



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/ JEFFREY SHUTTER

2020 NC VOTER GUIDE

Your student papers want to help you vote

Students don't vote.

The 2018 midterms saw a surge in student voter turnout, but even then, only about 40 percent of college students who were eligible to vote turned in a ballot.

As the 2020 general election approaches in November, we believe the college student vote matters more than ever. Not only because North Carolina is a swing state that has potential to help decide the presidential

contest, but all down the ballot, too. Our state legislature appoints members to the UNC System Board of Governors, but those candidates are rarely asked what makes a good candidate. Yet these nominees then go on to make decisions that affect the state's public university students.

That's what brought One Vote N.C. together. We're a collaborative made up of seven college newspapers across North Carolina, and we want to be a resource as

students cast their votes.

Elections and voting can be confusing, even for a long-time voter, let alone for a college student who might be voting for the first time or moving to a new area for college. In this voter guide and on our website, we break down who the candidates are and why these races matter.

So request your absentee ballot or look up your polling site. **It's time to vote.**

One Vote N.C. Online:



To read more election-based articles, see a comprehensive list of candidate profiles and find out the information you need to vote, visit onevotenc.com

What's inside the 2020 North Carolina Student Voter Guide:



Daily Tar Heel breaks down how to vote in N.C. | Page 2



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You can register to vote now with your campus address at VoteAmerica.com/Students.

**Vote
America**

Voter suppression hurts Black communities

Gerrymandering, ID laws target Black Americans in thinly veiled ways

By Allison Gilmore
The A&T Register

Since the Reconstruction Era Voter Suppression has been a commonplace activity during American elections. Despite the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965, the Black vote has still been muffled by state laws. Long ago literacy test and poll taxes were the choices of weapon against Black voters. Today, restrictive election laws disguised as racially neutral, giving them a sheen of legitimacy, hinder the Black and minority vote.

Currently, Black people in America are experiencing Voter Suppression in different ways.

Voter IDs are restricting those without a drivers license or federal ID from voting.

Felonies hinder people from voting and prevent them from integrating back into society which affects Black men the most.

In the North Carolina Constitution, Article VI, Section 2 sets out the disqualification for a felon, stating:

“[N]o person adjudged guilty of a felony against this State or the United States, or adjudged guilty of a felony in another state that would also be a felony if it had been committed in this State, shall be permitted to vote unless that person shall be first restored to the rights of citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.”

Gerrymandering is affecting the campus of N.C. A&T, but this election cycle, they were strategic about preventing Black people from having their voice heard.

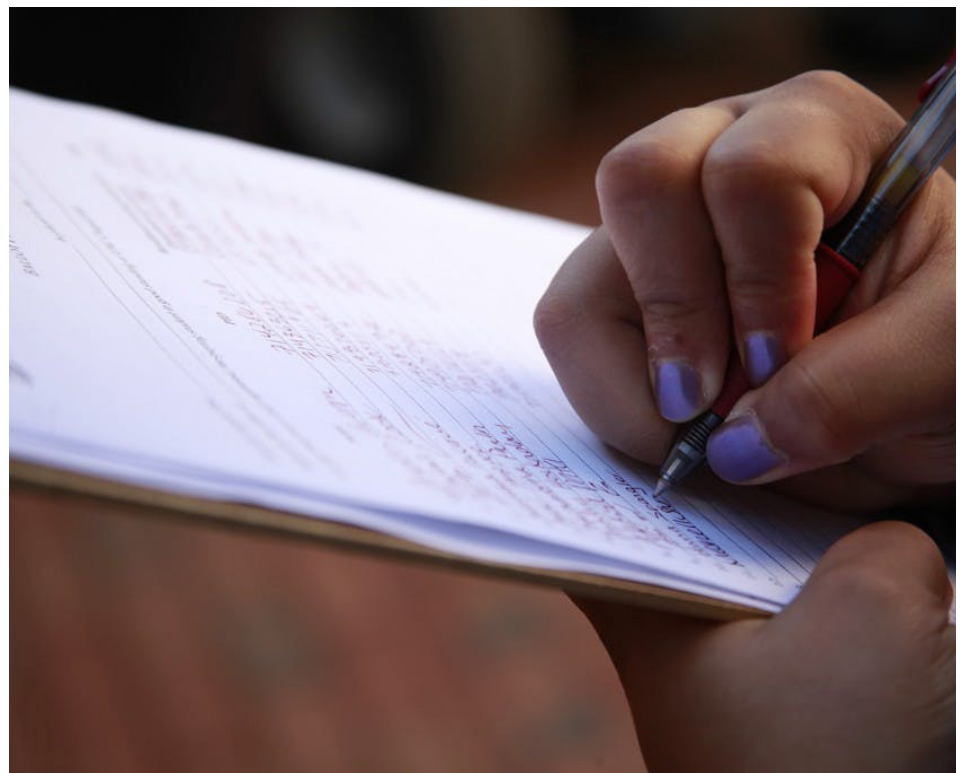
Early voting has been used throughout history to ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to work. Because Election Day is normally on a weekday, polls are opened on earlier dates and the weekends to ensure those that have to work during voting hours have the opportunity to.

This year, the schedule looks a little different. Early voting begins on October 17th, but the polling sites are closed almost all Saturdays. The only Saturday that the polls happen to be open is Nov. 3. That date is oddly familiar because it is the same day as N.C. A&T's homecoming.

While Polls are open on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the largest concentration of Black people in Guilford County will be at a parade preparing for a tailgate and enjoying a football game.

There is no way that this is a coincidence. With crucial amendments on the ballot such as “Voter IDs” and the ability for the Black population in Greensboro to flip the Republican seats to Democratic, there is no way that they just so happened to fall on the same day.

What do we do moving forward? We



THE DAILY TAR HEEL PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/DANIEL TURNER

A student fills out voter registration paperwork on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill.

have no option but to get out and vote. A form of protest is resistance, and if we resist the suppression through going out in large numbers then we have no choice but to vote.

Souls to the Polls, an initiative, is back. In the past, churches have stopped services to take their entire congregation to voting locations. Pastors figured if they could get people to come to worship God, they could get them to the polls, too.

With only one day for early voting on the weekend – Sunday, Oct. 28 – it is crucial for

the Black community to get out and vote.

Souls to the Polls is not an initiative to only get Christians to vote but rather for all people who believe in the justice system. Sponsors of the event include churches in the east Greensboro area and the NAACP.

Still, the call to action is now. We have to mobilize against the suppression that is trying to prevent us from voting. We must fight the resistance.

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Answering your questions about voting



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/ANGELINA KATSANIS

A college sophomore registers to vote at a booth in Chapel Hill, N.C. on Sept. 5, 2020.

By Kayleigh Carpenter
The Daily Tar Heel

Voting can be an intimidating experience for those who are new to it or maybe haven't voted in a while. The best ways to feel confident about voting are to be prepared and know what to expect before you enter the polling place. Assistant City and State Editor Kayleigh Carpenter talked with Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, and Rachel Raper, director of the Orange County Board of Elections, about commonly asked questions concerning voting in Orange County and across the state.

How do I register and re-register to vote?

For North Carolina residents, individuals can register to vote at the DMV or other public

service agencies. They can also download a voter registration form online on the state board website, fill it out and then mail it to or drop it off at their county board of elections.

For this election, the state board added an option for online voter registration in partnership with the DMV. People who are DMV customers can go online to the state DMV website and fill out a voter registration application to be submitted to the state Board of Elections.

Raper said voter registration is about where someone considers their residence to be.

“It's where you lay your head at night with the intention to return,” Raper said. “Is it back home with your parents? Or do you consider home to be UNC and you were simply displaced from campus but do intend to return?”

Individuals should re-register if any voter information has changed, including name, address and party affiliation.

In order to re-register, Bell said voters must fill out the voter registration information again.

Voter registration applications must be submitted by Oct. 9. People may still do same-day registration at early voting polling sites in their county.

What are the different ways to vote?

For the election, there are three ways to vote: early voting, voting on Election Day and absentee voting.

The early voting period is Oct. 15 through Oct. 31. During this time, voters can show up to any early voting location when they are open and cast the same ballot as given on Election Day.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, registered voters can vote at their assigned polling place from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Registered voters are not required to show an ID at the polling place.

Polling sites are in different locations for early voting and Election Day voting, and they can be found on the county board's website.

Raper said voting locations will be set up differently for all early voting and Election Day voting locations. There will be six feet between workers and voters, and polling places will have volunteers to clean after every voter.

In order to vote by mail, the voter must request a mail-in ballot by either using the online portal on the state board's website or filling out a paper form and then mail it or drop it off back to the county Board of Elections. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 27.

