president debates, and who are the ones still ruthlessly providing you information with less than a week until the election?

Journalists are.

Maybe you will argue that the news can be politics-free. To that, we ask you to look at the role media has played in documenting and chronicling some of the extraordinary and historic events of the last four years: the Jan. 6 insurrection, the multiple attempted assassinations on Trump and Joe Biden dropping out of the race and endorsing Harris in his place, to name a few.

Multiple people reported on it through social media — but who verified the information and continued to ask questions to get the facts right?

Journalists did.

You may be tired of hearing the same things over and over again. As students studying the field and working within the industry, so are we. But you cannot deny the importance of journalism in politics, both on a historical level and on a personal level, so that the public can intimately understand what is going on in their own country.

There isn't an easy definition of a journalist. The standard might once have been "someone who works for a news organization."

Now that we live in the age of digital media where formal news organizations aren't the only ones that can publish information, the definition has to be boiled down to its basic components.

It would be fair to say that a journalist is someone who seeks information with the intent to publish it in a way that's fair, accurate and educational. That can be anyone from employees of traditional news outlets to independent bloggers and content creators.

But the role of true journalists — not TV personalities, not every content creator — has immense impact.

Think about this election. If you pictured Harris and former Trump on the debate stage, remember that the debate was moderated by ABC News and the journalists who wanted to provide voters with information.

Maybe you thought back to an article from your local newspaper that provided you even more information.

Journalists are everywhere (hopefully not causing you anxiety), and we have been for a long time. Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were the famed reporters who covered the Watergate robbery during Richard Nixon's Presidency.

Both of those reporters, like the rest of us today, had to work hard and build relationships with sources (and be pretty nosy) over a long period of time before any of that would have been possible. That's the product of a successful career, not the start of one.

You might have even heard us called "muckrakers" — a once-derogatory nickname for the journalists in the 1890s-1920s, like Ida Tarbell and Upton Sinclair, who made names for themselves as thorns in the sides of people in power.

They weren't afraid to get into the nitty gritty, the less-than-picturesque parts of life in the United States. It is in their honor that we aren't either.

It's not always big-picture victories, it's the everyday work. It's covering (arguably dry) local government meetings where the decisions that impact our lives the most are made.

Democracy demands journalism, and so should you.

It's breaking down a federal election by issue, rather than by candidate, because informed decisions are based on policy, not personality.

It's sitting in on the meetings of the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees to see how they've decided to spend your tuition dollars.

An effective democracy requires an informed, decision-making public. Without it, our sole source of information is individuals who have a vested interest in a positive interpretation of their messages.

Tired of election coverage in your feed? At least it's reliable. Democracy demands journalists, and so should you.

So, how, you may ask, does *Central Michigan Life* make its editorial decisions?

The goal for our political coverage is to inform our community — CMU students and Mount Pleasant residents.

We are here to bring you news about your local government and localize the national news by finding out how it impacts us here, in Mount Pleasant.

Jim Wojcik has been a journalism professor at CMU for over 50 years. Out

of those, he was a CM Life advisor for 30 years. Before, Wojcik worked as a sports editor at a daily newspaper.

He said that the best community is the one that's informed accurately and fairly.

"I used to say the future of journalism was local journalism, and to me, that is the only thing that I think has a chance of saving journalism," Wojcik said.

In our coverage, CM Life is guided by journalistic principles and ethics. We follow the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics that tells us to:

- Seek and report truth
- Minimize harm
- Be accountable and transparent
- Serve the public and be independent

Wojcik said that in today's world, he worries about the freedom of the press, freedom of the speech and the credibility of journalism. He said the public's trust in journalism has been broken and many people think that news is one-sided.

"I could give you names for every major network that I think leans politically one way or another," Wojcik said. "I shouldn't be able to do that. ... You've heard the

old line, the toothpaste is out of the tube, you're not getting it back in. ... To me, that trust is the toothpaste."

In our political coverage this election season, we are hoping to bring that trust back by providing CMU and Mount Pleasant with accurate, fair and balanced news reporting.

