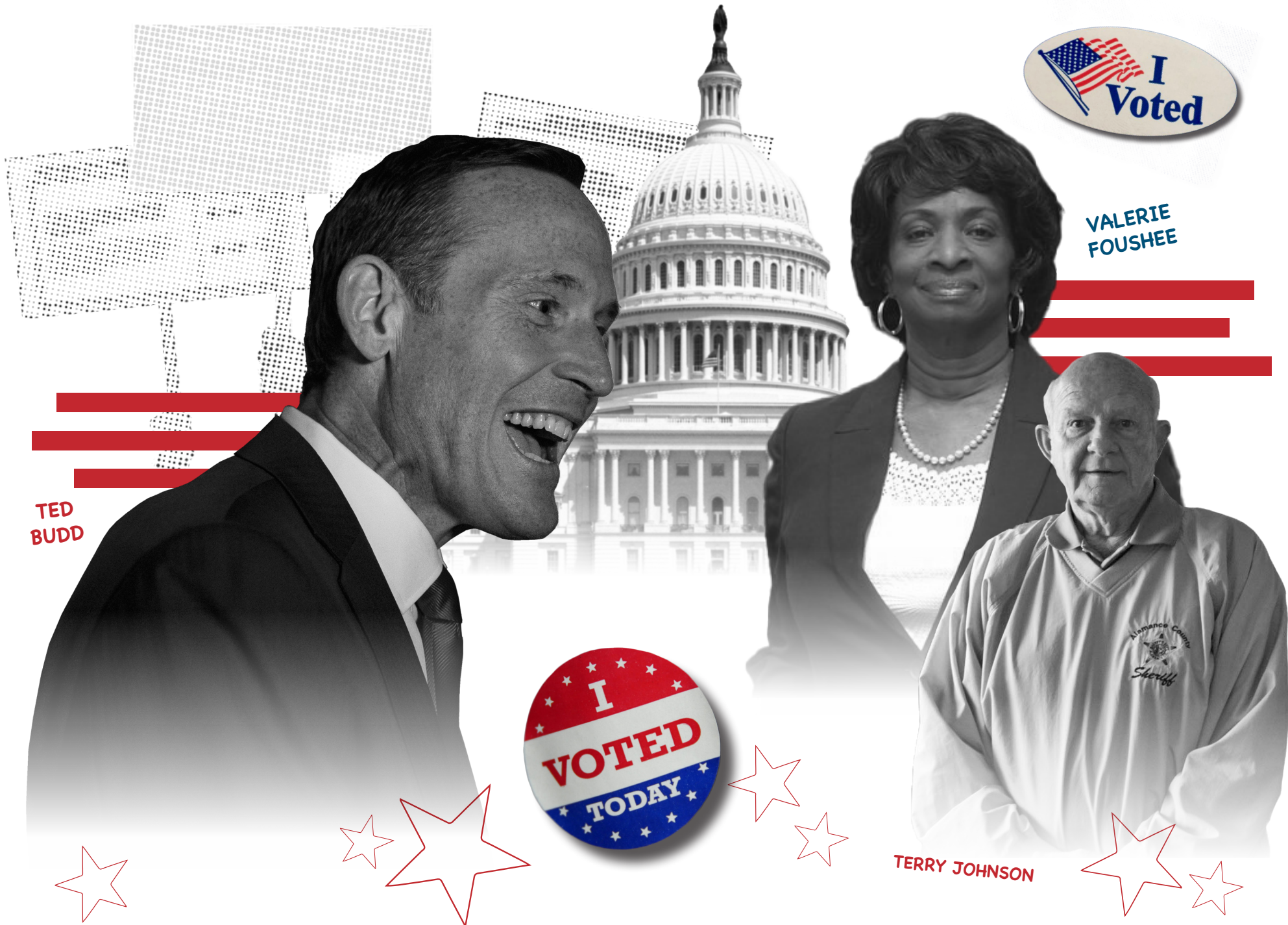


MIDTERM ELECTIONS: the aftermath



Student reactions, expert opinions make sense of
midterm elections

Avery Sloan
Politics Director | @AveryLSloan

TERRY JOHNSON HAS BEEN Alamance County's sheriff for sophomore Tyra Duque's entire life. On Tuesday night, Johnson was reelected to the same position he's held since 2002.

As a low-income and Hispanic student, the Alamance County native said the influence of Johnson's values in local law enforcement have long punctuated the looming fear she has felt for others within her Hispanic community. But Duque said until she became more politically active, she did not realize this fear was unusual or could be remedied.

This election cycle, the political science and Spanish major worked for Ricky Hurtado's reelection campaign for North Carolina House of Representatives, and Duque said she is motivated to create change within her community.

"Two years ago, it didn't really go my way, and I'm still doing this work," Duque said. "I love Alamance County, so I'm just going to stay here until things go right."

In the Nov. 8 midterm elections, across all partisan races, Republicans won every race on the Alamance County ballot, apart from the statewide race for U.S. House of Representatives District 4.

Elon professor of political science and policy studies Thomas Kerr said that even though North Carolina's Supreme Court required the state to redistrict earlier this year before the primary elections, these new lines didn't make many districts throughout the state more competitive and gave Republicans an advantage.

Elon professor of political science and policy studies Jason Husser said the changes within the North Carolina General Assembly will affect people across the state.

Before the election, Republicans had a majority in the General Assembly, and after the midterm elections, Republicans now have a supermajority — achieved by one party holding three-fifths of the seats — in the state Senate, and fall one seat short of a

supermajority in the House.