Bell said the ballot can then be mailed to any location the voter wants. After receiving the ballot and marking their choices, Bell said the voter must sign the outside of the ballot and return envelope, and a witness must sign a certification as well.

There are several ways that the ballot can

be returned to the voter's county Board of Elections. They can mail it back to the county board postmarked on or before Election Day, drop it off in person to the county board office or they can drop it off in person at any early voting site during voting hours.

Voters can track their ballot through the mail with the new BallotTrax portal, which launched Sept. 11.

“That's a new tool that we have in place and hopefully will help alleviate some concerns,” Bell said. “Especially because we have so many people voting absentee by mail this year.”

She said voters can see if their ballot has been accepted through the voter search tool on the state board's website.

Raper said for someone who's deciding between mail-in versus going in person, they should do whatever works for them.

“Voting by mail, voting early in person or voting on Election Day in person are all safe, secure ways to vote,” she said. “So I want you to do what makes the most sense for you.”

What if I've moved?

Bell said there are several options if a student has had to move away from campus and was already registered at their campus address.

A student can request an absentee ballot from the county Board of Elections of where they are registered and get it delivered to the address they are staying at. If they don't want to do that, the other option is to come back to the county during early voting or on Election Day to vote in person.

Another option would be to re-register into the county where they are staying at. This would allow them to get an absentee ballot for that county, or go in person to the election poll places in that county.

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A look at gerrymandering at N.C. A&T

By Lauren Mitchell
The A&T Register

Walking from the cafeteria to the library takes about two minutes. You go up some steps, cross an on-campus road and you're there. However, "there" was another world, politically speaking, until last year.

North Carolina

In 2011, the N.C. Republican-controlled General Assembly redrew the congressional maps and divided North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's campus into two different state congressional districts. The line was in the middle of campus.

The redistricting took the primarily Democratic-siding campus and moved it and its votes into Republican districts.

The mounting obstacles affecting students' ability to vote have moved Student Government leaders as well as students to action. Student mobilization pressured lawmakers to act in the public's best interest. N.C. A&T students organized and took on the task of encouraging young people to vote.

"[Voting is] something we need to do," said Cole Riley, a sophomore political science student and member of the Student Government Association's Political Action Committee after creating an online petition calling for the addition of an early voting site on campus.

"I know everyone brings up that our ancestors died for it but think about our kids. Our ancestors made it better for us to vote so let's make it easier for our kids to vote."

Federal judges ruled the last two N.C. redistricting maps (2011 and one redrawn too close to the 2018 election to be used) as partisan gerrymandering to favor Republicans. A new map was approved for use in 2019. It places the campus, and all of Guilford County, in one district.

"I think that now that we're in one district and we have an early voting site it makes voting so much more accessible," said Allison Gilmore, Student Body President. "It makes our students feel so empowered, and makes voting so much simpler for everybody."

What is gerrymandering?

Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing voting district lines in a way that influences the outcome of elections.

It originated in 1812 when Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry drew voting districts to favor his party. The term merges his last name, "Gerry," with the shape of a salamander, which was the of the new district he drew.

Refinements in computer technology and modern software have taken gerrymandering to a whole new level, especially in states where the legislature is controlled by one party and that same legislature draws the voting district maps, as in the case of North and South Carolina, which in 2019 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must decide partisan gerrymandering cases, not the federal court.

South Carolina

Right now in South Carolina, the state legislature is in charge of drawing political



THE A&T REGISTER/ TIERRA FLOWERS

maps, which have now resulted in one of the nation's least competitive elections in the nation. Seventy percent of their districts have been designed by politicians to offer only one major party candidate in the general election.

Which leads to critics saying that in South Carolina representatives are being allowed to pick their voters rather than letting voters elect their chosen officials.

Fair Maps SC Coalition is a nonpartisan grass roots campaign led by individual advocates and organizations across the state working to empower voters by passing legislation to create a citizens' commission to draw district lines.

Along with the work of grassroots organizations and the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census, South Carolinian could see a drastic change to how districts maps are drawn.

Organizations like Fair Maps SC Coalition

have helped lawmakers write legislation to create a South Carolina Citizens Redistricting Commission in charge of drawing maps instead of lawmakers.

The H.3432 and H.3390 bills each lay out guidelines the commission must follow in creating the new maps.

In the Carolinas there is growing movement against gerrymandering. While the campus of N.C. A&T can celebrate their success at "stopping" gerrymandering. This issue is a complex and ever evolving one. Reform is happening even the Supreme Court hasn't ruled a federal remedy for partisan gerrymandering. Citizens are calling for changes to the redistricting process – and many states are hearing that call.

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N.C. Elections Board offers mail-in voting advice



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/LIAM ERIC

Student volunteers work a table in Chapel Hill, N.C. to assist others in registering to vote.

By Audrey Selley
The Daily Tar Heel

As many UNC students change living arrangements with the University transitioning to remote learning, some have expressed concern about how to vote in the November election.

Cora Martin, a sophomore political science major at UNC, said figuring out the absentee request process has been confusing.

Martin said she was initially going to live on campus for the fall semester but decided a week before classes started to live at home.

She is planning on voting early in person in Durham County, but she requested an absentee ballot just in case she decides to vote by mail instead.

"I'm worried about the USPS delays almost as much as I'm worried about coronavirus, so it's been a back and forth for me," Martin said.

Theodore Shaw, professor of law and director of the Center for Civil Rights at UNC, said it's important for young people to vote. He said they should take their privilege and civic duty to vote seriously.

"Once they are eligible, they have in their

grasp — they hold in their hands — the power, the ability to have their voice weigh as much as anybody else in the country," Shaw said.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections released guidance Monday for college students who plan to vote by mail in the upcoming election.

"We released this guidance to try to help students navigate the absentee voting process because we heard that many students may be confused about how it works given the circumstances with COVID and the fact that a lot of students have been displaced from their campus housing," said Patrick Gannon, the Board's public information officer.

At what address should students request their absentee ballot?

Students who want to vote by mail should make sure they request their ballot to be sent at an address where they know they will receive it, according to the press release. Students who registered to vote at their campus address and have not yet requested an absentee ballot can request a ballot and have it sent to an address of their choosing.

What should students do if they already requested an absentee ballot on campus but have left?

Students who have already requested an absentee ballot but must leave campus due to COVID-19, or for any other reason, may submit a new request to have their ballot sent to a different address, the press release said.

They should make a note on the new

form, such as "updated" or "changed," to alert county elections workers that it is an updated request. Students can email or contact their county Board of Elections office to double check that the new absentee ballot will be sent to the updated address.

What should students do if they're not sure if they want to vote in person or vote by mail?

North Carolina voters who are unsure whether they want to vote in person or by mail have until Oct. 27 to request an absentee ballot if they decide to vote by mail, according to the press release. Voters still have the option to vote in person during the 17-day period of early voting from Oct. 15 to Oct. 31, or on Election Day on Nov. 3.

Can students request an absentee ballot online?

Beginning Sept. 1, all registered voters in North Carolina will be able to request an absentee ballot through a portal on the state Board's website, according to the press release.

"The form online will be just like the form you fill out on paper, however you can sign it and submit it online without having to print or mail anything," Gannon said.

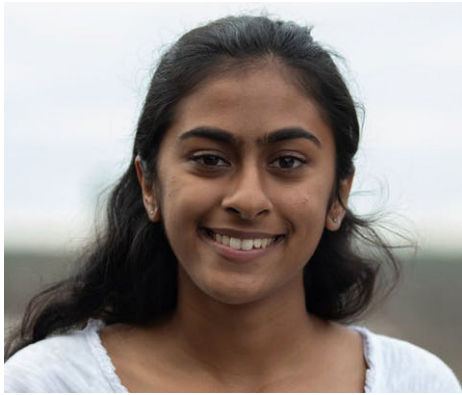
Shaw said no matter what someone's personal views are, everybody has a responsibility to vote and participate in the democratic process.

"People have lost their lives for the right to vote. People fought for decades and decades," Shaw said. "The right to vote was bought and paid for in blood and in struggle, and so I don't think anybody should take it for granted."

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2020 VOTER GUIDE



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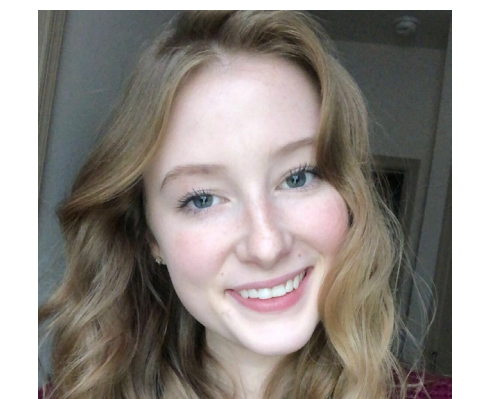
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The Daily Tar Heel's new podcast

Before You Vote

Everything you need to know about voting.
Every Tuesday until the election.