That is why we sent questionnaires to local candidates from both parties; we are going to cover both Republican and Democratic watch parties on Tuesday; and in our stories, we strive to give voice to both perspectives.

Our newsroom policy is to have at least three sources in a news story, two of which must be interviews with people. It is important for us that our sources also represent different voices and perspectives, for example, in "More than two ideas," Editor-in-Chief Lauren Rice interviewed both Planned Parenthood and the College Republicans.

But giving voice to different perspectives doesn't mean spreading lies — we double check whether what the source says is true, and you can follow the attached links in our stories to where we received information.

Similarly, we cover news that happens locally. If Democratic candidate for Senate Elissa Slotkin visits CMU campus, we will cover it. But if Republican candidate for Senate Mike Rogers didn't come to campus — there is nothing to cover.

In our editorial decisions, we are also guided by journalistic principles of what is newsworthy: timeliness, proximity, impact, human interest, conflict, prominence and oddness.

But most importantly, we make those decisions independently. No one — not CMU, not the local political parties and not people who buy our advertising space — tells us what to cover.

For every person on the editorial staff of CM Life, journalism is not just our greatest passion, but also a value that we hold and that is vital for democracy.

Press is the only profession that is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That is also something we remember when we do our work here at CM Life, because we are here to serve our local public and protect democracy.



By Keara Banks
Staff reporter

You aren't alone in feeling upset, stressed or just blatantly confused going into this November. Trust me, I am upping my meds as we speak.

How are you supposed to feel safe and comfortable with politics when you can't discuss it without starting an argument? The topics and beliefs that most affect your life, you can't discuss without being called "rude." Tell me what is rude about wanting to know why you believe what you believe?

As someone who has dreamed about voting in my first presidential election since I was 8 years old, it is so upsetting to know that I can barely acknowledge who I am voting for or why, because that's now seen as an attack.

Politics on the brain

Despite popular belief, it is impossible for an individual to be non-partisan. Politics is the world you live and breathe every day.

And being partisan isn't objectively a bad thing: Hurray, you have core values! Being partisan means we get to have actual impactful conversations.

It's not revolutionary to want a middle ground conversation, but those happen best when you can understand and grow from a new perspective.

As most of us are aware, these conversations are not a walk in the park. They are difficult and take a lot of courage. This stress builds up, but it doesn't have to keep you from being active in the government that you're supposed to have a voice in.

Whether it is election stress or everyday anxiety, Central Michigan University has an abundance of resources available to help.

You can also join various registered student organizations, intended to help you understand the current climate. Central Votes is a great way to learn about the decision you have to make; or if you are looking to get involved with your political party, they both have on-campus RSOs.

Currently my personal favorite way to balance stress is to write down what I'm scared about, and why I think I'm fearful of that. My most recent fear was about a few certain

politicians threatening my reproductive and marital rights. I handled it by listing what all possible scenarios were and how I would work around it.

Another option that I recommend to anyone is having an open-ended conversation. Talk to your roommate about how the folks that table and holler at you and make you anxious (P.S. I am one of those people tabling for an RSO, and I apologize in advance.)

You can also rant, cry or throw a shoe at the wall. Well ... maybe don't throw a shoe,

but you get the point.

The bottom line is that you can't bundle all your anger and stress during this season. Express those thoughts before you write down your vote; otherwise, it could cloud your vision of who to vote for or whether you participate at all.

Your vote matters, and so do you.

Keara Banks is a freshman majoring in political science with minors in public law and leadership.



Power to change lives

Ukrainian fight for democracy continues and you have power in it



By Masha Smahliuk
Managing Editor

As American people are about to make a life-changing decision this November, there is a part of the world where people's lives changed almost three years ago and never became the same.

Since February 2022, Russia has been murdering, torturing, raping, looting and bombing thousands of Ukrainians, in an ongoing campaign to erase the Ukrainian identity and culture. There is no person from Ukraine who isn't being affected by this war daily; every single one has been scarred by it.

And I am one of those people, right next to you on Central Michigan University's campus.