With this, Republicans are now one seat away from being able to override vetoes from Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, which is currently the only check on an otherwise Republican led state. Husser said if Republicans are able to later obtain a full supermajority, this will have a large legislative impact.

"As long as the Republican leaders of the parties in Raleigh can keep their caucus together, they'll be able to override Cooper's veto and put legislation into effect regardless of what Democrats want," Husser said.

Husser said that this could lead to other changes such as a statewide abortion ban. Senior Lily Kays said this — in addition to Republican Ted Budd's election to the U.S. Senate — is something they are worried about in terms of social issues.

See **MIDTERMS** | pg. 4

THE PENDULUM

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NETWORK

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Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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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.

Contact

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CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 2 edition of The Pendulum, the story “Behind the Badge” stated there were eight instances of excessive use of force at the Burlington Police Department in 2021. There were eight allegations of excessive use of force. Elon News Network regrets this error.

ELECTION RESULTS

* DENOTES ICUMBENT



☒ **TED BUDD (R)**

UNITED STATES
SENATE

☐ **CHERI BEASLEY (D)**



☒ **RICHARD DIETZ (R)**

SUPREME COURT
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
SEAT 03

☐ **LUCY INMAN (D)**



☒ **VALERIE FOUSHEE (D)**

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

☐ **COURTNEY GEELS (R)**



☒ **TREY ALLEN (R)**

NORTH CAROLINA
SUPREME COURT SEAT
05

☐ **SAM J. ERVIN IV (D)***



☒ **AMY SCOTT GALEY (R)***

NORTH CAROLINA
SENATE DISTRICT 25

☐ **SEAN C. EWING (D)**



☒ **JULEE TATE FLOOD (R)**

NC COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE SEAT 08

☐ **CAROLYN JENNINGS
THOMPSON (D)**



☒ **TERRY JOHNSON (R)***

ALAMANCE COUNTY
SHERIFF

☐ **KELLY WHITE (D)**



☒ **DONNA STROUD (R)***

NC COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE SEAT 09

☐ **BRAD A. SALMON (D)**



☒ **STEPHEN ROSS (R)**

NORTH CAROLINA
HOUSE DISTRICT 63

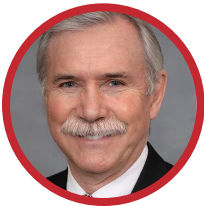
☐ **RICKY HURTADO (D)***



☒ **JOHN M. TYSON (R)***

NC COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE SEAT 10

☐ **GALE MURRAY ADAMS (D)**



☒ **DENNIS RIDDELL (R)***

NORTH CAROLINA
HOUSE DISTRICT 64

☐ **RON OSBORNE (D)**



☒ **MICHAEL STADING (R)**

NC COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE SEAT 11

☐ **DARREN JACKSON (D)***



☒ **DAN INGLE**

ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON
BOARD OF EDUCATION



☒ **CRAIG TURNER (R)**

ALAMANCE
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



☒ **CHARLES PARKER**

ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON
BOARD OF EDUCATION



☒ **STEVE CARTER (R)***

ALAMANCE
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

☐ **ANTHONY PIERCE (D)**



☒ **CHUCK MARSH**

ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON
BOARD OF EDUCATION

☐ **SENECA ROGERS**

☐ **AVERY WAGONER**

☐ **LEONARD HARRISON**





Republican Rep. Ted Budd, who won his campaign for U.S. Senate, talks with supporters during the Election Day watch party on Nov. 8 at the Marriott in Winston-Salem.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Diane Robertson prays as she watches the votes being counted at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel watch party for Democratic U.S Senate candidate Cheri Beasley in Raleigh on Nov. 8.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Eric Chacon and Kathy Gaines celebrate during the Election Day watch party for Rep. Ted Budd as other Republican winners are announced on Nov. 8 at the Marriott in Winston-Salem.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Supporters of Democratic U.S Senate candidate Cheri Beasley cheer as she comes on stage despite her loss to Ted Budd on Nov. 8.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Democratic N.C. House candidate Ron Osborne comforts Democratic N.C. House incumbent Ricky Hurtado during an election watch party on Nov. 8 in Burlington after both men lost their respective races. Hurtado lost to Republican Stephen Ross with 48.79 % of the vote.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Democrat Ron Osborne, a candidate for N.C. House District 64, sits in a booth at an election night watch party at The Lounge in Burlington on Nov. 8. Osborne got 37.31% of the vote, losing to Republican Dennis Riddell.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POLITICIANS EFFECT ON POLICY

MIDTERMS | from cover

“Republicans getting a supermajority in North Carolina’s House and state legislature is really scary idea in regards to abortion rights and same sex marriage,” Kays said. “On the federal level, the first opportunity to elect a Black woman to the North Carolina Senate on the federal level, and I think that Ted Budd is a really dangerous choice for the future of North Carolina.”

According to the Elon Poll published Nov. 2, created by Husser, North Carolina voters are motivated to vote in this year’s election cycle due to these issues. The poll focused on issues of abortion, the economy and election integrity, and it found that many people have negative views of the economy going into the midterms.

Voting Habits

Husser said many Democrats in state and local elections have tried to politically distance themselves from President Joe Biden because Biden is blamed for high inflation rates, and other candidates want to remove themselves from this issue.

Biden’s current approval rating, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, was 39% as of Nov. 7. Also according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, midterm elections are the main election cycle in which Congressional changes of power occur, with every House flip since 1955 resulting from a midterm election.