Listen on Spotify and Apple Podcasts

Students adjust voting plans in unprecedented election

By Kathryn Thomas and Miles King
The Duke Chronicle

With an unprecedented and consequential election just under 50 days away, voting has become a particularly important talking point of discussions on campus.

Between voter power index, mail-in-ballot logistics and the unknown variable of where students will be on Nov. 3, Duke students have lots of questions about where to vote this November.

To register to vote in North Carolina, college students must be physically present in their college community, meaning that many Duke students living in Durham are eligible to register and vote in Durham County. This has left many students with a choice: vote at home, or switch their registration and vote at Duke.

Currently, polling averages in North Carolina show a close race, with the race predicted within half a point in November by FiveThirtyEight—and Democratic nominee Joe Biden leading. And young people will have a particularly large say, according to the Youth Electoral Significance Index created by researchers at Tufts University.

According to that index, North Carolina is the second-most impactful state for young people to cast a ballot in during this election. Because of the unique opportunity that youth voters have to influence the state's electoral outcome, many Duke students have decided to switch their voter registration and vote in North Carolina in 2020.

Student groups such as Duke Votes, Duke Students for Biden and the Duke International Relations Association are working to help Duke students decide what state or district to vote in and provide them information regarding absentee ballot requests. Such initiatives have played a critical role in the number of Duke students who voted early during the spring presidential primaries and are expected to vote this election season.



THE DUKE CHRONICLE/HENRY HAGGART

Among 60 students who responded to an informal survey, 46.7 percent plan to vote early, 48.3 percent plan to vote by mail, and only 5 percent plan to vote in person on Election Day.

"In spring of 2020, 11.4 percent of registered North Carolinians cast early ballots in the primary," said Duke Votes Chair Jessica Sullivan, a senior. "Registered 18 to 22-year-olds living on East and West Campus voted early at a rate of 34 percent, about three times higher than the N.C. rate and higher than any other North Carolina college or university with an early voting site. We are confident that Duke students will continue to vote at record rates."

An informal survey conducted by The Chronicle—with 60 responses—found that of those Duke students who plan to vote this fall, 60 percent are planning to vote in Durham County, while the remaining 40 percent plan to cast their ballot in another state or district. 98 percent of those who responded plan to cast a ballot.

The way that Duke students, and Americans as a whole, plan to vote has turned upside down in response to the

coronavirus pandemic. 46.7 percent of Duke students who responded to the survey plan to vote during the early voting period and 48.3 percent of students expected to vote by mail, while only 5 percent of students who responded plan on voting in person Nov. 3

Students choosing to cast their ballot in Durham County often cited North Carolina's status as a swing state in the electoral college and the youth voter power index as primary factors in their decision. Some members in the Duke Class of 2024 have been sharing infographics in GroupMe chats to help their peers make informed decisions on where to cast their ballots come November.

Sophomore Audrey Costley wrote in a survey response that she is voting at Duke due to safety concerns during a pandemic.

"As a North Carolina resident, I voted in my home precinct in previous years; however, due to COVID, it makes more

sense to vote locally, without worrying about absentee voting or traveling," Costley wrote. "Additionally, I think early voting is way more convenient because there is an on-campus voting site. There is no state where my vote counts more and has the most impact than in N.C."

North Carolina is one of the most important states for both parties in the upcoming presidential election. North Carolina has 15 electoral college votes and Donald Trump carried the state by a narrow margin of 3.66 percent in 2016. For Republicans, the stakes are high, as no Republican has lost North Carolina and gone on to win the presidency since Dwight Eisenhower in 1956.

When choosing whether to maintain their registration at home, students often cited a personal connection to local politics, competitive local or state races and youth voter influence as guiding factors. First-year Abhinav Kolli wrote that he's "more invested in the local and state politics [in Arizona]; it's also one of the few states with as much value as North Carolina on the national level."

At the same time, other students chose to vote at home due to concerns about voting somewhere that is not "home."

"I believe that I don't have a right to vote in Durham as someone who does not own property or have family here," sophomore Akshaj Turebylu wrote. "My family, home, and community are in Dallas, and I would be most directly affected by voting in Dallas. Therefore, I am voting in Texas."

When asked what issues are driving Duke students to vote this fall, a prevalent answer was an unequivocal "everything!" More specific common responses included Trump's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, women's rights, racial injustice, healthcare, federal court nominations, immigration reform, human rights abuses, gun control, funding for education and preserving American democracy.

The Duke Chronicle

Column: Voting is essential for young people

By Pat Polomchak
The East Carolinian

Last year, I took a writing course in the political science department and wrote my term paper on factors that impact voter turnout rates in America. Overwhelmingly, young people just do not go to the polls.

As you would expect, there are a lot of things that contribute to low voter turnout numbers among youth. This is especially true depending on what kind of election is happening, as the numbers are better when a president is up for election than there are in midterms.

One of the biggest factors I found in my research is simply the fact that young people tend to be more mobile than older generations. Once you settle down it's easy to register to vote and simply stay registered; meanwhile, young people are still figuring their lives out and that often means moving every few years with the jobs.

Another huge barrier is how difficult it is to register. There is a lot of misinformation out there, and it can be confusing to first-time voters. Personally, I wish our system automatically registered a person once they turn 18.

Regardless, this past midterm election, in 2018, recorded better numbers than the 2014 election. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, turnout rates among those 18-29 years old jumped from 20 percent to 36 percent, nearly double.

It's an encouraging statistic, because it is

more important than ever for young people to get involved with politics. With the echo chambers that are created by the ability to block the opposing opinion on social media, the best possible way to make your voice heard is still to vote.

It can be easy to get discouraged and feel like your vote doesn't matter. After all, our election system leaves the possibility for the candidate who loses the popular vote to still win the presidency thanks to the electoral college. It happened in 2016, and has happened in the past as well.

However, even despite this, the electoral college bases its votes on which candidate wins each particular state. So it is still important to participate in the process in the hopes that enough people in your state agree with you for your candidate to win.

Not everyone in the world has the ability to elect their government, and that provides a certain level of accountability for politicians who don't want to lose their positions. Not voting is doing a disservice to not just yourself, but everyone else in the country.

While everyone has the right to choose whether to vote or not, I urge all students at East Carolina University to register, whether here or at home. By exercising this right, you can help create the society you want to live in post-graduation.

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THE DAILY TAR HEEL/BEKAH POUNDS

Ricky Leung helps a UNC-Chapel Hill student register to vote for the 2018 election at UNC-Chapel Hill on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

'Living inside a bubble'

What counties in N.C. can tell us about 2020

By Michael Taffe
The Daily Tar Heel

For two North Carolina counties, Watauga and Robeson have little in common.

Until recently, Democratic candidates could count on the votes in Robeson, and Republican candidates could count on Watauga.

But in 2016, they switched.

This divide, however, followed a pattern — in general, the 2016 election saw counties across North Carolina shift their vote based on divisions of class. And Watauga and Robeson have long sat on opposite ends of several demographic spectrums.

Just over 13 percent of Robeson County residents hold a bachelor's degree, while nearly 42 percent of Watauga residents hold one. Out of 100 North Carolina counties, Robeson has the smallest percentage identifying as white, while Watauga is one of the least diverse. And 80.6 percent of Watauga residents have broadband in their home compared to just 54.2 of Robeson County residents.

With competitive elections up and down the ballot in November, these counties are a microcosm of two faces of North Carolina voters.

'The old mountain folk way'

Stacey "Four" Eggers IV was born and raised in North Carolina's high country in the Town of Boone, the seat of Watauga County.

"I've sometimes joked that my folks have been here before there was even a road to get here," he said.

Eggers is part of multiple generations of lawyers. He attended Appalachian State University for his undergraduate degree and now sits on its Board of Visitors.

"The community has had a very seamless back and forth with our college that provides a lot of great arts and cultural opportunities that we probably would not have if we didn't have our university right here," he said.

Eggers said the growing pains of the Town of Boone and Watauga County are much like the trends seen in college towns across the country.

"One of the problems that you run into

with growth is when you reach a certain point it becomes really easy for folks to silo themselves," he said.

Joe Furman has served as director of the Watauga County planning and inspection department since 1984. He said he's seen Boone flourish in his time there.

Eggers said this development has changed the channels of discourse in the town.

"It used to be that the way people would get their news, everybody would walk down to the local drugstore. And that was the place to have lunch," he said.

And while Watauga has voted for Republican candidates in seven out of the last ten presidential elections, Furman said the county's political bent has never been set in stone.