As someone who was born and raised in Ukraine, I grew up with a deep love for our beautiful traditions, ancient language, rich culture and gorgeous land. And something that is very important to mention about this war is that it didn't start just three years ago.

Historical relationships between Ukraine and Russia

It was 2014, and Russian soldiers invaded Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

I remember watching TV and being terrified that Russia would soon take my home and life. Since 2014, when I hear an airplane nearby, I still run and hide in the bathroom.

We had an anti-terrorism operation start in 2014, and the war was going on, but mostly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In Crimea, Russia held an unlawful election, threatening



CM Life photo | Ashley Morse | file
Head organizer and fellow Ukraine citizen, Marina Valoshina (right), leading the No War March from the Student Activity to the Korean War Memorial in this March 26, 2022, file photo.

people to vote to join Russia. Russia also banned indigenous Crimea Tatars government, organizations and media.

But Russia has always had imperial tastes and mentality. The systematic oppressions of Ukrainians started in the late 17th century. After Ukraine lost the war to Rzeczpospolita (now Poland), it signed a protectorate with Moscovia. The protectorate promised an independence of Ukraine, but soon Moscovia broke the promise and occupied our land.

Moving to the next century, the Russian Empire burned down Zaporizhzhya Sich (Cossack state), and banned Ukrainian language, literature, schools and theater.

Some time later, the Soviet government was terrorizing Ukrainian people and created a man-made famine, known as Holodomor. It is a recognized genocide of the Ukrainian people that took the lives of about 4 million.

The Soviet regime also killed Ukrainian writers and intelligentsia, and those mass murders were known as the "Executed Renaissance." In the

death records, Soviets wrote that the reason of death is being "Ukrainian."

Ukraine and the fight for independence

But the Ukrainian identity and political ideas survived all those oppressions. Ukrainians had underground organizations, armies, writers and thought leaders who have been fighting for our independence for four centuries.

Today our fight continues. It doesn't take place just on the battlefield; there are huge informational, cultural and educational fronts that are so important.

As you can see, Ukraine and Russia have never been "brother nations," despite what Russian propaganda says.

We have never wanted Russia to bring the war to our home in the 21st century. There were also no reasons for Russia to attack us except for ambition: the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine have never been discriminated against, and there were no Nazis in Ukraine.

We do not want this war, and all that

Ukrainian people dream about is the victory for Ukraine, independence of our home and safety for our families. But it is very hard to have a conversation with an aggressor who broke into your house and put a gun to your head.

Russia doesn't want peace, because if they did, they would have never started this war. Russia has violated every single peace treaty and cease fire that it signed.

That's why our war continues, and we need your help.

Same ideas, same mentality

American values of freedom, independence and democracy have always resonated with Ukrainians. The United States is a model for us of how we want our country to be.

We are forever grateful to every single American who has been supporting and standing with us. We see you, and your support has saved thousands of us, if not all.

And no, your taxes don't go straight to Ukraine. In fact, 90% of American aid to Ukraine stays in the United States, according to the Washington Post. The funds don't go directly to Ukraine; they are being used to build new weapons for the United States and send the old ones to Ukraine. This creates new jobs for Americans and strengthens the American economy.

Ukraine can be a very important strategic ally for the United States because of our location, natural resources and same-minded people.

But more important than any strategic affairs, there are people's lives and freedoms at stake.

Here in the United States you have precious privilege and luxury to vote, advocate for issues that concern you and fight for truth.

In your vote this November, you have the power to change my life and the lives of millions in Ukraine.

Masha Smahliuk, an international student from Ukraine, is Central Michigan Life's managing editor. She is a junior majoring in journalism and minoring in political science and creative writing.

A duty and a privilege



By **Harry Krafchak**
Central Civics Coalition

The 2024 election is right around the corner, and with it comes a litany of new candidates, ideas and policies that will shape the future of our nation.

The right to vote and participate in our democratic system has been enshrined in the United States for hundreds of years, and it is not only our right but our responsibility to utilize that power. By doing so, we ensure that our government reflects our collective needs, values and beliefs.

