

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
CAROLINE BUNDER & OLIVIA PARKS

Where and when
to vote in the Town of
Elon in person

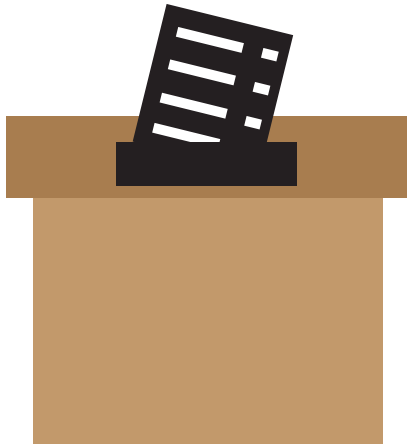
PG. 2

A look at candidates in
North Carolina
and Alamance County

PG. 5

North Carolina's mask
policy at
polling locations

PG. 10

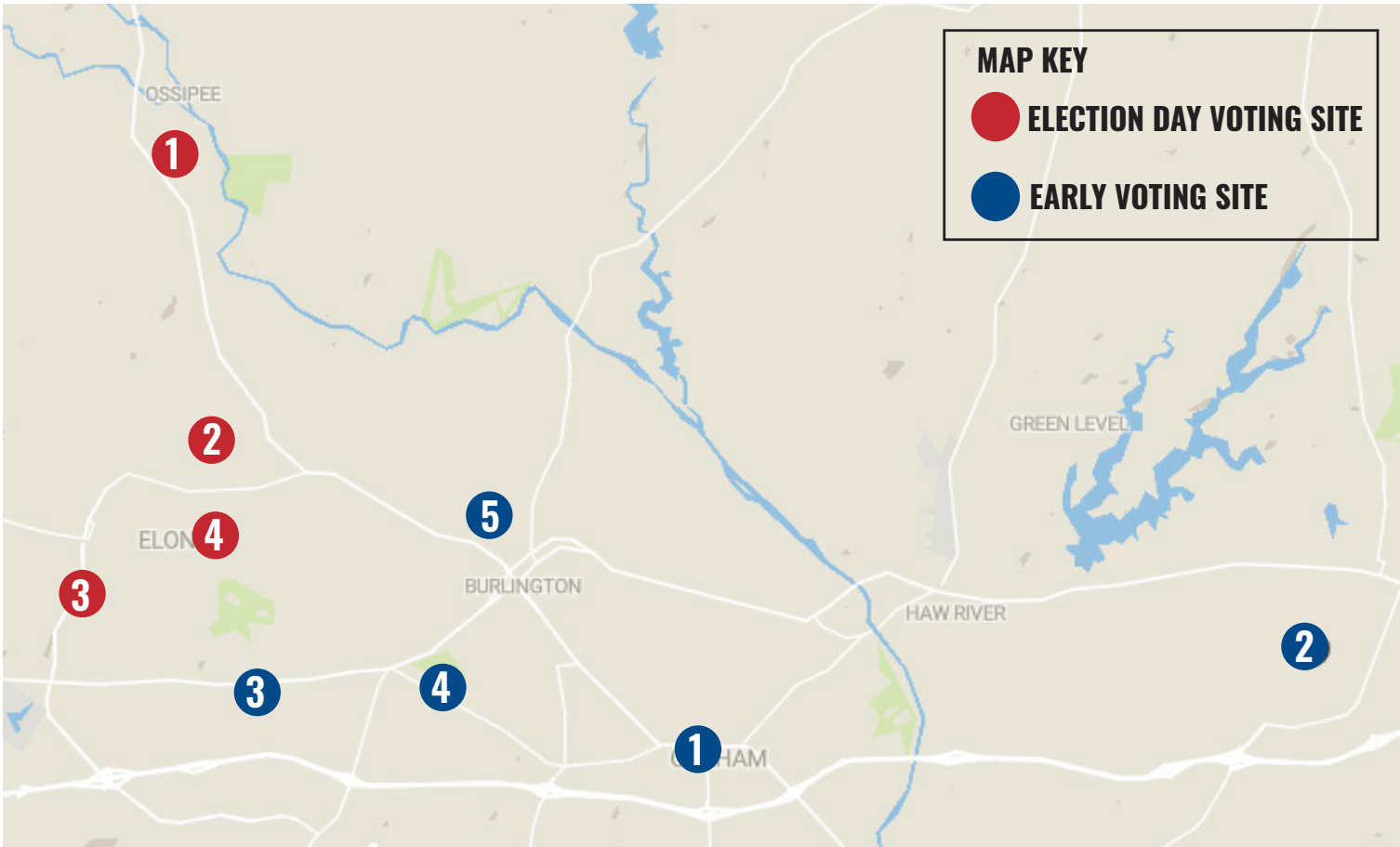


TOWN OF ELON

VOTING INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

- ☐ **OCT. 15**
Start of early voting for 2020 general election
- ☐ **OCT. 27**
Absentee by-mail ballot request deadline
- ☐ **OCT. 31**
End of early voting for 2020 general election
- ☐ **NOV. 3**
Election day



Map of voting areas for early voting and election day voting throughout the town of Elon and Alamance County. Source: Google Maps, map created with Datawrapper.

EARLY VOTING

- 1** **VOTING PLACE:** Alamance County Office Annex Building (Auditorium)
ADDRESS: 201 W. Elm St., Graham, NC 27253
- 2** **VOTING PLACE:** Mebane Arts and Community Center
ADDRESS: 622 Corregidor St., Mebane, NC 27302
- 3** **VOTING PLACE:** Holly Hill Mall
ADDRESS: 309 Huffman Mill Rd., Burlington, NC 27215
- 4** **VOTING PLACE:** Kernodle Senior Activities Center
ADDRESS: 1535 S. Mebane St., Burlington, NC 27215
- 5** **VOTING PLACE:** Elmira Community Center
ADDRESS: 810 Wicker St., Burlington, NC 27217

ELECTION DAY

- 1** **PRECINCT NAME:** Morton
VOTING PLACE: Western Middle School
ADDRESS: 2100 Eldon Drive, Elon
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT #:64
- 2** **PRECINCT NAME:** Boone 5
VOTING PLACE: Elon Elementary School
ADDRESS: 720 Walker Road, Elon
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT #:64
- 3** **PRECINCT NAME:** West Boone
VOTING PLACE: Beth Schmidt Community Center
ADDRESS: 2150 Elon Park Drive, Elon
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT #:64
- 4** **PRECINCT NAME:** North Boone
VOTING PLACE: First Baptist Church of Elon
ADDRESS: 621 E. Haggard Ave., Elon
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT #:64

ELON VOTING DATES & TIMES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Oct. 15-16: 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. | Oct. 24: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. |
| Oct. 17: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Oct. 26-30: 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 18: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. | Oct. 31: 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 19-23: 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. | Nov. 3: 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. |

WHERE DO I VOTE?

To vote early, there are five different early locations in Alamance County. Voters can cast their ballots at any of these locations. To vote on Election Day, voters must go to an assigned polling location depending on their address. Visit [ncsbe.gov](https://www.ncsbe.gov) to look up your assigned polling location. If someone votes at a polling location that isn't assigned to them, they can cast a provisional ballot at that location.

Election Day is
November 3.

You can vote early.

You can vote
by mail.

You can vote on
Election Day.

North Carolina has Same Day Registration. If you miss the voter registration deadline, you can still register and vote during the early vote period. Make your plan to vote at VoteAmerica.com/Students

Vote
America
VoteAmerica.com

STUDENTS IDENTIFY ISSUES MOST IMPORTANT TO VOTERS



(LEFT TO RIGHT) PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL DOROCIAC AND KARA CHALIFOUX

(Left to right) Elon junior and President of the College Republicans at Elon Daniel Dorociak and Elon junior Kara Chalifoux who remotely works on former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign speak on issues that will influence college students.

Elon University students speak on the issues that will most likely influence the vote of college students

Samantha Hess
Elon News Network

Across Elon University, signs of the upcoming presidential election are everywhere — literally. Instructions on how to request an absentee ballot can be found in most academic buildings, and students receive regular emails from administrators encouraging them to vote.

This will be the first election many college students can cast a ballot in, and it's widely considered a monumental election for other reasons as well. As tensions across the country remain high from the COVID-19 pandemic, other concerns regarding Black Lives Matter protests and health care affordability during the pandemic are also defining issues voters currently face.

According to Pew Research Center, health care is currently the second largest issue behind the economy that voters take into consideration when casting their ballot. While racial and ethnic injustice falls 8th on that list out of 12, people of color — who make up one-third of the electorate — are expected to be motivated by that factor more than anything else this year, according to a poll by the Advancement Project National Office.

Voter turnout among college-aged individuals has become a focus in recent years after studies began to show it lagging behind that of older voter groups. According to the United States Election Project, voter turnout among 18 to 29-year-olds for the past 10 years has consistently been at least 10% lower than that of 30 to 44-year-olds and more so compared to older demographics.

Daniel Dorociak, president of College Republicans at Elon, said members of his club are focusing on the issues that they believe are directly going to affect them. The priorities of college students are often the issues that they'll most heavily experience within their lifetime, Dorociak said.

"We're gonna have to grow up in this world, and I'd rather have a world that's not on fire.

I think a lot of people also are very pro-Second Amendment in our club, myself included. And so I think that is kind of a thing that they want to really protect and advocate for," Dorociak said. "And then public health ... I think the whole pandemic really is what is getting people involved in that."

Elon junior Kara Chalifoux — who works on former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign remotely — noted a shift in the issues put at the forefront of people's concerns stems from the prominence of social media and immediate access to information. Not only does social media provide the ability to now access information easily, but video and photo capabilities also allow audiences to put themselves in unique perspectives any time they look at new sources.

"I think that we've seen, especially with quarantine happening, a lot of social media activism. I think Black Lives Matter is going to be a huge one," Chalifoux said. "I think climate change already has been and is still a big issue for us. People are reaching out and posting, and I think that these are things that actually impact us. Like climate change is going to impact our lives the most."

The issues students and young people find important can also be seen in the advocacy and actions occurring on and around Elon's campus. On Oct. 2, students, faculty and staff participated in the "Elon Against Hate: Walking Protest," in which the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-racism and anti-hate messages were spread throughout campus in a walking protest.

Chalifoux said that as someone working in a campaign, she understands the significance of voting, especially at this time.

"A lot of people view this election as the election of our lifetime. And I've heard that time and time again from professors, from people I talked to, voters and also family," Chalifoux said. "I think that this election is different in the sense that we're at this crossroads, and we're either going to completely go one way or we're going to go another way. And I think that's really going to set up the road for modern politics in

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KARA CHALIFOUX
JUNIOR

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Chalifoux said the crossroads stems from what she perceives is a difference in the issues Democrats and Republicans view as important, which can be seen in proposed Congressional legislation and the ways in which people involve themselves in party politics.

Demonstrations are just one of the ways that Elon students have shown their advocacy for the issues they find pressing in the upcoming election. Elon Sustainability is holding their Campus Sustainability Week from Oct. 19 to 23 in which they will not only try to educate students about sustainability and environmental change but help enact it as well.

Dorociak has also encouraged members of his club to speak out about the issues they find important. He said many of his club members and himself have partnered with the National Rifle Association by connecting with their club's representative and are phone banking and sending out text messages for North Carolina Republicans, specifically U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis and state Senate candidate Amy Galey.