"In my time here it has flip-flopped back and forth," he said. "The town is overwhelmingly Democratic, the county, rural area the county is generally Republican. It tends to balance each other off."

Compared to the counties around it, Watauga is an island of elevated income and education.

But the more urban college town of Boone and the more rural county of Watauga are not synonymous. Eggers said the balance between the conservative rural areas and liberal towns make it an important data point on the state's political landscape.

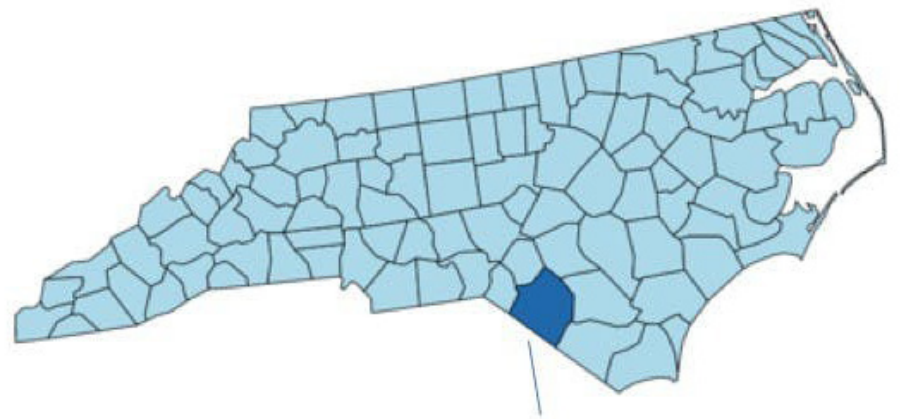
"Watauga is a very good bellwether, so to speak," Eggers said.

Watauga is nearly racially homogenous, with almost 95 percent of its residents identifying as white. But with more than 40 percent of the population holding a bachelor's degree — the fifth highest of any county in the state — Watauga experiences its social fractures along different lines.

"You do get a little bit of that tension — kind of the old mountain folk way of doing things versus folks that have moved in recently, and have different backgrounds and different experiences," Eggers said.

But Eggers said this is not a new phenomenon.

"Growing up in the Town of Boone and riding the bus home in the afternoon, I'd hear my friends talking about local politics and national politics," he said. "And riding



Robeson County	
Median Household Income:	\$33,679
% with Bachelor's Degree:	13.2%
% of Homes with Broadband:	54.2%
Population Per Square Mile:	141
% White Population:	30.9%

THE DAILY TAR HEEL/MICHAEL TAFFE

across town on the bus, I was left with the impression that my family was woefully out of step with the rest of the community and the rest of the nation as far as who we were going to vote for for President. Because listening to the conversation on the school bus, it was readily apparent that Walter Mondale was going to absolutely clobber Ronald Reagan."

But in 1984, 64.3 percent of Watauga County and 61.9 percent of North Carolina voted for Reagan.

"It taught me an important lesson of being careful about not living inside a bubble," Eggers said.

'Bottom of the totem pole'

For 24 years, Donnie Douglas was the editor of Robeson county's local newspaper, The Robesonian.

"In many ways, the story in my mind about Robeson county is why we haven't done better," he said. "You know, somebody once told me, 'Put two babies in a crib, they get along fine. You put a third one in there, they don't,' referring to the tri-racial area."

According to U.S. Census data, Robeson County's racial makeup is 31 percent white, 24 percent Black or African-American, and 42 percent American Indian, making it the county with the lowest percentage identifying as white.

Robeson County sits in the Sandhills region on the border with South Carolina. For years it was an agricultural stronghold for the tobacco industry. But tobacco jobs were replaced by textile manufacturing jobs in the 1990s, and manufacturing jobs were eventually replaced by service jobs along the I-95 corridor.

"Although our unemployment rate, pre-coronavirus, like most places was really good, the poverty rate wasn't because the jobs that replaced the manufacturing and tobacco jobs are service and they're not well paid and not well benefited," Douglas said. "So now you have several thousand people in the service industry who live paycheck to paycheck."

Robeson has the third-lowest median income of any county in the state. While Douglas pointed to some successful developments around the county, he said it has been stricken with high poverty and racial division.

"We're a 68 percent or 70 percent minority community that used to be 80 percent registered Democrat," Douglas said. "And we just voted for Donald Trump."

Some may find it surprising that the least white county in the state had the biggest vote swing toward Republicans between 2012 and 2016. It was the first time Robeson had voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 1972.

"Well, if they're surprised they evidently live outside the county because it's no surprise what's going on," said Robeson County Commissioner Jerry Stephens.

Stephens was born and raised in Robeson County and is now the chairperson of the Unified Robeson NAACP's PAC.

"It's really about, 'What have you done for me lately?' You know, if you keep voting for a party and they're not delivering to your community, why keep voting?" he said.

Stephens said that even while he's seen the Native American population thrive in the area, he feels the Black community has continually been left behind. He pointed to rural broadband access and affordable housing as two major issues facing the region.

"I can't say it's bad as it was in 1953 or 1960 when I was growing up, but it's still got its challenges," he said.

Harvey Godwin Jr. grew up in Robeson County on the farm his grandfather established in 1909. Today, he is the chairperson of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

One of the major economic obstacles the county has had to overcome is the impact of two major hurricanes in the last three years.

"We've been working since two hurricanes to get back to the poverty level we were at before they occurred," Godwin said. "But I think we're doing better now."

Godwin said traditionalist values have been the deciding factor that drove many voters to shift from Democrats to Republicans in 2016.

But while Robeson may have a socially conservative bent, Douglas said its politics are also defined by its reliance on social assistance programs.

"As I like to say — and this is said somewhat cynically — we like our checks," he said. "I mean we're number one in the state in disability, and truthfully welfare is our leading industry."

But one of the most prominent issues Godwin said the Lumbee vote on is the issue of federal tribal recognition, which Godwin said would bring additional health care and housing benefits for the tribe's members.

But on top of the economic struggles affecting the county as a whole, Stephens said Robeson's Black community has had to fight for a seat at the table.

Stephens, Godwin and Douglas all agreed that although Robeson has had its fair share of challenges, there are many things to be optimistic about.

"I've been here all my life and I wouldn't be here if I wasn't optimistic, because we've got good people here of all races. But you've got that old mentality that seems to be coming back," Stephens said.

With competitive elections from school board to president on the ballot in November, voters' decisions at the ballot box will undoubtedly be shaped by their shared local experience.

But while factors such as income and education can serve as good benchmarks for how these areas shift their vote, no county is a monolith.

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THE DAILY TAR HEEL/MAYA CARTER

The Lumbee Tribe's tribal government office, pictured here on Thursday, April 16, 2020, is located in Pembroke. The Lumbee Tribe is a state-recognized tribe in North Carolina numbering approximately 60,000 enrolled members. Most of them live primarily Robeson County.

The Appalachian

‘Something that I need to do’

Duke students swap classroom for campaign trail

By Ann Gehan

The Duke Chronicle

Driving home from work last winter, Lindsay Morgenstein had an idea. “What if I just didn’t go to school next fall?” she remembers thinking.

Morgenstein, then a sophomore, started considering alternatives to a semester abroad after realizing that her junior fall would coincide with the 2020 election. For Morgenstein, who wasn’t old enough to vote in 2016, sitting on the sidelines of another presidential election was out of the question.

“I’m not going to be in another country for the 2020 election — that’s the most important election I’ll vote in, in probably forever,” she said. “The idea that I would be in another country frolicking around while the most important thing that I could think of was happening at home was not it for me.”

When she got home, Morgenstein emailed her dean to request a leave of absence for fall 2020. After talking to a friend who was working for the Kamala Harris presidential campaign in Iowa, she decided that organizing would be the most meaningful way to spend her time away from campus. Now that COVID-19 has dramatically changed the nature of this semester, as well as the presidential election, Morgenstein is confident that her work for Planned Parenthood Votes in North Carolina is making a difference.

“As soon as I found out that organizing was the thing that would actually win elections and create change then I was like, ‘Well, this is something that I need to do, since I’m able to and I have nothing that could be more important for me to do right now than organizing,’” she said.

Morgenstein is not the only Duke student who traded the classroom for the campaign trail this semester. Some, like her, had long had the fall of 2020 earmarked for a leave of absence from Duke for election-related work. For others, the decision came in response to COVID-19, after a spring and summer filled with Zoom meetings and a lack of clarity from Duke about what the fall semester would look like on campus.

Junior Dora Pekec had planned to study abroad this semester, but after Duke announced in June that all fall study abroad programs would be canceled, she began to consider other plans. Pekec first considered campaign work when a friend working on a Senate campaign posted about job openings on Twitter this summer.