Husser said while midterm elections lead to House flips, they also have a down-ballot effect. The down-ballot effect is when a popular political candidate attracts votes for other candidates in their party.

“While a local school board candidate has not done anything related to inflation and should bear no responsibility for that, it will still impact on county commissioners and school board races, General Assembly seats as well as national mood is important on state and local races,” Husser said.

Despite these down-ballot trends, junior Bethany Marzella, president of Elon’s Model UN, said she bases who she votes for on the candidates’ platforms and how feasible she thinks they are. Marzella said

she is not only registered as unaffiliated, but generally does split-ticket voting.

Days before the election, Marzella said she wasn’t sure who she’d be voting for yet and had to do more research on candidates. She said things that swayed her were what representatives were at the polls and how clear of an action plan different candidates had.

“I’m unaffiliated, I don’t really look at the colors,” Marzella said. “I look at the people, so I don’t know how mine will end up looking out. It depends on the person.”

She said that in her experience, being an unaffiliated voter can spark controversy because of how uncommon she said it is.

“The fact that I would be willing to vote for either way could be polarizing, which is weird given that it’s supposed to be the opposite,” Marzella said. “People sometimes can be very strong to their party identifiers.”

Inflation

According to the Elon Poll, 3% of North Carolina voters gave the economy an A grade. This is down from October 2020, when 7% of North Carolina voters gave the economy an A, and in February 2020, when 19% of voters gave it an A.

“Inflation is a major issue on voters’ minds in North Carolina, and most voters hold Biden at least somewhat responsible for inflation,” Husser said. “The implication of that is not particularly good news for Democrats.”

Since President Joe Biden is a Democrat and the House of Representatives has been under Democratic control, Husser said constituents are likely to hold Democrats responsible for inflation. Husser said Democrats have used multiple tactics to try and combat this.

“Democrats are trying to focus voters on issues other than the economy, inflation and also further trying to distance themselves from Biden specifically on inflation,” Husser said. “But the biggest thing on people’s mind is the cost of goods is up significantly what it was a couple of years ago, and many of them hold Democratic parties responsible for it.”

According to Elon professor of economics Steve DeLoach, neither the

president nor other government officials have a significant impact on inflation. DeLoach said things such as the stimulus provided by the government and low unemployment rate may impact the economy, but this does not have a large impact on inflation.

“There’s nothing that the government is going to do, I think, to address inflation,” DeLoach said. “They really can’t. They can do some things, like they can regulate the cost of prescription drugs or something like that. So there’s some places they could help to reduce, but most of the inflation that we can address will be determined by the Federal Reserve raising interest rates over the next year or so which has absolutely nothing to do with elected officials.”

The Federal Reserve is the central banking system for the United States, and while appointed and approved by the government, operates as a separate entity.

Husser said despite the government not having a lot to do with inflation, if voters are unhappy with the economy, it will still impact elections.

“But the actual true cause, and whether or not that’s Biden’s responsibility or Federal Reserve, is only relevant to the extent that voters think that it’s relevant,” Husser said. “So the key question is not so much what’s the true source of inflation as much as who voters are blaming.”

Social Issues

Duque said that while she knows inflation and the economy are big talking points, she personally finds it hard to focus on the economy.

“I feel like inflation, like the economy, is only an issue when it hurts the middle class,” Duque said. “It’s been hitting hard to low-income people for a while now.”

Duque said as a member of the Hispanic community, growing up in Alamance County has led to her having a constant fear around law enforcement. This sparked her to become more politically active in both local and state elections.

“I’ve just always been mobilized by the hatred I see in my town, because I’m from Graham and pretty much the only national attention we’re ever going to get,

because of the Confederate statue we have in our downtown or the Confederate or KKK appearances,” Duque said. “So just seeing that in my town is really sad and discouraging.”

Kays switched their voter registration from their hometown of Indianapolis to be able to vote in person and in a place where they feel the policy will impact them more.

Kays said they care not just about the federal races, but also local elections such as the Board of Education. Social issues are very important to Kays, and both them and Duque said that there was no question that they would vote for Democrats — if anything, they both said they would like to see candidates with more liberal ideologies running for office in North Carolina.

Kays said they were concerned specifically about abortion access, especially if Republicans gained more seats in the general assembly. In the Elon Poll, 35% of North Carolina voters surveyed said they would be extremely dissatisfied if abortion was banned in North Carolina.

Kerr said abortion is an issue that has been talked about since last summer when Roe v. Wade was overturned.

“Right when that decision was handed down, we saw a real bump in support for the Democrats,” Kerr said. “But I think it happened further back in the summer where that bump has started to recede down and people are actually more and more concerned with the economy over that aspect of things. There’s not really a whole lot of single-issue voters out there.”

Before the election was over, Duque said seeing the Democratic candidates she has worked with lose would be very emotional after watching Republicans such as Johnson stay in power for the past 20 years.

Kerr said he has overheard some people express doubts about voting, especially within a district such as Alamance County, where results typically only go one way. He said he has overheard people within Elon feel like their vote will not make an impact.

“I’ve had some people say, ‘Why vote for a Democrat in Alamance County? They’re not going to get elected, so why vote in the first place?’” Kerr said. “Elon’s definitely a microcosm of political thought.”

How satisfied or dissatisfied would you be if abortion was banned in N.C.?



What grade would you give the current national economy?