Dorociak also said college students need to learn about political issues closer to home instead of just those of national elections.

"I would say that students need to really learn more about their local issues and their local candidates and what's going on in their local small towns," Dorociak said. "Because in reality, that's actually a lot more important than the national election because what happens in your small town or wherever you live directly impacts your future."

Chalifoux agreed and said many Elon students have seen firsthand the potential effects of the election and are pushing their peers to recognize the issues they prioritize and use their vote to act on them.

"I think that it hits home with the Trump parade and convoy through Elon. I think people seeing that has changed the tone on campus in the sense where people feel very personally attached to it," Chalifoux said. "And I think Elon students are lucky in the sense that a lot of us are really privileged. And so sometimes that can lead to a little bit of ignorance, like the power of voting and why you should vote."

NORTH CAROLINA VOTER GUIDE

The presidential election is not the only thing on the ballot in North Carolina this November. In addition to voting for president, Elon voters will pick a governor, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state senator, state representatives and Alamance County commissioners. Every candidate except gubernatorial candidates Roy Cooper and Dan Forest replied to Elon News Network’s requests for interviews (U.S. Senate candidates Cal Cunningham and Thom Tillis did not speak with ENN, but their campaigns provided statements on their behalf). Early voting begins on Oct. 15, and in-person polling places can be found on page 2.

GOVERNOR

Roy Cooper and Dan Forest face off in gubernatorial race

Cooper was elected in 2016 after winning 49% of the vote. Forest has served as lieutenant governor since 2013.

Miranda Ferrante | Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

ROY COOPER

ROY COOPER IS THE incumbent running for reelection and has been governor since 2017 after defeating Republican Pat McCrory. He was the state’s attorney general for 16 years and has also served in both the North Carolina House and Senate.

According to his campaign website, Cooper is running for reelection because he wants North Carolina to be a place “where people are better educated, healthier, have more money in their pockets and have the



opportunity to live lives of purpose and abundance.”

As governor of North Carolina, Cooper has fought to establish good-paying jobs, strong public schools and affordable health care and has issued executive orders prohibiting workplace discrimination,

establishing paid parental leave for state employees and launched the Clean Energy Plan, according to his website.

Additionally, Cooper’s website says that he has worked across party lines to combat North Carolina’s opioid crisis and launched the state’s first Opioid Action Plan in 2017. According to his campaign website, prescriptions for opioids have since fallen 24%, while emergency room visits for opioid misuse have decreased by 10% and opioid-related deaths by 5%.

DAN FOREST

REPUBLICAN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN Forest will challenge the incumbent Cooper at the polls.

Forest has been North Carolina’s lieutenant governor since 2013 and now has his sights set on the governor’s office. He currently serves on the State Board of Education and State Economic Development Board.

According to his campaign website, Forest worked as an architect and businessman



for two decades and later would become an office president and senior partner at North Carolina’s largest architecture firm.

Forest prioritizes issues including defending the Second Amendment, opposing abortion, combating illegal immigration, raising teacher pay, improving healthcare, ending human trafficking, protecting free speech, improving coastal fishing and protecting the elderly in nursing home, according to his campaign website.

U.S. SENATE

Thom Tillis and Cal Cunningham face off in U.S. Senate race

With 35 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats up for election in 2020, Democrats are looking to unseat incumbent North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis with their candidate Cal Cunningham.

Jack Norcross | News Director | @JNorcrossNews

THOM TILLIS

TILLIS, 60, IS SEEKING his second term in office after defeating then Democrat incumbent Kay Hagan in the 2014 elections. Before becoming a senator, Tillis served as Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives for nearly four years.

Tillis believes the state’s staggered coronavirus reopening process places North Carolina in a “good position.”

“Protecting the physical health of our nation and its economic health are not mutually exclusive, we can and we must do both. It’s possible to safely reopen North Carolina,” Tillis’s campaign said.

North Carolina is one of eight states with witness requirements for absentee ballots. Tillis’s campaign said he has concerns about a Sept. 22 change from North Carolina’s Board of Elections about absentee voting.



“I have trusted our long-standing absentee ballot system in North Carolina,” Tillis’s campaign said. “However, after the North Carolina Board of Elections moved to change the rules regarding absentee voting with just seven weeks before the election to bypass the duly-elected General Assembly, and I have concerns that partisan politics have been introduced to the process. I hope our voting system will ultimately be free of partisan politics so we can all have full faith.”

Tillis has also notably contracted the coronavirus, which has led to questions regarding his positions on mask-wearing. Prior to testing positive, Tillis attended an outdoor Rose Garden ceremony formally nominating Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. Tillis was one of only a handful of people to wear masks during the outdoor ceremony, but at a smaller reception inside the White House, photos show Tillis was not wearing a mask.

“I have to admit that I let my guard down because we’d all been tested about two hours before the event,” Tillis told WRAL. “It’s just another experience that tells me, even when you think you’re in a safe setting, you should always wear a mask.”

Tillis said moving forward he will wear a mask whenever he is around people.

CAL CUNNINGHAM

CUNNINGHAM, 47, IS A former state senator and retired military officer. Throughout his career Cunningham has worked at law firms and most recently worked at WasteZero — a Raleigh-based company that works to reduce waste — as vice president and general counsel.

Cunningham believes the restoration of the economy will not occur unless the virus is under control.

“Critical to North Carolina’s phased reopening plan is widespread testing and personal protective equipment to help us reopen with peace of mind, keep frontline workers safe, and ensure we have the testing capacity we need,” Cunningham’s campaign said.

Regarding election security and voting rights, Cunningham



complimented the Bipartisan Elections Act of 2020, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor. The act provides changes and resources for state and county board of elections.

“Here in North Carolina, the General Assembly came together to pass a bipartisan bill that put funding behind that critical goal,” Cunningham’s campaign said. “I’m confident in

our voting system here in North Carolina, and I encourage all North Carolinians to request an absentee ballot or find an early voting site and make their voice heard this fall.

Cunningham has recently had to apologize after a report from National File suggested he exchanged sexual text messages with Arlene Guzman Todd, a public relations strategist from California. Screenshotted texts claim Cunningham called Guzman Todd “historically sexy” among other messages.

Cunningham is married with two kids.

“I have hurt my family, disappointed my friends, and am deeply sorry,” Cunningham said in a Oct. 2 statement. “The first step in repairing those relationships is taking complete responsibility, which I do. I ask that my family’s privacy be respected in this personal matter.”

U.S. HOUSE 13

Scott Huffman and Ted Budd face off in U.S. House 13th District race

Budd was elected in 2016 after winning 56% of the vote. Huffman has never held public office.

Brian Rea | [Elon News Network](#) | [@brianmrea](#)

SCOTT HUFFMAN

HUFFMAN SAID HE WAS inspired to run for office following the 2016 election. He said his 11-year-old daughter was concerned about her friends of color, different ethnicities and different religions.

“I think the opportunity to serve in Washington is important and being a public servant is what we desperately need,” Huffman said. “And I’m going to draw from my military experience, my entrepreneurial spirit and take those skills to Washington to try to help our district. When elected, I’m going to represent everybody who is in the district, regardless of their party affiliation. Now we may not agree on a lot of things, but we’ll agree on what will help our district. So I’m just as prepared if not more than Ted Budd.”

Huffman said he believes the federal government should have taken more steps earlier to stop the spread of the virus.



“It really goes back to Washington D.C.,” he said. “They didn’t do enough to protect us, and if we’d have really taken this virus seriously back in February and March, we would actually probably be reopened on a larger scale than where we are right now. But Governor Cooper was led to lead on his own for our state. They’re dead because the president refused the national mask plan. And my opponent, Ted Budd, did the same thing.”

Huffman said he supports stimulus payments from the government. If

elected, he said he will vote to expand unemployment benefits and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food stamps to families, to help those feeling the burden of the pandemic.

“Our tax dollars have been going into the federal government for rainy days, just like this,” Huffman said. “And what we’ve seen is that they’re not handing out umbrellas. People need umbrellas to deal with this pandemic. And it’s really unconscionable that so many people are hurting. Our [unemployment] numbers are so high we’re in the worst economic free fall we have ever experienced.”

In April, a month after the coronavirus began spreading in the U.S. more than 23 million people were unemployed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last month, the bureau reported that number had fallen to 12.6 million.

TED BUDD

BUDD WAS ELECTED PRIOR to the redistricting of North Carolina’s congressional map. Under the new map being used in the 2020 election, the 13th District gained Alamance, Randolph, Caswell and Person counties, as well as a portion of Chatham County.

Budd said he wants to get aggressive on COVID-19 to slow the spread.

“We want to support from a governmental perspective. We want to make sure that we’re supporting vaccines and therapeutics and good health measures, which we have done,” he said.

Budd claimed he was the first member of Congress to call for a travel ban on China after the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan in January. He said he believes the U.S. needs to start producing its own personal protective



equipment instead of receiving it from China. In September, Budd introduced the Make PPE in America Act.

“This area, Alamance County, you think of Burlington mills,” Budd said. “You think of all the textiles that’s produced right here in Alamance County. They’ve done yeoman’s work in this area converting from fabric production over to PPE fabric production. And we want to make sure that we have our security supply chain here in the U.S. for better security and it’s good for

jobs as well.”

Budd has signed off on various COVID-19 relief bills, including an \$8.3 billion stimulus package (H.R. 6074), the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program, which gives loans to small businesses.

“I think we came together as a country,” Budd said. “We got through the House, we got through the Senate and on to the president’s desk and into law.”

While Budd has voted in favor of those stimulus packages, he voted against the Families First Coronavirus Response Act -- which passed into law -- that gives paid sick leave, expanded food assistance and unemployment benefits to families. Budd also voted against the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020, which would halt evictions and foreclosures during the pandemic.

N.C. SENATE 24

Amy Galey and JD Wooten face off in N.C. Senate race

Galey and Wooten vie for the state senate seat in a contentious race as incumbent Rick Gunn steps down.

Emery Eisner | [Elon News Network](#) | [@EisnerEmery](#)

AMY GALEY

AMY GALEY HIGHLIGHTS THE importance of education among other issues in her campaign. She said that her personal experience with slow internet has highlighted the importance of expanding broadband access so students around Alamance County have easier access to remote classrooms.

“I actually live in a part of the county that does not have access to high speed internet,” Galey said. “It makes it really difficult for my son who’s still in high school to be able to do his work, and it makes it difficult for me to participate in Zoom meetings online.”

One health care issue specifically important to Galey is the racial disparity in the U.S. infant mortality rate, she said. As of 2018, the Black infant mortality rate was more than twice that of the rate for white infants.



“That’s not acceptable,” Galey said, adding that she would support expanded Medicaid to specifically address this issue.

Galey would not support a general expansion of Medicaid, she said.

Galey also said the process of reopening North Carolina during the coronavirus pandemic has been too slow.

“I think that the governor’s plan with the stay-at-home order was appropriate,” Galey said, but added that “back in March, we didn’t know what was going on with the virus. We didn’t know how people were going to be impacted.”

Now, Galey said, North Carolinians are better equipped to deal with the virus and should be allowed to return to work and recreational activities.

“I’ve talked to a lot of business owners who are at the very edge of going under, if not going under,” Galey said. “The negative impact has been tremendous.”