Duke’s announcement in late July that only first-years and sophomores would be permitted to live on campus made the decision

even easier.

“That (announcement) really pushed me to go after it,” Pekec said.

Duke’s late-breaking announcement also made junior Allison Janowski’s decision to take time off much easier. Janowski worked as an organizer for the Democratic Party of Virginia while in high school and, like Morgenstein, had always considered taking time off from school to get involved politically.

“It was looking every day more and more like this semester wasn’t going to be great,” she said. “I figured this was sort of a natural next step for me and something that I’ve always been interested in and passionate about. This was the best time in my life to do it, which happens to coincide with a crucial election.”

After learning that they likely wouldn’t be able to return to campus in the fall, both Pekec and Janowski requested leaves of absence for the semester and dove into the interview process for campaigns.

On Aug. 15, Pekec moved to Portland, Maine to work as a field organizer for Sara Gideon, a Democrat challenging Susan Collins (R-Maine), a four-term senator who has been criticized for her support of the Trump administration despite her reputation as one of the most liberal Republicans in the Senate.

Janowski is organizing in Kentucky for Amy McGrath, who is challenging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), in one of the country’s most high-profile races.

While COVID-19 has changed what a typical day for a field organizer looks like, the goal of reaching as many potential voters as possible remains the same.

“I was expecting to mostly be knocking on doors and working in a campaign office, and instead I’m working out of my childhood bedroom, calling voters instead of knocking on their doors,” Morgenstein said.

Because of low COVID-19 case counts in Maine, Pekec is able to work from a field office sometimes, although the atmosphere has changed significantly from the typical frenzied final weeks of a close race. “Usually there would be interns and volunteers everywhere, with the field office always super packed, and now there’s a few desks spaced out 15 feet apart,” she said.

Like Pekec, Janowski was able to move to the area she is working in, though in-person opportunities are more limited because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Much of Janowski’s work now deals with voter education and helping voters obtain correct information about how they can cast their ballot. Kentucky attracted national attention when it held its primary election in June after dramatically reducing the number of available polling locations due to COVID-19 concerns.



THE DUKE CHRONICLE/

Junior Dora Pekec took the semester off school to work as a field organizer for Sara Gideon, a Democrat challenging Susan Collins (R-Maine) for her Senate seat.

“There’s a lot of hurdles for people to actually make it to the polls this year, so it’s just so important that we’re making sure people actually know how they can physically go and vote, since there’s been so many changes on that end,” she said.

Although these students took the semester off entirely, other students are balancing campaign work with their class schedules.

Senior Jimmy Toscano is working as a fellow for the North Carolina Democratic Party and is also working for Matt Cartwright, a House Democrat running for reelection in Pennsylvania. Most days, Toscano spends almost three hours on the phone and makes at least 200 phone calls to voters.

Although adding in election work on top of part-time classwork is demanding, Toscano credits his coworkers with understanding the tricky balancing act of class, COVID-19 and the election.

“A lot of people are just doing this because they’re passionate about it,” he said. “That’s the attitude of volunteers too — just do your best — and that’s all they can really ask.”

September and October are crunch time in election years. As Nov. 3 approaches, the pressure increases and hours get longer, but organizers still say they appreciate the change of pace from the nonstop grind of the academic calendar.

Morgenstein is currently working 50 hours a week and expects that number to rise to 80 or more as the election approaches. “I’m so much busier than I have ever been before, but it’s the good kind of busy where I’m actually doing things that matter,” she said. “I’m not sitting in the library moping — I’m talking to voters and building a plan for how they want to be engaged civically in the future.”

The student organizers say that working with

voters and volunteers, even while stuck at home, remains the most rewarding part of the job.

Janowski has found it easier to connect with potential volunteers and encourage them to get involved.

“Being able to say you can literally change the outcome of this election from your living room, that’s a big sell for people,” she explained. “They don’t have to go out and do anything other than click the link on their computer. We’re really promoting the idea that especially now, you can make a difference from anywhere.”

After a spring and summer filled with virtual classes and Zoom meetings for her internship, Pekec is happy to have a chance for more interactive work. “It’s kind of weird to go from class and nothing else or a virtual internship to something that’s very hands-on and talking to people all the time,” she said.

“That was really important to me — to be able to meet other organizers in person, work with them in an office, and actually get to speak to people on the phone,” Pekec continued.

After Election Day comes and goes, organizers anticipate returning to school in the spring with new skills and a fresh perspective.

“It’s been a fun exercise in how good I can be at selling people on things on the phone,” Morgenstein said of her organizing work. “Now I can convince anybody of pretty much anything in less than three minutes.”

As for her return to school?

“I think it’s going to be a tough transition, going from working insane hours for something that really matters to going back to like the mundane everyday life of school, which now just seems kind of boring,” she said.

The Duke Chronicle

One Vote N.C.

A student news collaborative of seven college newspapers in North Carolina

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N.C. Senate Candidates for Guilford County



J.D. Wooten (D) District 24

An intellectual property attorney, Wooten believes in available, affordable health care, and he supports independent redistricting. Wooten believes in focusing on sustainable development.



Amy Galey (R) District 24

Galey supports the Second Amendment. She wants to use CARES Act funds to plan for a possible second wave of coronavirus. She wants to increase pay for public school teachers.



Jane Ledwell Grant (D) District 26

Grant wants to update teaching materials and raise teacher's salaries. She wants the N.C. legislature to expand Medicaid to prevent rural hospitals from closing.



David Craven (R) District 26

Craven did not respond to our questions and we could not find information about his platform online.



Michael Garrett (D) District 27

Garrett is a small business owner and supports a statewide school infrastructure bond. He wants to expand Medicaid to close the health care coverage gap and reduce prescription drugs costs.



Sebastian King (R) District 27

King wants to invest in career skills training and technology for public schools. He wants to bring more opportunity zones to low-income areas of Greensboro and High Point.



Gladys A. Robinson (D) District 28

Robinson believes in advocating for education, small businesses, jobs, women's rights and ensuring health and quality of life for low-income, minority, disabled and elderly populations.



D.R. King (R) District 28

King did not respond to our questions and we could not find information about his platform online.

North Carolinians, don't vote twice

By Ella Layn
The Daily Tar Heel

Those voting in North Carolina for the November election shouldn't vote twice, according to the N.C. Board of Elections.

President Donald Trump visited Wilmington on Sep. 2 to commemorate the city as an American World War II Heritage City. At the event, he said North Carolinians should test the voting system by both submitting an absentee ballot and attempting to vote in person.

"Let them send it in and let them go vote, and if their system's as good as they say it is, then obviously they won't be able to vote," he said at the event.

However, voting twice is illegal in North Carolina. In accordance with state law, attempting to vote twice or encouraging someone to do so is a Class I felony.

This preexisting law directly contradicts the president's comments, creating confused voters and an increase in predicted workload for polling staff.

In response to the president's statement, Karen Brinson Bell, the executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, released a message reminding voters of the law.

In the press release, Bell said voters can check the status of their absentee ballot by contacting their county board of elections, using the State Board's Voter Search Tool or signing up for BallotTrax, a newly created

service that ensures accurate tracking of voter ballots.

"The State Board conducts audits after each election that check voter history against ballots cast and would detect if someone tries to vote more than once in an election," Bell said in the release.

Ferrel Guillory, professor at the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, said if people vote twice in the election, it could cause confusion for poll workers.

"It could increase the work of the poll workers at the voting sites on Election Day with people showing up simply to check on whether their early votes were cast or not," he said.

Guillory said it's important that voters comply with their state's voting procedures.

Jamie Cox, chairperson of the Orange County Board of Elections, said voters don't need to worry about their vote not counting.

"There are safeguards in place to make sure that those who choose to vote by mail are able to do so safely and securely," Cox said.

The safeguards include electronic poll books at every early voting site across the state, which detail who has already voted, according to Bell's press release. Those who have already voted absentee will be prevented from voting with a regular ballot.

The regular voter registration period ends Oct. 9, and absentee ballot requests are available until Oct. 27 at 5 p.m.

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Orange County

District 23 N.C. Senate candidates



Valerie Foushee (D)

Foushee wants to expand Medicaid to close the coverage gap for 700,000 North Carolinians and keep rural hospitals across the state from closing. She wants to pass a statewide school construction bond for shovel-ready project and expand job training programs. She wants to appoint more educators and less CEOs to the UNC System Board of Governors.



Tom Glendinning (R)

Glendinning wants to improve the state's health care system to reduce costs for patients and improve the private sector medical network. He wants to boost North Carolina's economy by limiting the government's involvement with businesses. He looks for experience, education and conservatism in UNC System Board of Governor's candidates.