Elon Votes deems early voting efforts successful

Elon’s early voting period saw debut of voter registration events, new polling location

Michael Leung
Elon News Network

In preparation for the midterm elections, Elon Votes hosted a number of events to increase turnout for early voting, which ran in North Carolina from Oct. 20 to Nov. 5. Its primary focus was to help students obtain their absentee forms and raise awareness for voting opportunities on campus, according to Elon Votes coordinators Sydney Barlow and Bo Dalrymple. Barlow said Elon Vote’s Oct. 5 event, AbsenTEA, had around 60 people in attendance. There, Elon Votes members helped students request absentee ballots for their home states while enjoying tea and snacks. “I do think there have been more popular weeks than others for engagement, but I think in comparison to the 2020 election, we have seen good positive numbers around engagement,” Barlow said. According to the Alamance County Board of Elections website, 4,605 people voted at the early voting site at Elon’s South Gym. While Elon’s early

voting site did not differentiate between Elon students and residents, Dalrymple believes students have been more engaged with voting this year. “We’re optimistic that it will exceed past midterm years,” Dalrymple said. The early voting site at Elon University has helped with student turnout as well, according to Barlow. She said the early voting site was not only more convenient for students and residents of the town of Elon, but it also made people aware that there are voting opportunities on campus. Dalrymple added that it has also given students the opportunity to easily switch their registration to North Carolina if they failed to meet the mail-in ballot deadline for their home state. “It gives students one more opportunity or way to vote, which I think will be very beneficial to voter turnout, and I think we’ll see this post election,” Dalrymple said. There were only five early voting sites for residents in Alamance County. Shante Alvarez, a resident of Burlington, chose to vote at Elon’s voting site. Though she lives outside the town of Elon, she said she found the voting site at South Gym convenient. “There just weren’t as many. ... I think I counted only this one, ... and the other two were in Graham and Mebane. ...



Students gather in the Moseley Center on Nov. 8 for an election watch party organized by Elon Votes.

AMANDA PILLIG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Having it here is convenient when you only have a few,” Alvarez said. Alvarez said that she feels voting is important and was glad to see people accessing the new polling place on Elon’s campus. “I do think that people have been more aware of the importance of voting,” Alvarez said. “I definitely see a lot of effort to get people informed about the candidates who are running for offices.”



Young voters watch in the Moseley Center at 8:17 p.m. after the latest state polls closed.

AMANDA PILLIG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHEAT SHEET THE CHEAT SHEET IS AN INTERVIEW WITH A RELEVANT EXPERT TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

Luis Toledo discusses amplified importance of judicial elections

Elon professor in political science and policy studies reviews North Carolina’s partisan judge elections, prominent effects

Ryan Kupperman
Elon News Network | @RyAndKupp

In 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly changed its district and superior court elections from nonpartisan to partisan. This means that candidates running for judicial positions are required to run with their political affiliation on the ballot. According to Ballotpedia, Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas are the only states that hold partisan elections for both their supreme, intermediate and general jurisdiction courts.

Luis Toledo, Elon University professor of political science and policy study, discussed the dangers of having partisan judicial elections as well as the importance of judicial races following Tuesday’s elections. *This interview has been edited for clarity.*

North Carolina is one of 10 or 11 states that uses partisan elections, as opposed to [nonpartisan] elections, and that changed as of 2018. Can you explain the difference?

“It’s a recent change, and it was done by the Republicans in the North Carolina State Legislature. It was, I would consider, an extremist and dangerous tactic to get votes. The difference here — what they did is

they’re forcing judges to pick a letter. Either a D or an R. Many judges, professional judges that have been doing this for decades, were not happy with this and they were forced to do it because of the Republicans as a strategy, again, to promote votes on their side. So you have to understand that in the judicial profession, folks want to be seen as impartial. They don’t want to pick a side. They want to be basically in the middle. And by forcing them to pick a D or an R, in a sense, you’re basically making them biased from the beginning, which a judge should never be.”

How do you think this affects people running for judicial positions?

“Because of that change by the Republicans, it really changed the game, and it really changed who was fit to run for judicial positions now. Once upon a time, there were basic requirements — you have to have your education background, be a certain age, but now, one of the new things that you need to run successfully is to take on an extreme position. So, what it does is it takes away the good judges — the judges that want to be seen as impartial. It takes away the judges that want to avoid conflicts of interest. It takes away the judges that believe a separation of powers. It takes away the judges that believe in the three branches of government and the separation of them. So now, what is forcing candidates to be is to basically pick a side, pick a political party and basically carry and promote that line. It’s basically forcing judges now to go to rallies. It’s forcing them to go to events that are very politically charged that they normally would have not attended before.

Before you would see candidates for the Congress, or the legislature or the governor, going to these politically inclined sides — but now you’re having to have judges show up to those events too, so that they’re seen by their party base, so that they can have a chance of winning. It makes it tough just to take a step back. If somebody wants to be a judge, they’re going to have to say bold things.

They’re going to have to maybe take on an extreme position. They’re going to be forced to answer questions that they normally wouldn’t have to answer in a campaign, and it really puts them in an awkward position. And like I said, judges want to be in their position to look at evidence and make a decision. That’s what it used to be once upon a time. But now, they have to take a position even before they look at the evidence, and that is what is dangerous about this.”

How, if at all, can we change it back? Is that change plausible?

“It is on a state-by-state basis. To change it back ... at this point based on the reality, it will take the people of North Carolina to vote for Democrats to take a majority in the state legislature, so that they can reverse what the Republicans did.”

“I think from a good governance standpoint, it’s a good governance thing to do. I think if you have a party that really wants to promote democracy, if you have a party that really believes in the separation of powers and the three branches, it is very possible to fix that to basically make those judicial races, once again, impartial — where they are not forced to pick a D or an R next to their name. I think it is very possible if you get the right people in office.”