JD WOOTEN

JD WOOTEN SAID EDUCATION is “at the forefront” of his platform, and said the coronavirus pandemic hasn’t changed his overall vision.

“The pandemic has merely emphasized the importance of what we were already fighting for,” Wooten said. “We’ve got to be investing in educators that are equipped and trained to teach our children to make them prepared for today’s economy.”

Wooten added that access to broadband in rural areas of the county is more important than ever as remote learning highlights inequality between students.

“Broadband access is at the level of being a utility. It is part of our society now, we need to do something to address making sure that everyone has broadband access,” Wooten said, “Especially if we’re expecting our educators



to teach remotely and our children to learn remotely.”

Wooten also takes a more generalized and expansive approach to tackling health care. He said expanded access and use of Medicaid “lowers everyone’s cost” when “insurance is pooled.”

Wooten lamented the number of North Carolinians falling into the coverage gap – as of 2019, over one million people.

“As you work to expand that access to healthcare for everyone, it is a help to everyone across the board,” Wooten said.

Wooten also said North Carolina has been reopening at the right pace and said he supports Governor Roy Cooper’s phased plan

“We need to stay the course. We’ve got to do this the right way,” Wooten said. “I don’t think that there is a too fast or too slow that you can project out. I think we can only know the benefit of hindsight.”

N.C. HOUSE 63

Stephen Ross and Ricky Hurtado face off in District 63 House election

Hurtado and Ross will go head to head on Nov. 3 during the general election, with platforms encompassing local economics, education and racial injustice.

Lauren Singles | Event Coverage Coordinator | @lauren_singles

STEPHEN ROSS

ROSS, WHO WAS BORN and raised in District 63, is a graduate of Elon University. Ross has held political office before, beginning as a city council member and then becoming mayor of Burlington before transitioning into state government. Ross is running for reelection to continue his work on bringing back manufacturing and vibrancy to the downtown area.

“I look forward to continuing to try to do what we can to rebuild our downtowns because a vibrant downtown helps to create a healthy community,” Ross said. “A dilapidated, run-down downtown area just has an effect on everybody.”

One of Ross’s main goals, should he be reelected to his current position, is in continuing to bring back businesses and manufacturing to Alamance County and the downtown Burlington



area. Ross said the local economy was devastated after the textile industry left.

“That was the lifeblood here,” Ross said. “In fact, Burlington was recognized as the textile capital of the world. So we had to reinvent ourselves and I think we did a pretty good job with that.”

He said his tax policy legislation — which he renewed twice in Raleigh, once being last year — helped in opening and supporting places like White Furniture in

Mebane, the Oneida Mill in Graham and the Cone Mill facility that will be opening on the Haw River.

“None of these would have been possible without this work,” Ross said. “But it’s something that’s not permanent. You have to keep spinning that top, you have to stay in there and keep fighting to preserve not only the old buildings and the downtowns but to have a policy where the developers can actually afford to take on the risk.”

RICKY HURTADO

HURTADO, A NORTH CAROLINA native, went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Princeton University as a first-generation college student, later becoming an educator at UNC. Hurtado said he’s running because he thinks Alamance County needs different leaders who can meet current challenges, such as public health, economic and racial injustice issues.

“Part of my vision for Alamance County and North Carolina is for us to really bring back trust to our public institutions and to government,” Hurtado said. “We’ve recognized that good government and good leadership matters.”

As a product of public schools and an educator himself, Hurtado believes investing in schools and communities by raising teacher wages and lowering the cost of



college tuition is critical.

Hurtado believes supporting graduates to help fill future jobs in North Carolina is important as well.

“We know in North Carolina that there’s going to be half a million jobs that need to be filled over the next ten years,” Hurtado said. “I’m thinking critically about how we support our young people to make sure they fill the jobs of the future here today.”

Hurtado also supports North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper’s path to

reopening the state as the world continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic. He said the governor’s school reopening plan has allowed schools to think about the balance between health and education.

“Governor Cooper made the right call in creating a framework that allowed us to think critically about both balancing the health and safety of our students and our teachers, but also the learning needs — especially of our youngest students,” Hurtado said.

N.C. HOUSE 64

Eric Henry and Dennis Riddell face off in District 64 House election

Riddell seeks a fifth term against Democratic nominee and businessman Henry.

Jon Sarver Jr. | Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

ERIC HENRY

ERIC HENRY IS CURRENTLY the president and CEO of TS Designs, a screen printing company in Burlington. Henry said both him and his company’s attention on the environment is one of his main inspirations for running for office.

“Nature’s a system that we’re a part of. So [the] main reason I’m running is I want to reconnect and rebuild communities that have been devastated both by the environment and by political forces that have ideologies that benefit certain groups of people,” Henry said. “And I like to say a community cannot be successful unless everyone in that community has the opportunity to participate.”

Henry also said that he wants college students to be able to participate in these conversations, and he wants the community



to be a place that students want to stay in after graduation.

“Another thing I want to do in Alamance County is create opportunities for young people that graduate that want to stay here, because you have this tremendous asset,” Henry said. “There was nothing more frustrating is seeing these students that I work with as interns, and then they graduate and says ‘There’s nothing here for me to do.’”

If elected, Henry said he wants to work to pass

Medicaid expansion as part of the coronavirus pandemic response. He is critical of President Donald Trump’s response, and praised North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.

“Hats off to Roy Cooper. He’s been right out in front. He’s made some hard decisions. It’s impacted our business,” Henry said. “I’m also involved with Burlington Beerworks, which was really impacted for being shut down for weeks, if not months. But he made those tough decisions.”

DENNIS RIDDELL

AS DENNIS RIDDELL SEEKS his fifth term as representative, he said his first four terms have allowed him to establish himself in the Alamance County community.

“I get to see a side of Alamance County that not everybody does. Alamance County is full of really great people,” Riddell said. “Many of them just going about their job working, whether it’s at the health department, whether it’s in law enforcement, whether it’s in education, whether it’s just businesses here locally, just serving other people and doing really remarkable things.”

One of the issues that Riddell focuses on is the growth of local businesses. Riddell highlighted the LEAF



Program for helping small businesses in the coronavirus pandemic. This program allows for businesses to apply for emergency loans during the coronavirus pandemic. In September, Riddell voted for House Bill 1105, which provided more funding for the program.

Riddell also said that it is time for North Carolina to reopen, and he is also critical of the way Gov. Roy Cooper has handled the coronavirus pandemic. “There’s no one

person to have sufficient knowledge or understanding to regulate 10 million people, livelihoods, jobs, hobbies, church associations, community groups and things like that,” Riddell said. “I think Governor Cooper missed a big opportunity to push a lot of the health care, especially provisions down to the local health departments to work with them to be the provider, kind of like the federal government was doing for the states.”

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County commissioner candidates describe visions for Alamance County

Republicans Bill Lashley Jr., John Paisley Jr. and Pamela Thompson will battle Democrats Bob Byrd, Dreama Caldwell and Kristen Powers in the November general election for three open seats on the Alamance County Board of Commissioners.

Madalyn Howard & Kyra O'Connor | Elon News Network

BILL LASHLEY JR.



IF ELECTED, our financial obligations as far as budgets are concerned. And I think that if we're not careful, taxes could get out of control quickly."

If elected, Lashley said he will strive to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars and limiting taxes will be his top priority.

"I'm a big proponent of making sure that you control your finances," he said. "That's the thing that can give you a strong foundation or make you a very weak individual ... If you don't take care of your finances, bad, bad things can end up happening."

Lashley said he will use his economic experience to aid the county commissioners in fulfilling their financial obligations. Those obligations include adopting an annual budget and setting the county tax rate.

"This particular year," Lashley said, "I think we're going to have some difficulties meeting

JOHN PAISLEY JR.



JOHN PAISLEY JR.'S TIES to Alamance County run deep. Paisley graduated from Elon University in 1970, and after earning his Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest University in 1973, returned to Graham to practice law.

Paisley has worked as an attorney in Alamance County for 46 years and hopes to further serve the community if elected to the board of commissioners.

Paisley said his biggest priority is representing the population of Alamance County.

"I don't care what your background is or any other matter," Paisley said. "I will represent all of Alamance County."

Paisley has previously served as president of the Alamance County Bar Association and chairman of the Alamance County Board of Elections, and he believes his prior experience demonstrates his commitment to the public interest.

Among the issues Paisley believes are most relevant to the community are reopening North Carolina's economy and improving the Alamance-Burlington School System.

PAMELA THOMPSON



PA M E L A THOMPSON'S PLATFORM AND visions are deeply personal. She was raised in Alamance County and said she has served the community her entire life. Thompson works at her husband's criminal law practice, where she conducts forensic exams and specializes in drug addiction. Working with convicted felons in Alamance County, she said she has discovered a commonality: drugs.

"The drug crisis is something very important to me," she said. "We've got a lot of cartels coming from another country that use our interstate that comes right through here. And we have got a lot of drugs."

Key to Thompson's vision is the creation of a drug treatment center to serve Alamance County. She has also advocated for a local youth detention center to tackle these issues among the younger population.

Last year she was appointed by Republican State Senator Phil Berger to serve on the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, and she also served on North Carolina's Domestic Violence Commission for several years. Additionally she has served on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the Justice Advisory Council.

BOB BYRD



BOB BYRD PREVIOUSLY SERVED as a county commissioner from 2014 to 2018. He first ran for the position after being on a planning committee for the ABSS Alamance-Burlington School System, where he saw what he described as the lack of support for the school system from the local government.

"I have known a lot of commissioners and other politicians. I never thought I'd ever want to be a politician or an elected official until then," Byrd said. "I realized if I became a county commissioner, I could make a difference for our schools, and our teachers, and our kids."

As a former healthcare executive, Byrd — a former healthcare executive —

worked at Alamance Regional Medical Center for 35 years, where he was a member of the senior executive team and served as senior vice president. In his career, Byrd said he built many relationships, and hopes to utilize relationships and his ability to connect with people when serving Alamance county.

"Sometimes we as elected officials or candidates think we have solutions to everything," Byrd said. "You solve problems by talking and listening and working together and building bridges ... I have so many relationships built in this community to begin with. I want to leverage those relationships, sit down, have really meaningful conversations and do some problem-solving."

DREAMA CALDWELL



DR E A M A CALDWELL GREW UP in Alamance County and has lived there her whole life. She has been part of community organizations, which to allowing her to connect with residents. Caldwell said the county commissioners often didn't reflect her "lived-in experience" or the experiences of the people she met in the community — which is one of the reasons she decided to run.

"I've been in public housing, I'm a public high school graduate, public community graduate and fought this cycle of poverty," Caldwell said. "I just didn't feel like they had been down my journey and there wasn't anyone that

represented my journey."

Caldwell spent 25 years working with children as a day care manager. Fully funding schools and making sure every child has access to facilities of equal quality are critical, Caldwell said. The Alamance-Burlington School System school budget requests have a history of not being fully funded, a decision made by county commissioners.

"You're only as strong as your youth," Caldwell said. "Because eventually, your county commissioners will age out ...eventually, and if you're not treating your youth right from the very beginning, then it presents problems later on in time."

KRISTEN POWERS



KR I S T E N POWERS RAN FOR county commissioner in 2018 and lost to an incumbent. But Powers said she still saw a need for a lot of changes on the Board of Commissioners — which is why she is running again as one of the three Democratic candidates in the 2020 race.