Orange County volunteers are eager to work the polls

By David Richman

The Daily Tar Heel

With the 2020 presidential election approaching, many counties across the state are experiencing large shortages in poll workers.

In Orange County, there are over 600 people on the poll workers waitlist, said Rachel Raper, director of the Orange County Board of Elections. But just to the south, Chatham County is still short on election workers.

Both counties have seen changes in poll worker demographics, with a notable decrease in older volunteers and increase in younger volunteers, said Raper and Chance Mashburn, elections specialist for Chatham County.

Noah Goldstein, founder of The Poll Workers Project, an organization aimed at recruiting younger people to serve as poll workers in 2020, said it is incredibly important that people step up to volunteer. He cited potential issues with mail-in voting and the many negative effects of closed polling locations to show this.

Goldstein said in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin primary in April, 180 polling places were consolidated to five because there weren't enough poll workers.

However when former Carrboro Town Council member Bethany Chaney called the Orange County Board of Elections after seeing

the state's call for poll workers, she was notified that there was a 300-person waitlist for the job she was trying to get.

"I was overjoyed because I think that shows that people are invested in this election regardless of COVID-19 and are willing to do what it takes to make the election happen, and they're excited about the election," she said.

The State Board of Elections website says some people may be able to volunteer as poll workers outside of their home precinct this year, but it does not say how.

However, Mashburn said Chatham County welcomes volunteers from outside the county for early voting.

"If they're on the waitlist for Orange County, we can use their help during early voting in Chatham County," he said.

When it comes to helping the democratic process, Goldstein said he thinks being a poll worker is an easy and effective way to make a big impact.

"I think it's easy for the individual to make a big difference and a lot of these problems might seem really big and insurmountable," he said. "But I think that this is one that's really approachable and easy to make a difference with."

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Orange County sees influx of mail-in ballot requests

By Taylor Heeden

The Daily Tar Heel

As the November election approaches, some states have turned to mail-in ballots as an option for those who feel uncomfortable going to the polls during COVID-19.

In North Carolina, registered voters can request a mail-in absentee ballot for the election with no excuse needed.

North Carolina has had the option for voters to mail in no-excuse absentee ballots since 2000, said Rachel Raper, the director of elections in Orange County.

Orange County has already processed more mail-in absentee ballot requests as of early August than it did in the 2016 general election, Raper said.

There have already been over 6,000 requests for mail-in absentee ballots in Orange County, Raper said. She said this number is more than normal for a general election.

Mail-in ballots have been a topic of political controversy over the last few months. Some politicians, including President Donald Trump, have criticized mail-in ballots, stating they could lead to an increase in voter fraud.

Michael Bitzer is a professor of politics at Catawba College who specializes in analyzing American politics, with a focus on the South.

He said there has been misinformation circulating in regard to mail-in voting.

He said he thinks the state has done a lot to ensure the integrity of the mail-in ballot. He said after a controversial election in 2018 in North Carolina's 9th congressional district, the state took measures to try to prevent elections with allegations of fraud from happening again.

"One of the things that was learned after the 2018 9th congressional district fiasco was that people were using the public information of who had requested mail-in ballots to contact them," he said. "What they have since done is closed off that public information, and that information about who has requested a ballot only becomes public when a ballot is returned and accepted."

Marc Hetherington is a professor of political science at UNC and an expert in party polarization and what causes issues to become partisan. He said mail-in ballots have become a partisan issue due to certain people from each party taking different positions on the topic.

"There's always been a tension here between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to voting more generally," he said.

Hetherington said this could explain why the mail-in ballot has become a topic of political debate over the last few months.

Raper said she encourages voters to look



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/PARKER BROWN

A student fills out a mail-in ballot from her home in Chapel Hill. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, voters have questions about fraud and voter turnout associated with mail-in ballots.

into all options when it comes to deciding how to vote this fall.

The deadline to request a mail-in absentee ballot in North Carolina is Oct. 27. Mail-in absentee ballots must be returned to

the county Board of Elections by 5 p.m. on Election Day, or postmarked on election day and returned three days after.

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ASU students may not be able to vote early on campus Polling site faces legal challenge

By Moss Brennan and Abi Pepin
The Appalachian

Republican members of the Watauga County Board of Elections are challenging the legality of the App State's one-stop early voting site one month before early voting starts.

Board members Eric Eller and Nancy Owen filed the lawsuit Friday in Wake County and are asking the court to stop the state Board of Elections from adopting the App State early voting site.

Eller and Owen are arguing that Watauga County BOE Chair Jane Hodges was not acting on behalf of the full board when she notified App State that they would request the Blue Ridge Ballroom as an early voting site.

"The general statute requires that the local Board of Elections request the use of a building 90 days in advance of the time of voting, the time of voting being Oct. 15," said Nathan Miller, the lawyer representing Eller and Owen. "Since the board didn't do it, the state board has zero statutory authority to essentially seize the building and take control from ASU."

Patrick Gannon, spokesperson for the state Board of Elections, said he will comment after the state board responds in court.

Miller said the lawsuit asks for the state board to instead use the Holmes Convocation Center as the early voting site, which representatives from the App State administration said was available for use.

Dalton George, a member of the Watauga County Voting Rights Taskforce, said the group — which focuses on ensuring voting is accessible to every citizen — will do "whatever we need" to ensure the voting site is in the Blue Ridge Ballroom.

"I urge that the administration does not sign on to, or assist, an obvious attempt to circumvent the majority decision by the state Board of Elections and accepts the decision made in late August," George said.

George said he hopes App State officials will reach out to the court and ask it to not support the lawsuit that would be "suppressing student voting rights."

Miller said the notion that this lawsuit is seeking to suppress the student vote is "absurd."

"The reason it's absurd is because this voting site is still on campus," Miller said. "This has nothing to do with taking a voting site away from the university."

Matthew Dockham, App State director of external affairs and community relations, said the university supports the use of Holmes Convocation Center for the campus voting site.

"Because of COVID-19, the university is holding classes every weekday in the Blue

Ridge Ballroom in the Plemmons Student Union," Dockham said. "Voting in this location will displace classes for hundreds of students for 20 days during the fall semester."

Currently, eight classes are listed in the Blue Ridge Ballroom with just over 300 students in those classes, according to the registration numbers on bannerweb.appstate.edu. At least three of those classes are listed as hybrid.

Dockham said the administration supports the Holmes Convocation Center because it allows for a greater "assurance of health and safety" for county residents and members of App State.

He also said it offers close parking, wheelchair accessibility and is a recognizable building that is well known in the community.

"Appalachian State University is nonpartisan and unequivocally supports on-campus voting," Dockham said.

The lawsuit, if successful, could mean the convocation center would become the early voting site.

The early voting site on App State's campus has seen a variety of lawsuits in the past 10 years.

In 2014, after the Republican-majority Watauga County BOE voted to take away App State's campus voting site, the Watauga County Voting Rights Taskforce sued the state Board of Elections.

A Superior Court judge agreed with the plaintiffs and ordered the county to submit a new plan that included an early voting site on App State's campus.

The state then asked the North Carolina Supreme Court for an emergency stay and appeal. The state Supreme Court granted the state's petition, but the board voted to have a voting site on campus anyway for that election.

In 2016, a North Carolina Court of Appeals panel voted 2-1 to dismiss an appeal of the 2014 Superior Court decision.

But, tension over the App State early voting site didn't end in 2016.

In 2017, after board members could not come to a unanimous decision, then member of the board Stella Anderson filed a petition of review.

Anderson, who is now a member of the state board and an App State professor, filed the review after first petitioning the state Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement — which had no members at the time — to adopt and implement an early voting plan in Watauga County, according to the Watauga Democrat.

Because no one could hear Anderson's petition, the court established the early voting plan for Watauga County, which included a site at the Plemmons Student Union.

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N.C. Senate candidates for District 45

Jeanne Supin (D)

Supin wants to expand Medicaid and cover everything, including treatment options for treatment for physical, mental, dental, vision, hearing, reproductive and addiction needs. She wants to "lead the green wave" to bring more jobs to places like western North Carolina. Her plan includes making the richest corporations use some of their money to "revitalize our communities, climate and environment."



Deanna Ballard (R)

Ballard believes that natural resources need to have good stewardship that's balanced with economic growth to "help ensure future generations can enjoy the beauty and vitality of our area." She believes that when it comes to education, it comes down to "effectively addressing the concerns" of those at the local level. She believes spending tax dollars on education is a priority, but it needs to be done thoughtfully.



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/LUKE BISHOP

Frank Porter Graham School in Chapel Hill was a polling site during Election Day in 2018. Appalachian State University's on-campus polling sites are the subject of a lawsuit.