Should this be something students should be conscious of while they’re voting?

“If students don’t pay attention to what is happening to the three branches of government, the government is going to look very different. And what we’ve known for over 200 years may not exist 50 years from now. From the branches standpoint, I think since elementary school or even in high school government classes, students have been taught about the three branches of government, but we’ve gotten away from that. It’s becoming more of the legislative and the executive. Given the current track that we’re on, the legislative is pretty much telling the judicial what to do.”

How do we fix that?

“Voting is very important, and the reality is every American should know that every year there’s an election. So number one, everybody needs to understand that. We need to vote every year, not just every four years when it’s time for a president. So every vote counts. In North Carolina, we’ve seen statewide elections be decided with less than 300 votes. ... The most important thing for people to know is that in a state like North Carolina, every vote matters and can decide what’s going to happen and could affect us over the next 10, 20 years.”

“People need to understand that we need to pay attention to the judicial races as well. And yes, they are boring. But they’re very important because these are the folks that will decide whether or not a law is basically constitutional or not. And everybody needs to understand that that happens at the federal level and at the state level. We have judicials at the federal level making decisions based on the Constitution for the country, and here in North Carolina, we have judges making decisions based on what is in the North Carolina State Constitution. So the point is, with some of the extremist positions that are being taken by either party, it is very important that voters know that the judicial races matter.”

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

“You hear a lot about policy positions, and what are we going to do about this? What are we going to do about that? One thing that is really not talked about is the structure of our government. We’re basically based on three branches of government. ... Everybody needs to understand that the structure of our government, the foundation — basically the floorplan of a house — it’s being changed right now in the modern time. And we as a people need to decide: the changes that are being made and happening, are they the best for our future, or are they just the best for a political party?”

U.S. SENATE



TED BUDD defeats Cheri Beasley



COURTESY OF THE RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER

Ryan Kupperman
Elon News Network | @RyAndKupp

Republican Ted Budd won the seat to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate against his opponent, Democrat Cheri Beasley, winning 50.71% of the vote — or 1,891,342 votes — according to the Associated Press.

“As someone who was born and raised here in North Carolina, the state is part of me, it’s in my bones,” Budd said at his election event at the Marriott in Winston-Salem on Nov. 8. “And I want to make the old north state that much better again.”

Budd will be taking current North Carolina Senator Republican Richard Burr’s seat, who was elected in 2004 and did not run for reelection. As of 1:51 a.m. Nov. 9, election results dictate that the Senate has a 48 to 47 Democratic majority.

“A strong America keeps our citizens safe and the world more peaceful. Friends, tonight’s victory is a humbling moment for me. It’s a tremendous privilege to be able to serve you,” Budd said.

Dale and Brenda Cline are early and big supporters of Budd, and are very satisfied with the turnout of his election event — roughly 500 people in total between the ballroom where Budd spoke and the conference rooms located throughout the hotel.

“Tells me the kind of night we all hope to have,” Dale said. “From all I read and hear, we’re going to have a big night for the country and we need it badly. ... I’ll just get right to it, Budd ‘22, Trump ‘24. This is the best night I’ve had in many years.”

Allison Allen Mongo, a member of the Young Democrats of America, attended Beasley’s election event in Raleigh.

“I will say that she ran a great successful race and she gave inspiration to other people just like I,” Mongo said.

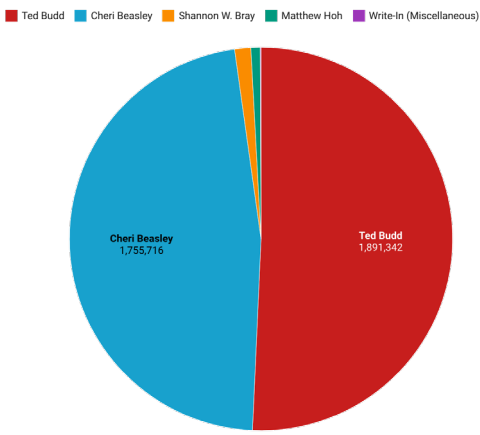
Budd said during his speech that he had the chance to talk with Beasley over the phone once results were announced, and thanked her for her contributions to the state and to the race.

“I also want to take a moment and recognize my opponent, Justice Cheri Beasley,” Budd said.

“I want to thank her for her service to our state and for running a spirited race.”

Budd said he looks forward to serving the country as well as the people of North Carolina, and attributes his success and work ethic to family values.

“Just do what you say you’re going to do,” Budd said. “That’s how I’ve operated throughout my life. And that’s the kind of senator that I’m going to be for North Carolina.”



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



VALERIE FOUSHEE defeats Courtney Geels



COURTESY OF VALERIE FOUSHEE

Betsy Schlehuber
Elon News Network | @betsyschlehuber

Democrat Valerie Foushee has won the House of Representatives seat for North Carolina District 4 against her opponent, Republican Courtney Geels, winning 66.71% of the vote with all precincts reported as of 10:47 p.m.

Foushee will replace incumbent David Price, who is retiring from politics. He has served in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1995 and from 1997 to present.

Foushee served in the North Carolina State Senate since 2013. Geels, a former nurse, was running for office for the first time.

In a previous interview with Elon News Network, Foushee said that if she got elected to the House of Representatives, she would work across party lines in order to advocate for her constituents.