The first time she ran, Powers said she focused her platform on issues she found and saw within Alamance County. This time, Powers is campaigning on the issues of the community.

Last fall, Powers surveyed over 300 community members, and

the issues on her platform reflect the results of the survey.

"We really made sure to focus that on our platform this year, to really reflect what we were actually hearing from community members," Powers said.

Powers said one of the bigger issues according to the survey is education, particularly the state of school buildings.

With students participating mainly in remote learning, Powers said there is opportunity to renovate without students inside the classroom, but inequity in education and childcare have come to light with remote learning.

HISTORICAL TRENDS OF NORTH CAROLINA’S VOTING

in Presidential Elections

North Carolina has shifted toward swing state status in the past couple decades

Grace Terry
Managing Editor | @gfterr9

In nine of the past ten presidential elections, the Republican party candidate has won the state of North Carolina. President Barack Obama was the lone Democrat to take the state when he won it by 0.32% in 2008. Obama’s victory was when Michael Bizter, who runs the political blog Old North State Politics and is a professor of politics and history at Catawba University, saw a shift in the state. “Basically, North Carolina voters [after 2008] went into their respective political corners and are intensely partisan. The nation as a whole has become deeply divided, and I think that that is playing out here in North Carolina,” Bizter said. “There are so few persuadable independent people in the middle that I think we are really exemplary of national dynamics.”

Bitzer said North Carolina is a swing state because it is mirroring national trends. According to Bitzer, the urban-rural divide is making the state more competitive. “The regional aspect of the state kind of mirrors national dynamics, and more and more people are moving to urban and suburban areas. Rural communities and counties are losing population; that’s true across the country,” Bizter said.

Bitzer also said the growing youth electorate is also contributing to competitive races in the state. “North Carolina is looking at a dynamic that is also happening nationally, and that is generational replacement,” he said. “Anybody under the age of 40, so millennials and now Gen Zers — basically anybody under the age of 23 — they are coming into the political environment with a very different perspective than what Gen Xers or even baby boomers have.”

North Carolina is a swing state in this year’s election and according to Bitzer, the state will be decided in the suburbs. Bizter classifies all suburban counties in one of two classifications. The first is “urban suburban” counties — which defines on his blog as “those outside the central city’s limits but within the same county” — and surrounding suburban counties — which are defined as “the surrounding suburban counties to the urban counties.” In the 2016 presidential election, the urban suburban counties essentially tied, according to Bitzer, while Trump won the surrounding suburban counties. “Within the urban suburbs, it went 49-48 Clinton over Trump, — so basically dead even. In the surrounding suburban counties, it was a two-to-one advantage for Trump,” Bitzer said. Alamance County is considered urban according to the Office

Presidential Election results in North Carolina

How North Carolina voters cast their ballots in the past five elections.

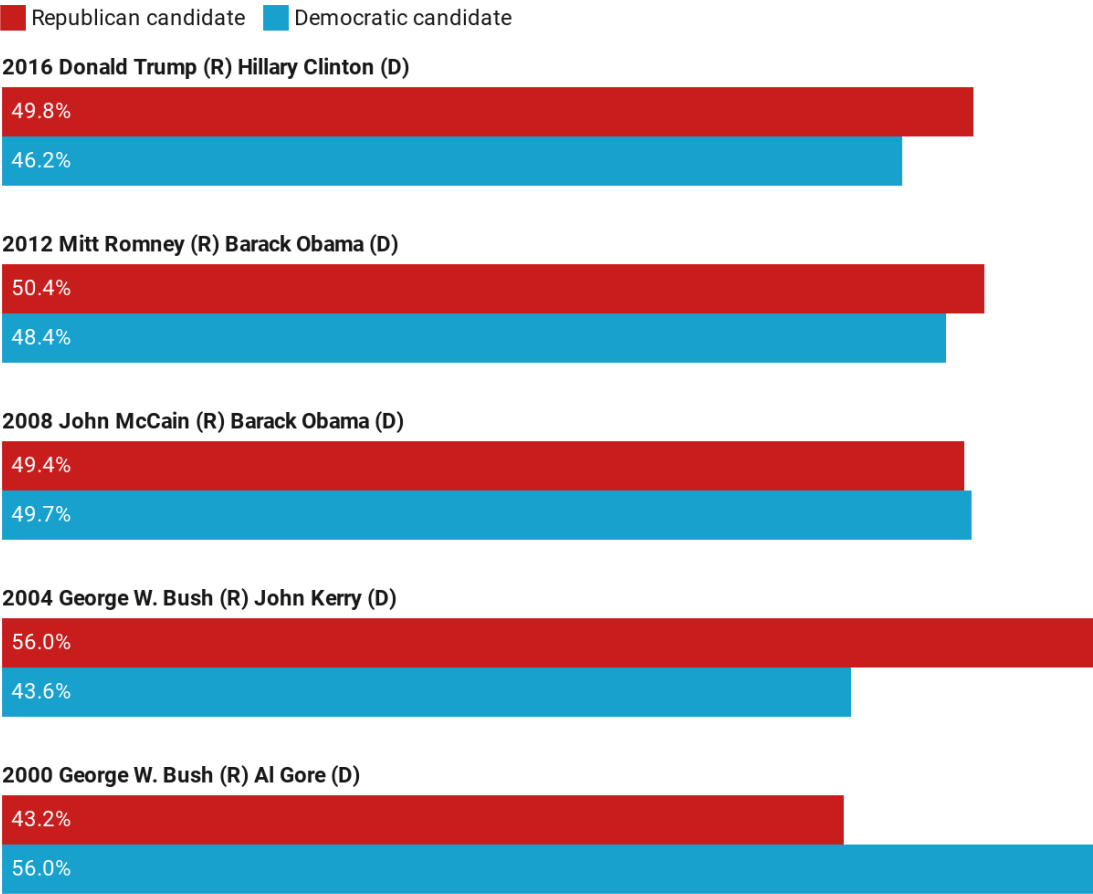


Chart: Mackenzie Wilkes • Source: North Carolina State Board of Elections | US Election Atlas • Created with Datawrapper

Alamance County presidential election results

How Alamance County voters cast their ballots in the past five elections

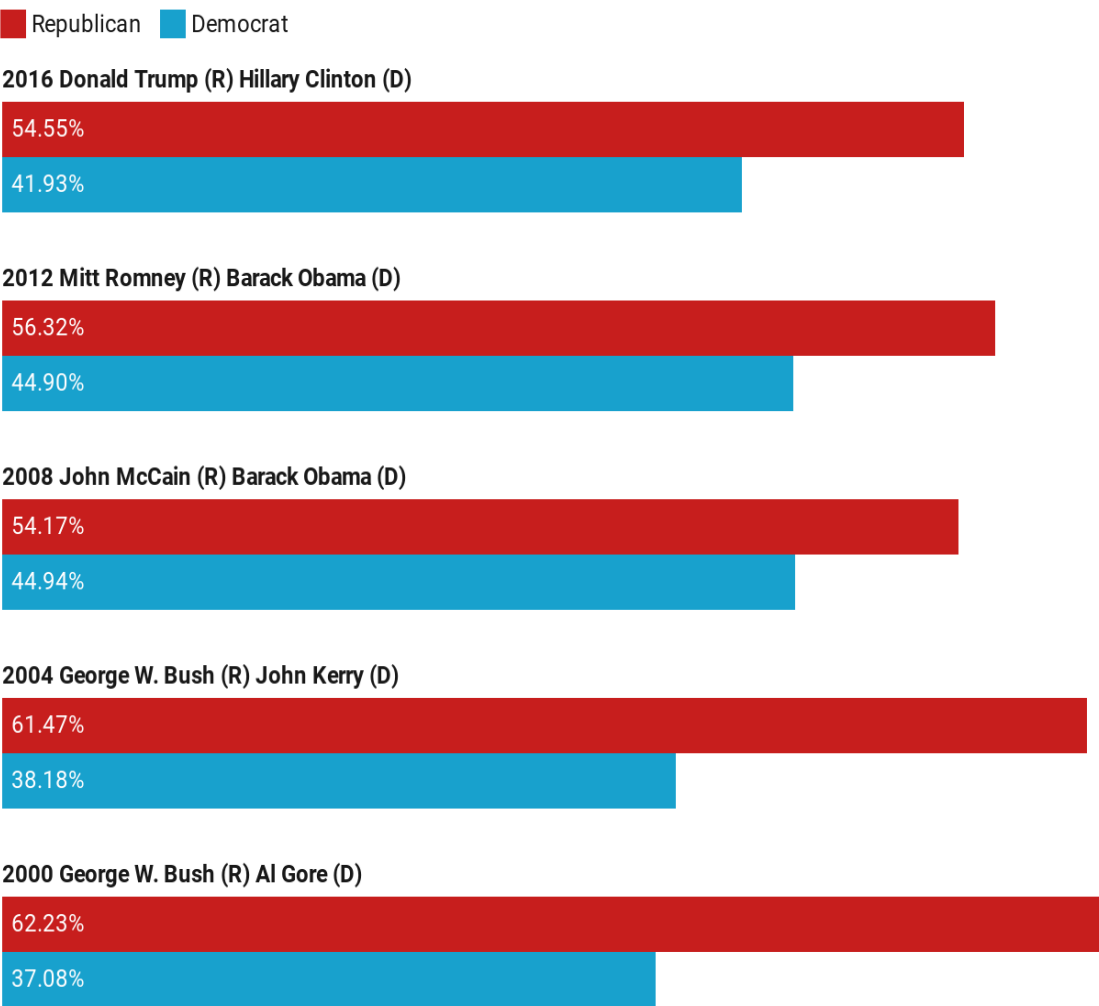


Chart: Mackenzie Wilkes • Source: North Carolina State Board of Elections | US Election Atlas • Created with Datawrapper

of Management and Budget classification. The county has voted Republican for the past five presidential elections. Bizter said Alamance County “doesn’t fit into the traditional notion of urban counties.” According to Bizter in 2016, all North Carolina urban counties combined gave Trump approximately 40% of the vote, but in Alamance County, he got 55% of the vote. It was the fifth-most Republican urban county in that state. In the 2020 election, winning North Carolina is more important to the Trump campaign than it is to the Biden campaign, according to Bizter. Trump needs North Carolina to win what he calls the “solid south.” “[The Republican] electoral base is very much rooted in the southern states of the United States. If you know, a couple of states get cracked or peeled off by Democrats — Florida, Virginia, North Carolina — that makes it extremely difficult for Republicans to get to 270 electoral votes,” Bizter said. “So at the presidential level, Donald Trump needs North Carolina in his wind column just to stay viable.” North Carolina has also seen a large increase in voters requesting absentee ballots due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the North Carolina State Board of Election, they have seen close to half a million absentee ballots casted as of Oct. 13. Over 8,000 of those ballots were from Alamance county. Over 20 days out from the election North Carolina has passed over a million total requests for absentee ballots this year — in 2016 a little over 231,000 total absentee ballots were requested. Democrats have cast most of the ballots that have already been sent in this year, which is a departure from previous years according to Bizter. “So this is a real flip in terms of how the parties are responding. And that also fits into a lot of polling that we know about,” Bizter said. “Democrats express an interest in voting by mail because they’re concerned about public health issues. Republicans, on the other hand, say, ‘if I can go to Walmart, I’m going to stand in line to vote.’ So, you know, there’s kind of a partisan divide over this issue of voting and the issue of COVID.” The biggest thing Bizter said he has learned from the polls this year is to not try and predict anything. “I think 2020 is such an oddity when it comes to election years, with COVID [and] with the Supreme court seat vacancy that’s being fought over. It’s just ‘expect the unexpected’, because it’s 2020,” Bizter said.