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Wake County

N.C. Senate candidates for Wake County



Dan Blue (D) District 14

Blue supports increasing teacher pay and improving school security. He supports expanding Medicaid and improving the state's mental health care delivery system.



Alan David Michael (R) District 14

Michael supports raising teacher pay and freedom of school choice. He wants to reduce the burdens of small businesses and cuts regulations that impact job growth.



Jay Chauduri (D) District 15

Passed an act that expanded the scope of hate crimes. He supports reducing gun violence, and increasing mental health funding in schools.



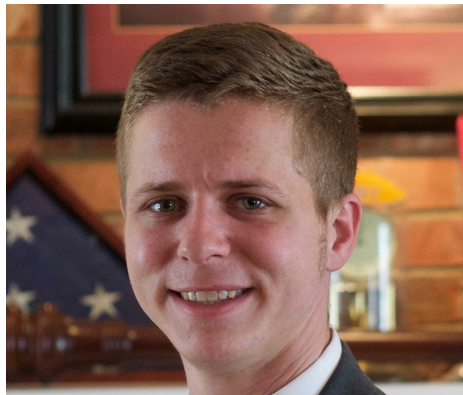
Mario Lomuscio (R) District 15

Lomuscio supports open enrollment and school choice. He is pro-life and wants to limit taxes and regulations to promote economic growth.



Wiley Nickel (D) District 16

Nickel supports funding public education, reducing class sizes and raising teacher salaries. He wants to make renewable energy more accessible, and he wants to protect Planned Parenthood funding.



Will Marsh (R) District 16

Marsh is a veteran and business owner. He believes in lowering taxes and less government regulation.



Sam Searcy (D) District 17

Searcy supports public schools and higher pay for teachers. He wants to prioritize higher education by funding public universities in North Carolina.



Mark Cavaliero (R) District 17

Cavaliero is against the confiscation of legally-owned guns from law-abiding citizens. He is pro-life. He supports affordable, accessible health care.

Vote early at Talley

Cassie Englund
The Technician

The Wake County Board of Elections has selected Talley Student Union as an early voting site for the 2020 presidential election.

At an early voting site, voters may register and cast a ballot on the same day, regardless of which precinct they currently live in. Early voting is also referred to as one-stop absentee voting.

According to Wake County Board of Elections member Gerry Cohen, the November 2020 election will be the fourth time Talley has been used as an early voting site. The N.C. State student union was also used in the 2012 presidential election, the 2018 midterm election and the 2020 primary.

Interim Vice Chancellor of the Division of

Academic and Student Affairs Lisa Zapata penned a June 24 letter to the Wake County Board of Elections outlining the benefits of and plans for using Talley as an early voting site.

In the 2020 primary, Talley was the sixth most used early voting site in Wake County, Zapata said in the letter. 6,991 votes were cast at Talley during the March 2020 election.

Similar to past elections, the Jeter Drive parking lot will be designated for voters. In her letter, Zapata explained that, in response to figures showing increased voter participation during the last four days of an election, NC State will double the availability of voter parking during that time. Transportation through the Wolfline will also be available.

New cleaning and sanitation practices will also be used in Talley, both in preparation for the Aug. 10 reopening of campus and the presidential election. The University will "partner with elections staff to support those efforts of social distancing and cleaning practices," Zapata said in the letter.

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Sarah Crawford (D) District 18

Crawford works at the nonprofit Single Stop, where she connects families to resources that help put them on the path to economic stability. She believes in reducing class sizes and raising teacher pay. She supports Medicaid expansion. She believes in prioritizing clean energy.



Larry Norman (R) District 18

Norman wants to appoint Board of Governors candidates who are Christian, conservative and have educational experience. He believes in a healthcare system that is based on free enterprise and choice. He does not believe in new laws to promote racial equality.

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N.C. Senate candidates for Mecklenburg County



Jeff Jackson (D) District 37

Jackson wants to expand Medicaid coverage to 500,000 people. He wants to reinvest in affordable housing to invest cities to make zoning reforms.



Sonja Nichols (R) District 37

Nichols is the President and CEO of Nicholant Enterprises. Nichols supports affordable housing and job equity.



Jack Brosch (R) District 38

Brosch supports eliminating the U.S. Dept. of Education and cutting EPA funding. He supports penalizing legislation for companies that hire immigrants illegally.



Mujtaba Mohammed (D) District 38

Mohammed supports Medicaid expansion in N.C. He wants to secure more funding for the N.C. Housing Trust Fund.



Joshua Niday (R) District 39

Niday supports school choice and is in favor of salary raises for teachers. He is in favor of holding police accountable for misconduct but in opposition of defunding the police.



DeAndrea Salvador (D) District 39

Salvador is part of the Youth Empowered Solutions and Clean Air Carolina Leadership Boards. She wants to invest more into education to remove systemic barriers for students.



Bobbie Shields (R) District 40

Shields believes in lessening the tax burden associated with home ownership to combat the housing crisis in Charlotte. He wants to expand Medicaid to close the health care coverage gap.



Joyce Waddell (D) District 40

Waddell supports increasing the state minimum wage. She is in support of expanding Medicaid coverage. She wants to raise teacher pay and reform the school district's resource distribution system.



Natasha Marcus (D) District 41

Marcus wants to provide better funding for public K-12 education. She supports police and criminal justice reform, including reinstating the Racial Justice Act and supporting the Second Chance Act and First Step Act.

How to request an absentee ballot for the November 2020 election

Due to the pandemic, some may find it difficult to physically go to the polls on election day. Common solutions people are turning to are absentee/mail-in ballots.

- To receive a mail-in absentee ballot, you must request a ballot via the Absentee Ballot Request Form via the North Carolina State Board of Elections website, or you must send a signed paper form via mail, email, fax or by dropping it off in person at your county's Board of Elections.
- The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 at 5 p.m.

- When voting via mail-in ballot, for the November 2020 general election, you should mark your ballot in the presence of at least one witness.
- The two steps voters must complete after marking their ballot are: seal the ballot in the container-return envelope and complete the Absentee Application and Certificate on the ballot container-return envelope.
- You should return your ballot to your

county Board of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day.

- Don't wait until the deadline to submit your ballot; submit it as early as possible.

As we continue to adjust to this new situation, it is important to remember that we are still capable of having our voices heard. Getting to the polls may be more challenging this election than in previous years, but that should not stop the American people from voting for what they believe in.

The Niner Times



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N.C. Senate candidates for District 5



Don Davis (D) District 5

Davis is a United States Air Force Academy alumnus, and a retired United States Air Force flight commander and protocol officer. He believes in developing East Carolina University into a national research institution. His main goals include expanding job creation in eastern North Carolina within rural communities and endorsing affordable health care.



Karen Kozel (R) District 5

Kozel wants to ensure resources for Pitt and Greene counties in the North Carolina state budget. She wants to support economic growth in Eastern North Carolina by encouraging and supporting small and large business growth by lowering taxes, start-up incentives and less state level regulation. She wants to sponsor a bill to increase construction of community health centers and upgrading existing local centers.

ECU SGA, professors inform students on election candidates

By Staff Reports
The East Carolinian

Tuesday marked National Voter Registration Day, and two East Carolina University professors have made efforts to ensure students are registered to vote and are informed of the candidates running for offices in Pitt County.

ECU News Services released an announcement regarding a website launched by ECU School of Communication professors Cindy Elmore and Brian Massey. This website was created with the help of grants from ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication and the School of Communication, according to the news release.

"We're concerned about the widespread newspaper shutdowns and journalist layoffs, both of which leave voters with no one providing the information needed to engage in local elections and voting," Massey said in the news release. "Without such information, voters are uninformed, not engaged or left voting on the basis of yard signs and billboards."

The website provides information about the duties and responsibilities of each of the positions as well as questions answered by each candidate about their

political views and agendas, according to the news release.

ECU Student Government Association (SGA) also sent an email to the student body, which reminded them today is National Voter Registration Day. SGA partnered with the ECU Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement to inform students how and where they can register and vote.

"The Main Campus Student Center will be a one-stop early voting location again this election! The one-stop early voting site in the Main Campus Student Center (room 125) will be open October 15-31," the email said.

The email from SGA said ECU partnered with the Andrew Goodman Foundation to provide students with an online portal where they can check their registration status, request absentee ballots, register to vote, look up candidates and more. All students have been added to a student affairs resource course on Canvas that also gives students information about the election, according to the email.

These resources are available to all ECU students, including those who are no longer in Greenville due to the transition of remote instruction for undergraduate courses.