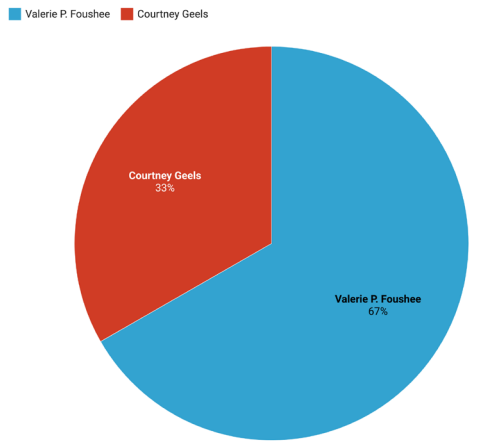
“It’s about working with others. It’s not about what I can do because certainly I can’t do anything alone,” Foushee said. “As we talk about what’s best for the people whom we serve, there are points of intersection.”

Following the 2020 census, North Carolina was redistricted, resulting in counties moving districts and the creation of District 14. Alongside District 14, District 4, District 1 and District 13 were races where an incumbent didn’t run again.

Rep. Ted Budd ran for Senate instead of rerunning for District 13. Alamance County moved from District 13 to District 4 for the 2022 midterm elections. District 13 leans Republican, while District 4 is solid Democrat. This shift in political power could result in more liberal policies in dealing with COVID-19, abortion rights and inflation affecting Alamance County.

Shifts in political power could also happen outside of Alamance County. According to Ballotpedia, Republicans

need to gain seats in five districts all across the country to win a majority in the House of Representatives.



N.C. SENATE



Amy Galey defeats Sean Ewing



COURTESY OF AMY GALEY

Kyra O’Connor
Executive Director of ENN | @KO_Reports

Republican incumbent Amy Galey won her bid for reelection, receiving 62.97% of the votes.

The North Carolina senator currently represents District 24 and will represent District 25 following the state’s redistricting. Galey grew up in Union Ridge, a town in Alamance County, and attended University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Galey is licensed to practice in N.C., S.C., and Washington, D.C.

Galey declined to comment before the election on Nov. 4 and told Elon News Network she would not be able to comment on Election Day.

As senator, Galey serves on the Appropriations on Justice and Public Safety, Education/Higher Education, Judiciary, and State and Local Government committees. She is also a member of several

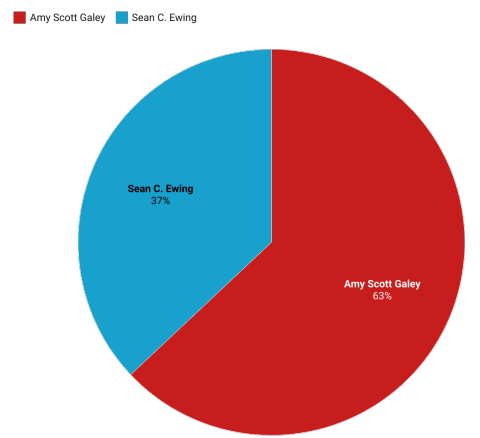
non-standing committees, including the Joint Legislative Education Oversight committee, General Statutes Commission, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Bipartisan North Carolina Legislative Working Group on Criminal Recodification.

According to Galey’s campaign website, she is combating inflation and providing “critical relief” for families. Galey also wants to work on “attracting and retaining” public school teachers and is a “strong” supporter of the Second Amendment. She has a concealed carry permit and is a member of the National Rifle Association, according to her website.

Galey ran for county commissioner in 2016, where she served as both commissioner and chair of the commissioners until 2020 when she was elected to the North Carolina State Senate.

Galey said while she knows she is unable to appeal to all of her constituents, she feels it’s important to her that she still represents all of them.

“It’s my job to help them when they interact with state government, to make sure that they’re being treated fairly and that they’re getting whatever services that they’re entitled to, they get what they’re supposed to from state government,” Galey said. “So constituent services and representing all the people is incredibly important to me.”





N.C. HOUSE 63



Stephen Ross defeats Ricky Hurtado



COURTESY OF STEPHEN ROSS

Kyra O'Connor
Executive director of ENN | @KO_Reports

Republican Stephen Ross defeated incumbent Ricky Hurtado, who became the first Latino Democrat in the North Carolina General Assembly two years ago. Ross did not respond to Elon News Network’s multiple requests for comment prior to publication.

In the 2022 election, both candidates campaigned to new voters because of North Carolina redistricting. Elon University is no longer within District 63.

After running for the same position in 2020 and losing by only 1% of the vote, Ross, an Alamance County native, decided to run again. This year, both candidates campaigned to new voters because of North Carolina redistricting. Elon University is no longer within District 63.

According to Ross’ website, he has previously served as a Burlington city council member, mayor of Burlington and was the

state representative for House District 63 in Alamance County from 2013 to 2020.

One of Ross’ main platforms is the economy and creating more jobs. Ross wrote on his website that after he served in the state legislature, North Carolina is now widely recognized for their job growth.

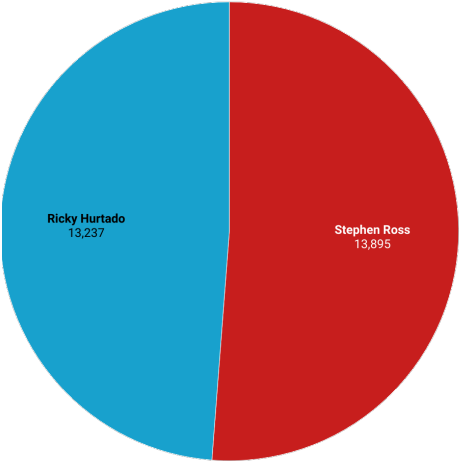
“We enacted job-creating regulatory reform, passed historic tax relief, rolled back government red tape, and balanced the state budget,” Ross wrote. “These reforms led to an all-time low in unemployment, over 500,000 new jobs created, and more money in the pockets of hard-working families.”