BALLOTS CAST WITH MASKS

Voters in North Carolina are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings to voting sites

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Elon University sophomore Tommy Truitt remembers the excitement he felt during his childhood when he would accompany his mom to the polls every time she voted in his Maryland hometown.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I would go to the polls with my mom and I would get the ‘I Voted’ sticker and I would always wear it,” Truitt said. “It would just make me excited. I have been pumped to vote for years now.”

Truitt said that as a political science minor, he enjoys looking at and being knowledgeable about politics. He said he believes it is a privilege for individuals to be able to not care about politics and it is something he thinks everyone needs to be aware of.

“Everyone needs to be politically active in my opinion,” Truitt said.

According to Truitt, one way people can be politically active is by voting.

“

THE BIG REASON I AM VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA IN-PERSON AT THE POLLS IS TO HAVE THAT ABILITY TO GO IN-PERSON AND [HAVE] THAT FULFILLMENT. I FEEL LIKE IF I HAVE THE OPTION TO BE THERE, THEN I NEED TO DO IT, FOR ME AND FOR EVERYONE ELSE WHOSE LIVES ARE RESTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION.

TOMMY TRUITT
SOPHOMORE

Now days away from the 2020 general election, Truitt said he is eager to exercise his right to vote in North Carolina while adhering to physical distancing guidelines and wearing a mask.

“The big reason I am voting in North Carolina in-person at the polls is to have that ability to go in-person and [have] that fulfillment,” Truitt said. “I feel like if I have the option to be there, then I need to do it, for me and for everyone else whose lives are resting on the outcome of this election.”

Truitt said that from a personal perspective, he will feel a sense of fulfillment after voting in-person, but the commonality of voter suppression in many states also played a role in his decision.

“Voter suppression is a systemic issue and there is a history with minority communities where their votes have not been counted,” Truitt said. “I have privilege as a white man to go in-person to vote, and I want to use that privilege for the good.”

Truitt said that as a result of the history surrounding voter suppression that may occur with absentee ballots and recent changes with the USPS, he feels better voting in-person.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections website, there are three



Sophomore Tommy Truitt delivers his primary election ballot for the 2020 election in his home state of Maryland. Truitt is looking forward to voting in North Carolina, where he is now registered, for the general election in November.

voting options in 2020: absentee by-mail, in-person early voting and Election Day voting. It is up to each individual to decide which method works best for them and their situation.

Although Truitt said he is excited to cast his vote, the fear that individuals are still allowed to vote if they choose not to wear a mask or follow physical distancing guidelines rests at the back of his mind.

According to Benjamin Ansbacher, chairman of the Alamance County Board of Elections, every registered individual is allowed to vote and nobody will be told otherwise. In the event that someone is told they are not eligible, Ansbacher said they can vote a provisional ballot, where the board of elections determines if the individual’s justification will allow that vote to count.

Ansbacher said that voting in the Nov. 3 general election will look different than in years past and that polling stations will have free masks on-site and follow COVID-19 protocols to the best of their ability.

Curbside voting is offered under tight restrictions, according to Ansbacher. Individuals can only vote curbside because of age, disability or if for a medical reason they cannot wear a mask.

“If they don’t have a medical reason to not wear a mask, then they cannot vote curbside,” Ansbacher said.

According to Numbered Memo 2020-30 from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, voters are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, but cannot be turned away if they do not wear one.

Regardless of precautionary measures and encouraged mask-wearing, Ansbacher said that it is possible someone could refuse to comply. However, he does not think many would make that argument.

“The non-mask wearers, I don’t expect there will be many because we have masks on-site,” Ansbacher said. “I don’t think there will be many people who make that protest.”

Truitt said that he feels a sense of obligation to vote in-person to ensure his vote counts, but he is nervous that others

at the polls may not follow the rules and regulations as closely as he intends to.

“It’s frustrating and scary to me that I feel like I have to go in-person, but then also there are going to be people there that are not going to be following the rules,” Truitt said. “That definitely makes me nervous.”

Truitt said he hopes that voters who are choosing to go out and cast a ballot in-person and election workers will work hard to ensure everyone has their mask on and is following the rules.

“I definitely get nervous whenever I go off-campus,” Truitt said. “If I go to the grocery store, there are people who are still not wearing their masks for some reason. That’s scary.”

According to Truitt, for both himself and those he plans on voting with, he recommends that everyone follows the rules for themselves.

“Even at Elon, every once in a while things will get very crowded and it’s not anyone’s fault,” Truitt said. “I’m sure this will also happen at the polls.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMMY TRUITT



ALAMANCE COUNTY HISPANIC VOTERS EMBRACE CONSERVATIVE VALUES

For some Hispanics, economic opportunity and experiences draws them to Republican Party

Mackenzie Wilkes
Executive Director | @macwilkes

Omar Lugo wants to empower people to help themselves. He realized he wanted to help people after his time spent growing up in Venezuela. Lugo came to the United States as a political refugee from Venezuela. In Venezuela, his father was poisoned for fighting against Hugo Chavez's regime.

The death of his father and growing up in Venezuela encouraged Lugo to be politically active in the United States.

"I basically received confirmation after confirmation that God was actually telling me 'You've been through this, you know what it's like living in communism, you know what is to see a country being destroyed. Your people need you,'" Lugo said. "And I'm here to serve God first off and to serve my community."

Lugo's lived experiences in Venezuela is why he embraces conservative politics — he said he doesn't want to see socialism rise in the United States the way it did in Venezuela. To Lugo, there's a difference between compassion and socialism.

"The reason why people confuse these two tendencies or these two ideologies is because it is nice to do nothing and basically receive something from the government," he said.

Lugo said he was raised to work hard for himself and his family without relying on any assistance. When he sought refuge in the United States, he immediately began working to achieve the American dream. His first business was

manning an ice cream truck.

"I came here with my mom, my younger brother, no money, no English. The little money we had was actually to pay for our legal process to go through," he said. "And as soon as we did that, we established a business and we were able to pull ourselves out of that situation. It's not that I'm a millionaire, but I have a better quality of life now."

Lugo has been active in politics leading up to the 2020 election. Lugo is campaigning and advocating for President Donald Trump's reelection as well as other Republican candidates on the ballot in Alamance County and North Carolina.

Lugo was selected to be a board member of the newly established North Carolina Republican Hispanic Coalition. With the coalition, Lugo wants to make government resources and officials more available to the community.

"In order for us to be a bridge between the government resources, knowledge and everything that is out there available for the public ... sometimes it gets lost in translation, interpretation and people actually fear ... that they don't understand what they have that right in front of them," Lugo said.

While Lugo has only been a member of the Republican Hispanic Coalition for a few weeks, he's been working to elect Republicans for the past six months. Lugo has been knocking on doors and attending and hosting campaign events for local politicians, oftentimes translating people's questions.

Lugo said he sees himself as a guide for Hispanic voters in the community. He said there's a difference between voting and electing leaders. He wants people in the community to know that when you elect a candidate they should be the ones who are supporting policies that are favorable to Americans and

not just voting for candidates for the sake of voting.

"People don't know how to elect they actually know how to vote but that's not enough. That doesn't make you savvy in certain policies and points that you need to know in order for the general public to be able to elect a candidate and ones that can be actually elected," he said.

“I BASICALLY RECEIVED CONFIRMATION AFTER CONFIRMATION THAT GOD WAS ACTUALLY TELLING ME ‘YOU’VE BEEN THROUGH THIS, YOU KNOW WHAT IT’S LIKE LIVING IN COMMUNISM, YOU KNOW WHAT IS TO SEE A COUNTRY BEING DESTROYED. YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU.

OMAR LUGO
BOARD MEMBER FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN HISPANIC COALITION

According to Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Hispanic Coalition Charles Lopez, the coalition's goals is to build a community that engages Hispanic North Carolinians in politics. The North Carolina Republican Party launched the coalition in early September.

This election cycle, Lopez —

who lives in Mebane — wants to inform the Hispanic community statewide about the candidates in the upcoming election, but in the long term, he wants to see Hispanic people in office.

"But together having a voice in showcasing [that] the Hispanic communities here want to have a seat at the round table of policymaking and campaign decision making ... we haven't been considered," Lopez said. "And I think the state GOP is ... welcoming this opportunity to say 'We think it's a good time to start this initiative' and make sure that the community is involved in some of these decision-making policies and connecting with legislators and whatnot to make sure that the Hispanic community is represented."

On the ballot in Alamance County this November, there is one Hispanic candidate: Ricky Hurtado, a Democrat running for the North Carolina House of Representatives in the 63rd District. As of Oct. 10, 2020, 4,244 Hispanic people have registered to vote in Alamance County and 223,332 in North Carolina.

Lopez is the son of Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants and grew up in Florida around the Hispanic immigrant community. Lopez echoed Lugo in his support for the Republican Party because of the experiences Latin American countries have endured under communist regimes.

"When we take a big picture, we see that some of these Hispanics that are leaning left or even call us names they're going to their culture, going to their upbringing," Lopez said. "But they didn't experience what we've experienced in these communist communities and countries."

Some of the defining policies for Lugo this election are fiscal. He wants to see more industries

MACKENZIE WILKES | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Above: Omar Lugo, a resident of Alamance County and board member on the North Carolina Republican Hispanic Coalition, wants to inform voters in Alamance County ahead of the 2020 election. Lugo believes that helping voters now, will empower them to help themselves in the future.

establishing their operations in the United States rather than abroad. He wants industries like the once booming textile industry in Burlington and Alamance County to return to the United States.

"We need, as a country, we need to produce things here in the states in order for us to be able to see a good return on investment," he said.

Lugo sees the United States as a place for economic opportunity.

"The beauty of the United States of America: you have an idea, you have some money, you have the will and you prepare yourself and opportunity finds you. And that's how you get lucky and that's basically the American dream," Lugo said.

For Lopez, there are three intertwining tenets that are important to him: family, faith and future.

"Whether it's Catholicism or Christianity or whatnot, there's a sense of religion that guides us, and in that family, and respecting the nucleus of the family," he said. "Even in those two principles themselves, those lean towards conservative values."

As for the future, Lopez said the economic opportunity and the willingness to work to achieve the American dream to better oneself and their family is important to him.

"We do not like to accept assistance from the government or sometimes from even our colleagues or friends," he said. "We got to pull ourselves by the bootstraps, and we will work."



Elon University sophomore Trevor Molin sits in the Elon voting office located in Moseley Center preparing for the upcoming election. Elon Votes! organizes debate watch parties, creates voter registration initiatives and regularly staffs the Elon Votes! office to answer student's questions.

Elon Votes! encourages students to vote this election through providing resources

Molly Healy
Elon News Network

Elon Votes! is a student-led, nonpartisan initiative on campus aimed to engage students in civic and political participation. The initiative started in 2014 and is currently the exclusive voter registration organization on campus. It came to fruition after the 2012 election in response to an influx of off-campus partisan groups that only registered students from certain parties or states.