One of the critical battlegrounds in the upcoming election is the state of Michigan. Michigan is widely regarded as one of the key “swing states” that could determine the outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

Alongside six other pivotal states, Michigan’s role in the electoral college is crucial. In 2020, President Joe Biden won Michigan by a slim margin of just 2.6 percentage points, a close race that highlighted how every vote truly counts.

Similarly, in the 2020 Senate race, Democratic Senator Gary Peters narrowly defeated his Republican challenger, John James, by an even tighter margin of 1.7 percentage points. These razor-thin margins emphasize just how influential the Michigan electorate can be in determining the country’s political future.

As we approach the 2024 election, the race is even closer. As of Sept. 19, the two major presidential candidates are separated by just 2.7 percentage points. The margin is narrowing as election day draws nearer.

With two polar opposite candidates

vying for control of the Oval Office, partisanship has become more evident and has had a profound impact on the American electorate. It’s becoming more crucial to have conversations about political division and the role it plays in shaping voter behavior.

In today’s America, political identification has become so ingrained in personal identity that it often serves as a defining factor in one’s character.

Political polarization has reached a point where many Democrats and Republicans struggle to maintain civil conversations with one another, let alone engage in meaningful dialogue. Democrats are less likely to socialize with Republicans and vice versa, creating an atmosphere of hostility and division.

The abundance of political “noise” — from social media, news outlets, and political pundits — makes it increasingly difficult to discern what each side actually stands for. Instead of nuanced debates about policies and ideas, political discourse has devolved into tribalism and oversimplified narratives.

This growing tension has not only affected the national political landscape but has also trickled down to college campuses.

Over the past year, several events and personalities have made their way to our campus, influencing the way students and faculty interact with one another. Instead of promoting open dialogue and intellectual curiosity, external political factors have driven students apart, fostering an environment where ideological differences are magnified.

In some cases, political partisanship has led to a breakdown in communication, creating echo chambers where people only engage with like-minded individuals. This prevents genuine dialogue and perpetuates division.

Given the current state of political discourse, it’s clear that a change in attitude is overdue.

Regardless of your political affiliation — whether you’re a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or hold any other beliefs — it’s essential to make your voice heard. Voting is the simplest



Jasmine Brookins | Staff photographer

Central Votes sets up tables to help students prepare and register for the upcoming presidential election Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Park Library Lawn.

and most powerful way to influence the future of our nation.

Voting is not just a right, but a duty and privilege. As young people, we are the future leaders, innovators, and policymakers of this country.

Our decisions today will have lasting impacts on tomorrow. Take the time this November to invest in your own future by heading to the polls, casting your vote, and making your voice heard.

The future of this nation, our nation, is in your hands.

Harry Krafchak is a sophomore majoring in political science at Central Michigan University. As the Student Coordinator for Central Civics, he plans and hosts voter registration and education events across campus to promote civic education.

LIFE IN ACTION

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE VISUALS EDITOR JO KENOSHEM WAS ON-HAND IN SEPTEMBER, AS CENTRAL CIVICS, THE MARY ELLEN BRANDELL VOLUNTEER CENTER AND LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS CONDUCTED A VOTER-REGISTRATION DRIVE. SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THEIR VIDEO OF THE EVENT



Upholding the values of CMU and democracy



By Bob Davies
Guest Columnist

Once again, Central Michigan University is hosting early voting on campus for this year's general election. Regardless of how you cast your ballot, every member of our university family – students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and friends – has an important role to play in creating the future we want to see at CMU, in Michigan and beyond.

In addition to an incredibly divisive presidential election, there are many other important issues and candidates locally and statewide that you will have a chance to decide. I encourage every eligible voter to exercise their right to vote and engage thoughtfully in the democratic process.

At CMU we say, “We Do” – and that extends far beyond hands-on learning in classrooms and labs. It also means we are active leaders in our communities. Voting is one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard on issues that matter to you, your community, and our country.