Ross wrote in terms of education, while serving in the state legislature, he focused on reducing class sizes, prioritizing early education and teacher salary. He is also against the idea of teaching critical race theory in schools and wrote, “schools are for learning, not for indoctrination.”

He also wrote that he is against “activist judges,” and he supports interpreting the constitution exactly as it was written.

“The greatest danger to our freedom,

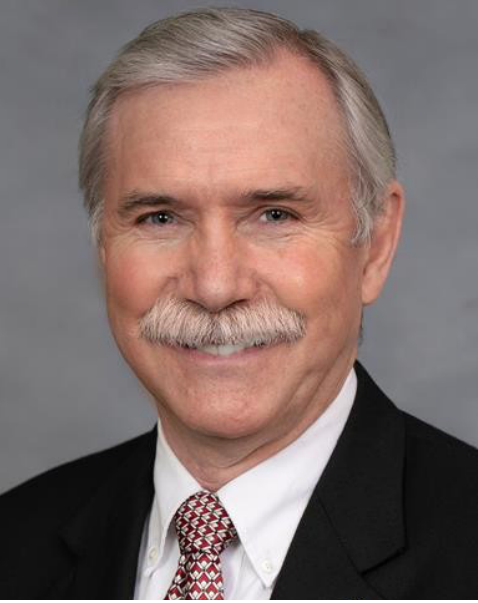
including our Second Amendment right to bear arms, is a government that disregards the Constitution,” Ross wrote. “I will vigorously defend the Second Amendment, the right to life — including the life of the unborn — liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”



N.C. HOUSE 64



Dennis Riddell defeats Ron Osborne



COURTESY OF DENNIS RIDDELL

Abigail Hobbs
Elon News Network | @abigailhobbss

Republican incumbent Dennis Riddell won the House of Representatives seat for North Carolina District 64 against Democratic opponent Ron Osborne, winning 62.69% of the vote. District 64 includes Elon, most of Burlington, Pleasant Hill and Mandale according to the district plan. The area encapsulates 84,148 citizens, according to Ballotpedia.

Riddell has served as representative from District 64 since 2012 and wants to continue to improve North Carolina’s economy.

“Our economy is doing much better than most other states. And that is a direct consequence of the reduction in taxes. The reduction in regulatory debt excesses and balanced budgets are great,” Riddell said.

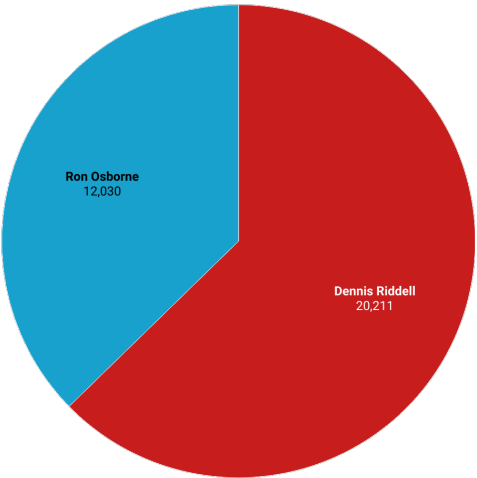
“We’re the number one state for business right now in the entire country, and we didn’t get there by accident. That’s not something you stumble upon.”

Riddell predicted his campaign would succeed because of the conversations he has had with voters.

“I think we’ve been able to explain our position on various topics to voters,” Riddell said. “We spent a lot of time in conversations with people during early voting, answering questions. I think people understand that the difference in the trajectory between the federal government and North Carolina is very dramatic.”

Riddell hopes to continue working for the taxpayers and business owners of Alamance County.

“It sounds kind of maudlin, I guess, but it’s really been one of the greatest experiences of my life,” Riddell said.



SHERIFF



Terry Johnson defeats Kelly White



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Annemarie Bonner
Elon News Network | @ABonnerNews

Republican incumbent Terry Johnson won his first contested sheriff’s race in 12 years. Johnson has run an uncontested race for the past three election cycles.

Johnson has 50 years of experience in law enforcement, but his first term for the Alamance County sheriff began in 2002, when he said he wasn’t pleased with the level of training for law enforcers.

The position of sheriff includes law enforcement, investigating crimes, apprehending criminals and overseeing custody of arrested defendants. This year, Johnson said his main goals are to make Alamance County safer and to improve safety, diversity and access to mental health resources.

Johnson said in a previous interview with Elon News Network in May, that he wanted to represent all members of

the Alamance County community and wanted to increase diversity within law enforcement.

Johnson gained national attention in 2020 during the Graham protests that occurred surrounding the 30 foot tall monument of a confederate soldier located in front of Graham’s courthouse.

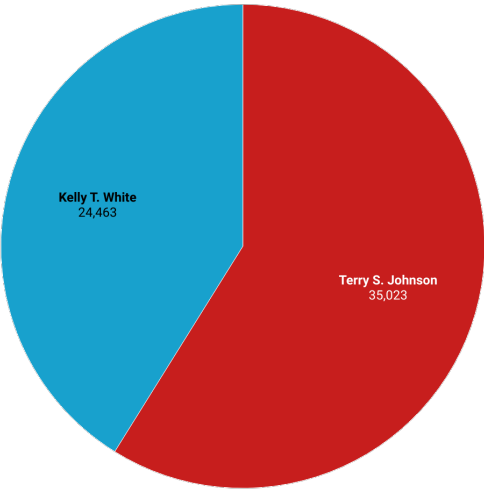
People were protesting for the removal of the confederate monument, following national protests after the death of George Floyd. In response, Alamance County law enforcement pepper sprayed and arrested protesters.