The organization serves as a resource for all of students' voting needs. Lead voting ambassador and junior Sophie Gerth described it as a "one-stop-shop" for students. Their website provides detailed information on different states' deadlines as well as resources for voter registration, absentee ballots, becoming a poll worker and FAQs. Students can register and sign up for deadline reminders through TurboVote, which is partnered with the organization.

As of Sept. 30, 1,570 students registered through TurboVote. The deadline to register and update voter information in North Carolina was last Friday, Oct. 9.

Junior Cate Podell is one of the leaders of the Elon Votes! team. As the director for civic engagement at Elon Volunteers!, she works closely with Gerth and coordinators Andrea Sheetz and Trevor Molin. The leadership team organizes debate watch parties, creates voter registration initiatives and regularly staffs the Elon Votes! office to answer student's questions.

Podell stressed the importance of the organization's nonpartisan stance.

"We are always a resource, no matter who you're voting for," said Podell. "We just care that you vote and we wanna help you do it."

The Elon Votes! office is in Moseley 105F and staffed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can stop by for help with registration and requesting absentee ballots and for answers on any voting or civic engagement questions. The office also offers free envelopes and stamps.

Across the board, Podell said students should vote as early as possible this year

whether it be in-person in North Carolina from Oct. 15 to 31 or by mail. With the increase in mail-in ballots this year, Podell advised students who are voting by mail to fill out their ballot and send it back the day that they receive it. Those who are voting early in-person should look up the hours and location of their nearest polling site.

In addition to their resources, Elon Votes! is known for their nonpartisan events. Typically, they host debate, election and political watch parties in downstairs Moseley. But with COVID-19 restrictions in place, the watch parties look different this year. Students are encouraged to host their own watch parties in accordance with physical distancing guidelines and register them with Elon Votes! to get a goodie bag or free mask. Podell said at least 244 students held their own watch parties for the presidential and vice presidential debate.

With the transition back to Level 1, Elon Votes! plans to host more RSVP-only watch parties in downstairs Moseley, in addition to the remote ones. If restrictions allow, Elon Votes! is planning to host election night coverage in the Great Hall in Global Commons.

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, Elon University had a voting rate — the percentage of registered voters who cast their ballot in that election — of 43.6% in the 2016 election. This is 9.8% lower than the national average. In 2018, out of the 75.9% of students registered, only 38.7% voted in the election. However, from 2014 to 2018, the voting rate increased by 18.6%.

As the election nears, the organization hopes to see greater voter turnout than previous years. Their goal? To have at least a 50% voting rate among students.

There's been a steady increase in voting rate at Elon and the program is growing with it. Elon Votes! introduced 27 new voting ambassadors this year, a big jump from the three-person team of previous years. Voting ambassadors help plan civic engagement efforts as well as attend meetings to discuss relevant topics and goals of the program.

Gerth said the position is not specific to any major. Elections impact everyone, so it is important to have all voices planning these voting initiatives on campus. It is a semester-long commitment, meaning students will be able to apply for the spring in the near future. The application will be promoted on the Elon

BY THE NUMBERS

43.6%

of Elon University's registered voters casted their ballot in the 2016 election, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement.

38.7%

out of the 75.9% of registered Elon University student voters voted in the 2018 election.

“

WE ARE ALWAYS A RESOURCE, NO MATTER WHO YOU'RE VOTING FOR. WE JUST CARE THAT YOU VOTE AND WE WANNA HELP YOU DO IT.

CATE PODELL
JUNIOR

Votes! Instagram.

If students are looking for another way to get involved with the election in the short term, many counties are looking for election workers. Retirees and older members of the community often volunteer, but the pandemic will prevent many from helping this year. Duties of election workers may include staffing polling places, checking in voters, setting up and closing the voting enclosure, and assisting voters. More information is available on elon.edu/vote.

Once the election season dies down, Gerth said she hopes to continue the momentum the organization has gained. In conjunction with the growing student coalition, the Elon Votes! leadership team has met with President Connie Book and Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley to discuss goals of the program. In both the short and long term, Gerth hopes to see a growth in voter registration and turnout numbers, as well as the culture around civic engagement. The next steps are to focus on the local government in Alamance County.

Questions? Go to elon.edu/vote, direct message @elonvotes on Instagram, email elonvotes@elon.edu, or visit their offices in downstairs Moseley 105F or upstairs Moseley 230 in the Kernodle Center, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SCAN TO READ MORE
ABOUT VOTING



1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

OR VISIT
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THE PENDULUM



With the position open since January, the search committee hopes to choose a new director by December

Kyra O'Connor | Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

ELON UNIVERSITY RESTARTED THE search for a new chief of police and director of campus safety this fall. The position — which has been open since January — became available after the previous EUPD director, Dennis Franks, stepped down to become the police chief of Stallings, North Carolina. Doug Dotson currently serves as interim director.

Kelli Shuman, associate vice president for human resources and the chair of the search committee, said the committee leads the recruitment and interview process. Administrators, faculty and members of both Town of Elon and campus police, as well as undergraduate and graduate student representatives make up the search committee.

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Chaplain Jan Fuller to retire after 10 years at Elon

Fuller is one of the longest serving chaplains in the nation having worked as a chaplain for over 36 years

Cailey Cetani
Elon News Network

After ten years working for Elon University, Chaplain Jan Fuller has announced her retirement. The university chaplain and lecturer in humanities has made it a mission of hers to help students connect with their spiritual selves through promoting cultural and spiritual interaction.

"I feel like we have really changed Elon in a way that isn't gonna go away. And of course, I love the people at Elon so much. That's the piece of Elon I'm gonna miss the most, is the people," Fuller said.

Fuller, who is one of the longest serving chaplains in the nation, worked for other universities such as Yale and Hollins. Fuller has

devoted her time at Elon to developing Elon's spiritual and religious culture on campus.

Fuller said that her time at Elon has been filled with multiple opportunities to grow as a chaplain, as well as an administrator.

"We've done a lot of growing and I've had to do a lot of growing in the meantime, figuring out how to go from being a solo chaplain to build a building and to design programs and to hire staff. And so it's been a whirlwind 10 years," Fuller said.

During her time at Elon, she has built the Numen Lumen Pavilion. Also, she expanded Elon's spiritual and cultural activities through introducing the annual interfaith student conference and created a multifaith staffing structure.

Joel Harter, director of the Truitt Center for Religious Spiritual Life, says that during her time at Elon, Fuller has helped advance Elon's connection with multiple religions.



ABBY GIBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University's chaplain, Jan Fuller, is retiring after 10 years at the school.

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A look at this years Homecoming court



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7

Students start a STEM for BLM Club



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7

A food review of Dashi Ramen Shop

THE PENDULUM

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ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

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ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

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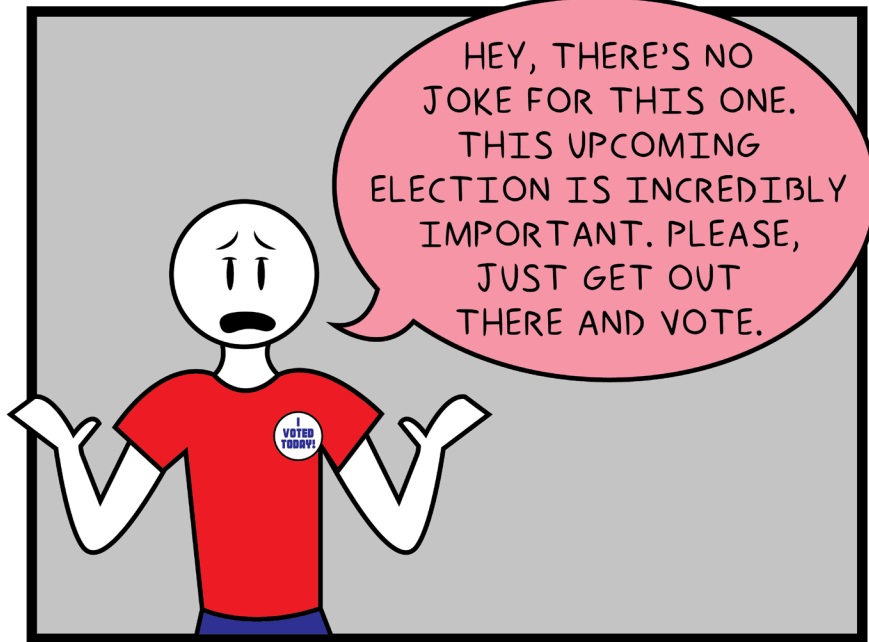
Catie Mannato, Jacob Kisamore, Ted Thomas, Andrew Zagari, Arielle Brochin, Henry Zinn, Olivia Parks and Caroline Bunder contributed to the design of this edition. Kyra O'Connor and Sophie Rosenthal contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, the headline in a story about social mobility at Elon University was incorrect. Elon University was ranked #371 for social mobility by the U.S. News and World Report. Elon News Network regrets this error.

COMIC

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COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

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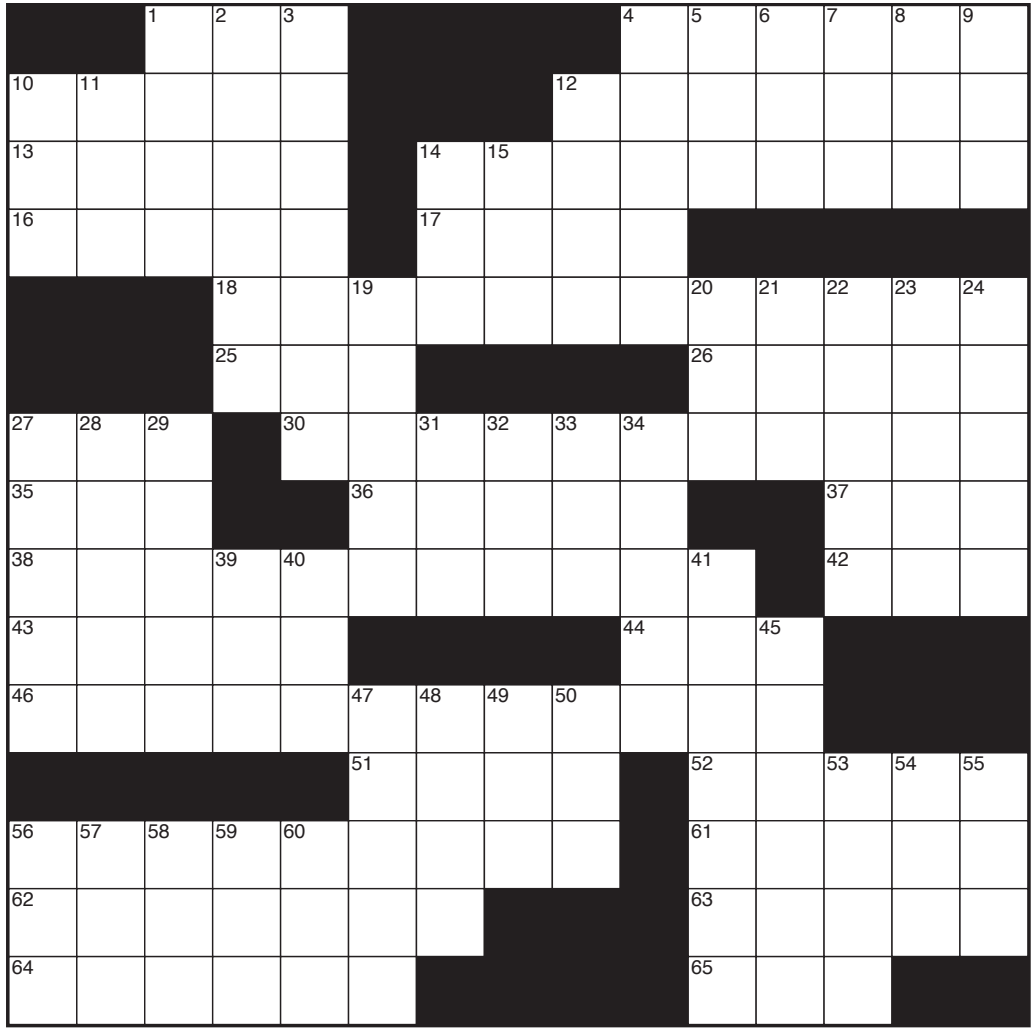


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CROSSWORD

All Rise!