Equally important is how we engage with one another, particularly when our political views differ. Democracy thrives not only on the active participation of its citizens, but also on the respectful exchange of ideas. In these acrimonious times, it's more important than ever

Participation in civic life is not just a right, but a responsibility.

to approach political discussions with civility and empathy no matter the outcome of the election.

We will not always agree, but we must strive to listen to and understand perspectives that differ from our own. Treating those who disagree with our beliefs with respect is essential to fostering an inclusive and healthy dialogue on campus and beyond.

Our university is a space for learning, growth, and debate. Let's ensure that our

discussions, whether online or in person, reflect our commitment to respect, compassion and understanding.

In this election – and all elections – I encourage you to make your voice heard by voting and to engage with one another with respect, upholding the values of both democracy and our community.

Dr. Bob Davies is the 15th president of Central Michigan University.



TOGETHER FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF



HUG SNYDER CHAPMAN FOR MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL BOARD

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KRISTINA HUG | #50565 | 2420 FRANCIS DR. MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858 PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DEREK SNYDER | #50567 | 2382 JOSEPH DR. MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858 PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DR. MADISON CHAPMAN | #50566 | 417 E. BROADWAY ST. MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

2024 Mount Pleasant sample ballot

The following is a sample ballot highlighting competitive races and ballot initiatives in the City of Mount Pleasant. Not all candidates are necessarily included, nor are candidates for races outside of the city limits. To see your precinct’s sample ballot, visit the State of Michigan Voter Information Center at mvc.sos.state.mi.us/publicballot.

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

PARTISAN SECTION

State Boards

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Vote for not more than 2

Theodore Jones

Democratic

Adam Frederick Zemke

Democratic

Tom McMillin

Republican

Nikki Snyder

Republican

Scotty Boman

Libertarian

Ted Gerrard

U.S. Taxpayers

Christine C. Schwartz

U.S. Taxpayers

Mary Anne Hering

Working Class

County

CLERK

Vote for not more than 1

Patti Sandel

Democratic

Minde B. Lux

Republican

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONER

Vote for not more than 2

Bob Busch

Democratic

Kelly D. Beltnick

Republican

Patrick J. Recker

Republican

State General

Isabella County, Michigan

DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Vote for not more than 1

Ryon Skalitzky

Democratic

Robert J. Willoughby

Republican

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

5th DISTRICT

Vote for not more than 1

James Moreno

Democratic

Dave Verwey

Republican

David F. McQuire

No Party Affiliation

NONPARTISAN SECTION

Judicial

JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT

8 Year Term

Vote for not more than 1

Andrew Fink

Kimberly Ann Thomas

JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT

Incumbent Position

Partial Term Ending 01/01/2029

Vote for not more than 1

Kyra Harris Bolden

Justice of Supreme Court

Patrick William O’Grady

City

CITY COMMISSIONER

Vote for not more than 3

Brian Assmann

Liz Busch

Maureen Eke

Amy Perschbacher

Local School District

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

MT. PLEASANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

6 Year Term

Vote for not more than 2

Madison Chapman

Kristina Marie Hug

Melissa Isaac

Tamara Kobylarz

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

MT. PLEASANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Partial Term Ending 12/31/2026

Vote for not more than 1

Derek Snyder

Nathan C. Tomson

PROPOSAL SECTION

County

ISABELLA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE ROAD PATROL PROPOSAL

For the sole purpose of providing Isabella County Sheriff’s Office Road Patrol operations, equipment, communications and notifications, shall the constitutional limitation on general ad valorem taxes which may be assessed in any one year upon all property within Isabella County, Michigan, be increased by up to 1.45 mills (\$1.45 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, from 2024 through 2029, inclusive?

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$3,737,196.00 for the Isabella County Sheriff’s Office Road Patrol operations, equipment, communications and notifications in the first calendar year of the levy. In accordance with State law, a small portion of the millage may also be disbursed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the City of Mt. Pleasant and Union Township; the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Mt. Pleasant; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of Mt. Pleasant.

**There will be
record high
voter turnout
this year.**

**Early voting starts Sat, October 26th.
Election Day is Tues, November 5th, 2024.
You can register to vote at the same time.**