The East Carolinian

Court ruling restores voting rights to thousands

By Maria Morava
The Daily Tar Heel

For formerly incarcerated people in North Carolina, the beginning of September brought news of re-enfranchisement just eight weeks before the 2020 presidential election.

On Sept. 4, the Wake County Superior Court ruled that the state must allow citizens who owe fines, fees or debts from a felony conviction to vote.

Dennis Gaddy, founder and executive director of Community Success Initiative, said up to 5,000 people in North Carolina were made newly eligible voters by way of this decision. CSI is a Raleigh-based nonprofit and the lead plaintiff in the case.

Now, Gaddy said, the task is to identify and register new voters.

"We're still putting together a strategy," Gaddy said. "That's something that the Second Chance Alliance team is trying to figure out."

The N.C. Second Chance Alliance is a statewide alliance of people with criminal records, service providers, congregations, community leaders and concerned citizens that address the barriers that criminal records pose to successful re-entry.

Many organizations and individuals involved in the Second Chance Alliance acted as plaintiffs in the CSI v. Moore case, litigated

by the Durham-based law and policy center, Forward Justice. In May 2020, the plaintiffs filed a motion for summary judgement — a decision by the court not involving a trial.

The plaintiffs also commissioned Frank Baumgartner, a professor of political science at UNC, to draft an expert report on North Carolina's disenfranchisement of formerly incarcerated people.

Baumgartner found that post-conviction financial obligations average more than \$2,000 per individual on probation, and over \$500 for those on post-release supervision.

He also investigated racial disparities, reporting that Black people are disenfranchised by such policies at a rate 2.76 times higher than white people.

"I was not surprised by the findings in the report, but as I often tell people, we have to put a number on these things," Baumgartner said. "My role was simply to calculate what that number was, and what I found was 2.7."

Gaddy, in addition to his role at CSI, serves as the criminal justice chair for the North Carolina NAACP. The court's decision, he said, was an "implicit win" for the Black community, given that Black people make up 22 percent of North Carolina's population, but 55 percent of the incarcerated population.

Gaddy comes from a family engaged in

the democratic process. His mother, he said, worked to register voters during his summers growing up, while his father served as precinct chair for his local voting site.

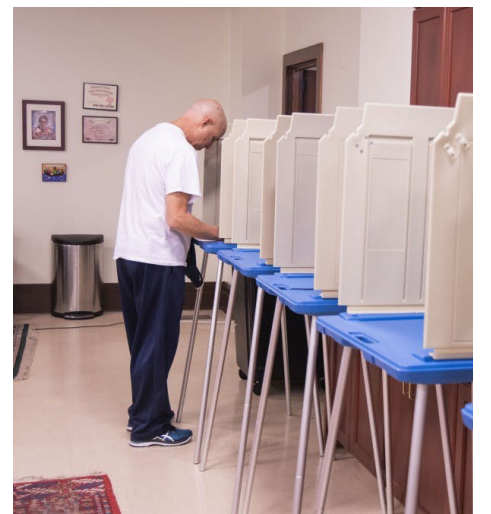
However, after spending over five years in prison, Gaddy was released on probation and unable to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

"I was unable to vote for the first African American president," he said. "I kind of lived for that day, when that would happen. So, for me, (disenfranchisement) is a personal experience."

Leaders in the formerly incarcerated community celebrated the decision along with Gaddy and CSI. Kristie Puckett Williams, manager of the statewide Campaign for Smart Justice at the ACLU of North Carolina, is a formerly incarcerated scholar and activist for disenfranchised communities.

"It felt really good to see a decision that meant our people would be able to be reconnected in a way they hadn't been connected in years," she said. "Incarcerated people are people. Helping folks get connected to their humanity through civic engagement is what this lawsuit is about."

As 5,000 new voters are identified and registered in North Carolina, the push for re-enfranchisement is not over. Around 51,000 people on probation or post-release supervision are disenfranchised — and the court's ruling applied only to the 5,000 unable



THE DAILY TAR HEEL/PARKER BROWN

An Orange County voter fills out his ballot for the local election on Oct. 23, 2019.

to vote because of financial obligations.

"We broke a little bit of the glass ceiling," Gaddy said. "But the verdict was a perfect solution to what we were trying to do, which was expand the right to vote."

city@dailytarheel.com

N.C. Senate candidates for districts 20, 22



Natalie Murdock (D) District 20

Murdock wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15. She wants the state to offer alternatives to incarceration and decriminalize non-violent crimes, including marijuana use. She wants to expand Medicaid and have equal healthcare access in every county by 2025. She believes in expanding mass transit, higher water treatment standards and having 100% renewable energy by 2050.



John Tarantino (R) District 20

Tarantino did not respond to our questions and we could not find information about his candidate platform online.



Rick Padgett (R) District 22

Padgett wants to boost the economy by encouraging new businesses to come to North Carolina. Padgett is a strong defender of police. One of his goals is to "work to improve the quality of life for law enforcement and other public safety personnel." Padgett's main educational goal is to increase the presence of armed police in schools.



Mike Woodward (D) District 22

Woodard has worked on expansion of work opportunities, increasing training and apprenticeship programs, and the expansion of public transportation. He also supports Medicaid expansion. He wants to increase teacher and principal pay to match the national average, and supports increasing the number of teacher assistants and nurses in schools.

Student political groups gear up for an election during a pandemic

By Pilar Kelly and Hattie Halloway

The Duke Chronicle

With a presidential election just around the corner, Duke's student political groups are working to mobilize the youth vote amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without the option of hosting in-person programming this fall, groups like Duke Votes, Duke Students for Biden and Duke Democrats are working hard to facilitate creative virtual events aimed at getting out the vote.

Duke Votes

Duke Votes is a non-partisan student-run organization focused on registering Duke students to vote.

Students often have to update their voter registration when they move from East to West Campus or to North Carolina, a process that has been particularly confusing because of coronavirus-related changes. Duke Votes aims to help students easily navigate all aspects of the registration process.

"As a historically low-turnout group, students have the potential to make a huge impact if they do go out and vote," said Duke Votes Chair Jessica Sullivan, a senior.

In the absence of large events, Duke Votes is focusing on community-oriented outreach. One of their primary initiatives is a voting information sign-up tool. Students answer questions about where they currently live and whether they intend to vote with their campus or home address, and the organization will send them information tailored to their specific voting situation.

"At its core we're still doing the same community-oriented outreach as we did in 2018. We have the same mission and guiding principles, it's just that the methods of doing that have changed," Sullivan said.

In addition to voter registration drives and other virtual events, Duke Votes has partnered with student groups who can pledge to register 100% of their eligible members, and with resident assistants who distribute information to their residents.

"We're trying to do more person-to-person contact, so we're having people reach out to their friends and their communities, and do it more on an individual level," Sullivan explained.

Duke Students for Biden

Sara Tavakolian said that Duke Students for Biden was formed at the beginning of the summer as a "coalition of students on Duke's campus who are really passionate about voting for Joe Biden this November." The

organization has four executive members—Tavakolian, senior Rahul Krishnaswamy and sophomores Jack Kochansky and Daniel Marshall—as well as almost 1,000 Instagram followers, as of early Thursday, and a rapidly growing GroupMe chat.

Over a Zoom meeting, Krishnaswamy stressed the importance of simply getting Duke students out to vote, stating that "if every single young voter in North Carolina... voted, North Carolina would not even be in contention. This would be solid Joe."

Duke Students for Biden has four major objectives: educating students on political issues, making sure students are registered to vote, getting students excited about a Biden presidency, and engaging with North Carolina voters at large through phone banking and texting.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the organization has had to do online speaker, voter registration and phone banking events.

"It's been a lot more virtual," Marshall said in response to how their programming has been different as a result of Covid-19. "We have a pretty big social media presence."

Krishnaswamy emphasized that "over the last couple of elections Duke's turnout has been kind of sad," but "there is no reason why [Duke students] can't be leaders for everyone else."

The executive team hopes that Duke's voter turnout will improve this year. "I think we can get our turnout up to 60, 70, maybe 80%, which would be amazing," Krishnaswamy said.

Duke Democrats

Duke Democrats helps left-leaning students get involved in politics on and off campus. Anyone can sign up for their weekly Political Blast email that contains information about events and initiatives organized by democratic groups such as the Durham Democratic party, Swing NC and Duke Students for Biden.

Duke Democrats also provides a way for liberal students to network and find job and internship opportunities in the Democratic political sphere.

Echoing other leaders of student political groups, senior James Toscano, a member of Duke Democrats, said that political organizing looks very different right now.

"In the past, we would have things like phone banks in person, which were fun because you got to meet people instead of feeling like you're making calls into the void by yourself. We also would do voter registration events and set up tables around campus. All those things you can't do anymore," Toscano said.

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on Election Day.

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