By Thomas Denome



ACROSS

- 1 nee___ nee___
4 Planet with Titan as one of its satellites
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12 Georgia rapper on the 2020 XXL freshman list
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51 ___-n-the-hood
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2 Anger
3 Ballgame in a storm
4 Scandinavian shoe?
5 If you aren't of drinking age, it better be ginger!
6 Tit for ___
7 Painful infection in the nether regions

- 8 Massachusetts credit union
9 Traditional holiday drink
10 The Aussies fought a war against them
11 Golfers try to stay under it
12 2004, to Caesar
14 Hero of the Pokemon TV series
15 Batteries, bonds or insurance
19 Remove rodents
20 Month of Taurus and Gemini
21 Mythical creature
22 1 for 1 with a solo homer
23 Denver-area brewer
24 "Gimme a break!"
27 Hygiene brand
28 One of twelve peers
29 Island nation
31 Suffix to convey vagueness
32 Consumed
33 Texter lingo
34 "Well done!"

- 39 One of 13 dwarves associated with Bilbo
40 Election regulatory body
41 Home furnishing brand
45 Ex-RNC chair Michael
47 Little Boy descendent
48 Actress O'Neill who married Charlie Chaplin
49 "Just so you know"
50 Wu Tang Clan member
53 What death does
54 Motion picture company founded by George Lucas
55 Old World NASA
56 Talent and sports agency ... or a conference producing athletes represented by them
57 The Greatest
58 Type of gibbon
59 Goes with the flow
60 Washington Post correspondent ___ Balz

Elon University restarts search for chief of police

POLICE | from cover

In her role as undergraduate student representative, junior Deena Elrefai said she has been able to bring student perspectives to the committee, making sure the committee is talking to students about the search for the new chief of police.

“I want students to know that if you want something out of this or want to add something, contact somebody,” Elrefai said. “I want to hear from students. I want to know what they want because this does impact all of us and it will impact all of us.”

Elrefai said as a woman of color she values a candidate who has “a strong background” in diversity, equity and inclusion work. While there are other qualities she is looking for, Elrefai said the ability of a candidate to grow and change, and to hear student perspectives and feedback are the most important and timely to her.

“I feel like it’s a really exciting time to be doing a process like this, especially in the field that it’s in,” Elrefai said. “All the conversations we’ve been having around systemic racism and police violence and the protest in Graham and the mutual aid agreement, it’s really exciting to see such a catalyst for change happening at a time where so much is.”

Graduate student Jordan Patterson, who serves as the graduate student representative, said he is also looking for diversity and a sense of community base in the next chief of police.

Patterson said as a graduate student



FILE PHOTO BY ANTON L. DELGADO

A new chief of police and director of campus safety for Elon University will hopefully be found over the coming months as a search committee narrows down the field of candidates.

representative, he is able to represent a different demographic of people within the Elon community. Patterson said he would like a chief of police who engages and familiarizes themselves with graduate students.

Once the candidate is chosen, Patterson said Elon community members need to remain engaged and lead by example as a

community when it comes to what they want to see out of the position.

“This process is not a cookie cutter process, and it is not a one size fits all type process,” Patterson said. “We have to pick the person that we deem appropriate at the time, and we have to keep proactive.”

A survey for campus feedback regarding the position profile for the new chief of

police collected data through Oct. 11, and Shuman said the committee has had a few feedback sessions with students, faculty and staff as well. After the feedback is collected, the position profile will be created and posted to recruit applicants. Shuman said the goal is to have candidates on campus by December and for the committee to thereafter select a finalist.

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THOMAS DENOME
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

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VIRTUAL HOMECOMING

Candidates

IN THE FLESH

Members of the 2020 Homecoming Court were selected by a board of members from Elon University’s Student Government Association and Dean of Students, Jana Lynn Patterson. Voting for Homecoming Royalty will be open Wednesday, Oct. 14 through Friday, Oct. 16 on PhoenixCONNECT.

ALEXANDER XOURIS



Organization: Marsha P. Johnson Institute

“I want as many people as possible to hear Marsha P. Johnson’s story, know about the Institute, and understand why it’s a cause they should care about. Black trans women and women of color are murdered at an exponentially higher rate and their names are often not even in the news. Marsha P. Johnson was a beautiful, incredible, fearless woman who helped spearhead the Pride movement. Without her bravery, who knows what the LGBTQ+ communities would look like today. People need to know her name, know her cause, and uphold her legacy. Black rights are human rights, trans rights are human rights and the inclusion of these rights in social justice topics is often absent. We must fight to change that.”

ALICIA POWELL



Organization: March of Dimes

“I’m running on behalf of March of Dimes to support an organization that my sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, has partnered with for 40 years. It promotes premature health and access to healthcare for women; particularly Black women. But I am running for Homecoming Court to give back to my community and to improve my school campus culture.”

AMANDA GIBSON



Organization: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

“It’s an honor to be on Homecoming Court at a university that has given me so much the past four years. This week, I’m raising money for St. Jude’s to help families with children battling cancer. Thanks to generous donations, these families don’t have to pay a single bill and are able to focus on helping their child survive.”

BRIAN REA



Organization: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

“When I think about the spirit of Elon, I think about a community that lifts each other up, lends a helping hand and cares about one another’s well-being. The people I’ve gotten to know at Elon have changed me and my life forever. The support I’ve received from my friends, peers, coworkers, professors and the experiences I’ve had give me the confidence to fully embrace myself every day. I came to Elon a year after being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, something I was afraid to open up to others about. I’m honored to be on Homecoming Court to raise awareness about type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune condition that affects students here on campus and 1.25 million people around the country.”

CONNOR WILLIS



Organization: Shriners Hospital for Children

“I chose to run for Homecoming Court because I love Elon. After serving as the president of Phoenix Phanatics last year, I realized what an important role community plays here. Being someone who is dedicated to both athletics and the sciences, I felt it was important to represent these two portions of Elon’s campus. I am running on behalf of Shriners Hospital for Children. Shriners is a nonprofit medical facility and where my sister had all of her surgeries as a child. The work they do for children with orthopedic conditions is amazing and I wanted to be able to give something back for all they’ve done.”

HANNAH HATTORI ISABELLA SEMAN



Organization: Charity: Water

“I am a Human Service Studies Major from Atlanta, Georgia and I wanted to run for Homecoming Court to bring awareness to the fact that 785 million people worldwide still lack access to clean water. I wanted to share my passion for water with Elon and make a difference in the future of clean water sustainability. I have been passionate about bringing clean water to people since I was in high school when I was a student-athlete. I was always consuming tons of water before, during, and after practice to stay hydrated. I realized that clean water is such a privilege that other people and I don’t always recognize because it seems so common sometimes. A sustainable clean water source can have huge positive impacts on a community. For example, women spend less time traveling far distances to retrieve water and can instead care more for their families or start businesses. Students, especially girls, are able to stay in school longer. Overall health is improved as well.”



Organization: Hope Happens Here

“I am honored to be chosen to be on homecoming court and hope that you will vote for me. Throughout my time at Elon, I have become a captain of the volleyball team, an anchor for Elon Local News, and the on court host for men’s basketball. Since I was little, I have struggled with mental health. Because of this, I started a mental health ambassador group for student athletes here at the university. This is a main reason why I have chosen Hope Happens Here for my organization of choice because they help break the stigma and promote mental wellness in students across the country.”

JACK TAYLOR



Organization: Sjögren’s Foundation

“I’m truly honored to be part of this year’s Homecoming Court. Ever since my first year on campus, I’ve been in awe of those selected for the opportunity, so to now be part of it is very surreal. I’m even more honored to be able to run on a philanthropy like the Sjögren’s Foundation that advocates for people like my grandmother who struggle with an autoimmune disease, so it makes this platform that much more meaningful.”

KRISTIN CHAN



Organization: Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity

“I decided to run for Homecoming Court because I felt it was important to show representation for Asian-Americans and minorities on campus, but also to shed light on Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity. I chose this philanthropy because I want to raise awareness for racial equality and create a call to action to break systematic racism.”

NOAH ORR



Organization: LGBTQ Freedom Fund

“I decided to run on behalf of the LGBTQ Freedom Fund due to the unrest we are experiencing as a country. BIPOC and LGBTQ individuals are wrongly jailed for expressing their First Amendment rights. One in three American adults has a criminal record, and sexual minorities are three times more likely to be incarcerated. I’m grateful to have this platform to bring awareness to such an important cause.”

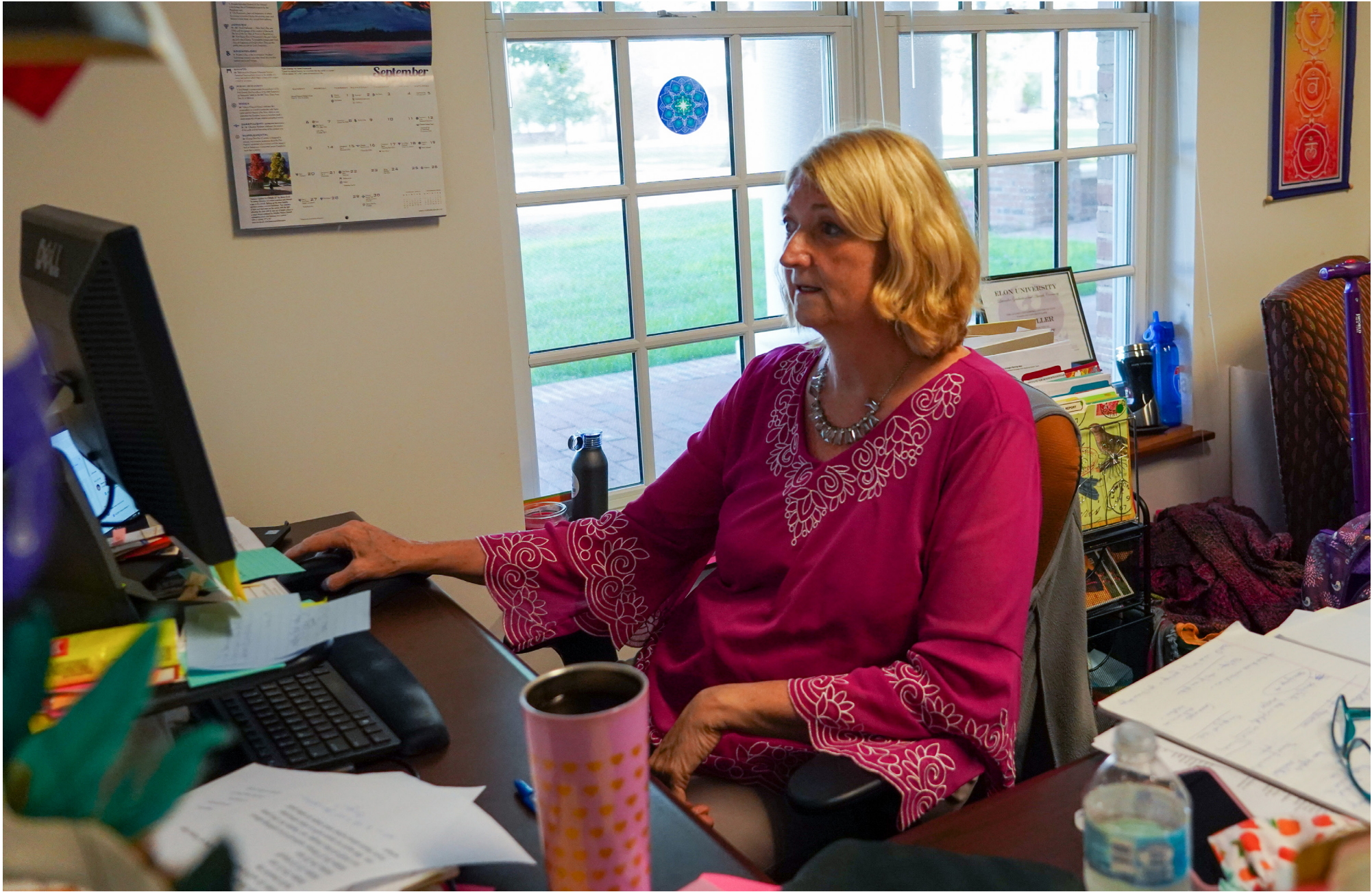
SHEKINAH REESE



Organization: Project Heal

“As a senior I want to be an active member of the community before I graduate. Throughout my time at Elon I have been involved in many organizations on campus and take pride in being a Phoenix. Project Heal helps people who have previously been denied or can not afford treatment for eating disorders. It is an honor to get the opportunity to raise money for a philanthropy I’m passionate about.”

Chaplain Fuller, longstanding faculty member, retires



While Jan Fuller doesn't have a say in who the new chaplain will be, she said that they need to make sure they have a plan to expand the spiritual and religious presence on campus further and connect to students.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

FULLER | from cover

“She ... expanded our staff to create a multifaith team of Associate Chaplains for Protestant Life, Catholic Life, Jewish Life and Muslim Life. Jan’s advocacy for Muslim Life at Elon and in the wider community have been particularly inspiring. Jan has a deep love for Islam, as a Christian who grew up in Lebanon, and thanks largely to Jan’s efforts, we now have a full-time Muslim chaplain on campus.” Harter said.

“

I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE REALLY CHANGED ELON IN A WAY THAT ISN'T GONNA GO AWAY. AND OF COURSE, I LOVE THE PEOPLE AT ELON SO MUCH. THAT'S THE PIECE OF ELON I'M GONNA MISS THE MOST, IS THE PEOPLE.

JAN FULLER
CHAPLAIN

In her career, Fuller has been the president of the National Association of College and University chaplains twice and has been a part of the organization since 1988. In addition, she has published multiple articles, sermons, poems and prayers

Along with being a chaplain at Elon, Fuller also taught in the humanities area and conducted research on first-generation college students and their experiences and needs in terms of religion and spirit. However, her most fulfilling achievement in her job is getting to know students.

“I do love nurturing and being in a relationship with religious communities that are often marginalized, that are on the edges of culture,” she said. “I love being in relationship with smaller religions or misunderstood religions and trying to help a community understand those better.”

Fuller was raised in Beirut, Lebanon. Her parents were Southern Baptist missionaries, allowing her to start her spiritual journey early in her life. She studied at Hollins University, where she obtained a B.A. in English and French. She then got her Masters of Divinity at Yale Divinity School and her Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Fuller said that living abroad and following her parents journey as

missionaries has affected how she goes about her work and how she approaches it.

“I would say that the work that I have done in the ministry on campus is very different from what I saw my parents do, but the fact that they raised me in another country made me sensitive to the fact that what when you see another human being you don't know the story that they have inside them, you can't tell by looking who they really are,” Fuller said.

Now with a new vacancy, the university must find a new chaplain. The job consists of supporting the spiritual and religious journey of students, creating opportunities for spiritual and religious engagement on campus and helping to serve the college community to foster a positive religious

and spiritual environment on campus.

Fuller said that for the next chaplain, they need to make sure they have a plan to expand the spiritual and religious presence on campus further and connect to students.

“The new chaplain needs to have ... a vision for how to grow education in multifaith religions, and in the multiforme, a multiplicity of the ways people are spiritual, and how to help Elon do that in a way that exposes every student to this movement,” Fuller said. “It’s a complex world we live in and religions have influences in every part of our lives, that we don't think about enough that we need to think about more so I think the chaplain needs to be a good listener, a good administrator, and a kind person.”



Jan Fuller announced to the Elon community on October 9 that she will be retiring from Elon after 10 years. Fuller is the longest serving university chaplain in the nation, having served for 36 years.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

LIFESTYLE

Elon STEM students increase civil engagement

STEM students raise awareness about racial injustice within the science field

Jinger Callwood
Elon News Network

In light of the racial tensions and disparities occurring in the United States, senior Emma McCabe, junior Anne Williams, and executive board members from the physics, biology, chemistry, exercise science and the engineering clubs started the STEM for Black Lives Matter club. The new club emerged on campus in July to promote diversity and advocate against racial disparities in the STEM communities. McCabe said the club's main goal is to raise awareness to these issues.

“Our main goal is to figure out ways to create community and address racial, health and other types of disparities in the sciences. I wanted to do something even if I couldn't make an astronomical change. I wanted to make one person feel more welcomed in the science community at Elon,” McCabe said.

McCabe and Williams — who are both white students— said they wanted to use their platform to promote diversity initiatives.

“Sitting alone with anger and upset is not going to do anything to help others, which is kind of the same thing as white tears [being] violence,” Williams said. “Actually trying to change something and make the world better for other people is what empowered me to do this. I felt called so I did.”

Nyote Calixte, the club's faculty advisor,

did not respond to Elon News Network's immediate requests for comment.

STEM for BLM holds biweekly meetings to discuss projects, events and conferences. One of their upcoming events is the Black Scientists Panel. The panel includes Elon alumni, faculty and students who will share their experiences and answer questions about working in the science field. The event is scheduled to take place virtually on Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.

The club highlighted Black achievement in STEM by creating a slideshow in the science buildings on campus of prominent Black scientists, which was one of the organizations' most important projects, according to Williams.

Along with highlighting Black achievements in STEM, the club also featured a slideshow of statistics from the Journal of Progressive Policy and Practice, a part of the Center for African American Research and Policy involving Black women and STEM on their website and social media platform.

After highlighting different research statistics, club members included a “So what can I do to help make science welcoming for all identities?” slide, which included information on embracing different perspectives and examining implicit bias in the science field.

Club member Shalexzandra Dunkley is a junior biomedical engineering major who joined the club to help inform her peers. The club has also helped her reflect on being a STEM student of color at Elon.

“Being a black STEM student at a predominately white institution is difficult. Sometimes it feels as though others get resources or have previous resources that help along the way. It's a learning process really to



CAROLINE BUNDER | DESIGNER

break out of my shell and reach out to others for help and guidance,” Dunkley said.

Even though the organization aims to educate and inform members of the Elon community, through these initiatives, club members themselves have learned a lot about intersectionality and diversity in the sciences.

“While we are trying to educate others, we are in the process of educating ourselves and hopefully becoming better more aware people. Working with people in STEM, I am really excited to be talking with people who come from such different backgrounds and perspectives,” McCabe said.

Due to COVID-19, the club has had to adapt to follow physical distancing protocols.

“We started in the midst of COVID while everything was going on. We mostly have been able to talk through GroupMe, social media platforms, Webex and Zoom,” McCabe said.

The club hopes that in the future, they will continue to expand and raise awareness on campus.

“We want to start laying the groundwork to make a community in McMichael that is open-minded and welcoming. We are still in the works but I'm hoping we can keep doing bigger and better things,” Williams said.

To keep up with the events and get involved with the club, follow @stem4blm on Instagram and Facebook, or visit their website at <https://stem4blm.wixsite.com/stem4blm>.

THE ELON BITE

THE ELON BITE IS A COLUMN REVIEWS RESTAURANTS AND FOOD VENDORS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Dashi Ramen in Durham is worth the food trip



Jack Chambers
Senior

This week, I was so excited to take a road trip to my favorite restaurant in North Carolina. I drove out to Dashi, a ramen bar near downtown Durham, which was excellent as always. Truth be told, when Dashi said they were reopening earlier this month, I took my friends the first weekend. For ramen lovers, this restaurant is incredible in almost any way, and for ramen novices, it's a great place to get the best bowl of noodles you'll ever have.

The ad hoc reopening plan that Dashi has implemented keeps customers physically distanced outside and packages the food to go. While their menu was slightly limited, they still had their staples. I ordered their fresh pickles as an appetizer, which they make in-house out of various fresh vegetables every day. That day it happened to be cauliflower. For my main course, I ordered a Tonkotsu ramen, which comes with broth, noodles, a modest slice of rich Japanese pork belly, mustard greens, a soft boiled egg marinated in soy sauce and mirin and a slice of nori to garnish. I also added on extra shredded pork, homemade spicy chili butter and an extra egg.

The pickle plate appetizer was incredible. The cauliflower was briny and salty while it retained the raw vegetable crunch that gives it such a nice texture. The brine was a vibrant yellow, a color that dyed the white cauliflower into a rich vibrant yellow. The gentle acidity and bright flavor awakened my taste buds for what was about to come next.

The ramen that followed the pickles was outstanding. For those unaware of ramen, it is a type of

JACK'S SCORE

9.5 of 10

Every week the restaurant reviewed is given a score out of 10

Japanese noodle dish typically served with broth of some kind and a protein, although there are many ways to make it. A Tonkotsu broth is made from simmering pork bones with different flavorings and aromatics added over the course of several hours. The pork bones release gelatin and other nutrients that end in a rich, creamy broth. Typically, the presentation for a bowl of ramen is delicate and beautiful; however, that was not possible with the to-go style of packaging Dashi had.

Once I opened my ramen kit and poured the warm broth over the noodles and other components, it all came together. The noodles absorbed some broth and the flavors worked perfectly with each other. The pork belly was crunchy yet moist and tender, the noodles were soft yet toothsome and the soft boiled egg was an explosion of umami flavor across the taste buds. This is a bowl of soup you are definitely going to want to try.

Overall, Dashi was as great as ever. The only disappointment was that the food was not made to order, which resulted in some issues of assembling the kit properly. Sharpen your chopstick skills and get in the car because this is a meal worth waiting for. Dashi has to be a 9.5 out of 10 from me.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK CHAMBERS

Top: Tonkotsu ramen entree from Dashi Ramen/

Left: Dashi Ramen outside of restaurant in Durham, North Carolina.

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