Johnson said he didn’t think his office’s response to protesters was wrong.

“We handled everything the way it should have been handled,” Johnson told Elon News Network previously. “I also believe, with the First Amendment, if they want to use that they have a right to, but you don’t have a right to throw water bottles at opposing opponents. You don’t have a right to be running gasoline generators. ... We

are going to enforce the law, period.”

Johnson did not respond to Elon News Network’s multiple requests for comment.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BOARD OF EDUCATION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dan IngleCharles ParkerChuck Marsh



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candidates won by 25.02%, 20.09% and 19.09% of the vote respectively

Margaret Faust
Elon News Network | @MargaretFaust5

Dan Ingle, Charles Parker and Chuck Marsh were elected to the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education by 25.02%, 20.09% and 19.09% of the vote respectively.

Five candidates competed for three open seats on the board, which is made up of 7 elected members. The positions are nonpartisan, and terms are 4 years. The winners of this race replaced former board members Allison Gant, Tony Rose and Wayne Beam.

Dan Ingle is a retired town of Elon chief of police and Alamance County commissioner. He

previously served in the North Carolina General Assembly House.

Ingle said he is humbled that he won the most votes, and he will do his best for the students of ABSS.

“That means making sure that they come to a safe space, that we provide the best teachers that we can, that we provide them with the education that when they finish up high school they can face the world — learn a trade or go on to higher education,” he said.

Ingle plans to make schools safer by installing cameras in hallways and on the schools’ perimeters to spot intruders and further protect students. He also said he wants to increase the board’s ability to be available to parents. In turn, he wants to see increased parent participation.

“In order to enhance the education of these kids, board members [should] reach out to these communities and say, ‘Hey, we’re here, go to PTO meetings, be

present,” Ingle said.

Charles Parker is a scientist and laboratory director at Duke University. He said his goals are to enhance school safety, improve communication and transparency from schools to the community, recruit and retain teachers and address learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon his win, Parker said he is excited to be a voice for families in Mebane, as he is the only school board member from that city.

“I’m honored that the voters have given me the opportunity to serve as a member of the school board,” Parker said.

He said he is looking forward to working with the superintendent, other members of the board, county commissioners, and the larger ABSS community. He also said with the new Southeast Alamance High School nearing completion and subsequent redistricting, his job is going to be

a lot of work.

“We have a real chance to make things better for the students and the county as a whole,” Parker said.

To tackle school safety, Parker wants to set up a district wide task force, which will go from school to school to assess vulnerabilities. He also said he has a plan to train and recruit teachers.

“I want to help make the best education system for every student at every school in our county,” Parker said. “Making sure that the superintendent has the tools to work with principals so that our schools are safe and classrooms are orderly — and it’s a good learning environment — I think will go a long way towards keeping teachers.”

To combat learning loss, Parker wants to improve programs, such as summer school, so that students can be caught back up to speed. He said he wants to better leverage data to see which students need

what specific help.

“I’m really trained to look at data and make decisions based on it as a scientist,” Parker said. “I could add something there because if you’re not trained in that area, it’s hard to get a report from an expert and really know how to translate that into policy.”

Chuck Marsh owns a local radio station. Marsh said it is important to him to work with other elected officials, and his background as a small business owner helps him with forming these relationships.

He wants the board to take parents seriously during the public comment section of meetings. Something he said is not happening right now.

“I want to be the voice for parents, give you your voice back and also be an advocate for the children and focus on the children, as opposed to all of the politics that have crept into our classrooms,” Marsh said.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



COURTESY OF STEVE CARTER



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Carter

Craig Turner

Candidates won by 25.02%, 20.09% and 19.09% of the vote respectively

Margaret Faust
Elon News Network | @MargaretFaust5

Steve Carter and Craig Turner were reelected to Alamance County Commissioners by 36.65% of the vote and 36.38% of the vote respectively.

The five commissioners serve

as the governing body of Alamance County and are responsible for managing the annual budget and enacting ordinances from the county manager.

Republican Steve Carter is currently vice-chair on the Alamance Board of Commissioners. He organized and led Alamance Conservative, a local tea party group, and has 35 years of experience working as a commercial banking manager. During his time in office, Carter focused on the safety of Alamance’s schools. He hopes to focus on fiscal

responsibility and transparency in the Alamance budget.

Carter received endorsements of current Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson, former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, candidate for North Carolina House of Representatives Steve Ross, current North Carolina Sen. Amy Galey and Rep. Dennis Riddell and North Carolina Lieutenant Gov. Mark Robinson, according to his campaign website.

In a previous interview with Elon News Network, Carter also said that it is his job as

commissioner to represent the entire county. He said that it doesn’t matter which political party, religion, race or other personal preference that residents have, as if they need help, Carter will try to find a solution.

Turner grew up in Alamance County and served in the U.S. Navy from 1998 to 2001. Afterward, he returned to North Carolina and obtained a law degree at Elon University. He currently works as a litigation and construction attorney for Fox Rothschild.

In a previous interview with

ENN, Turner said he wants to provide more resources for substance abuse and increase funding for law enforcement. His other platforms include expanding local ROTC programs in schools and back farmers to protect Alamance’s agriculture.

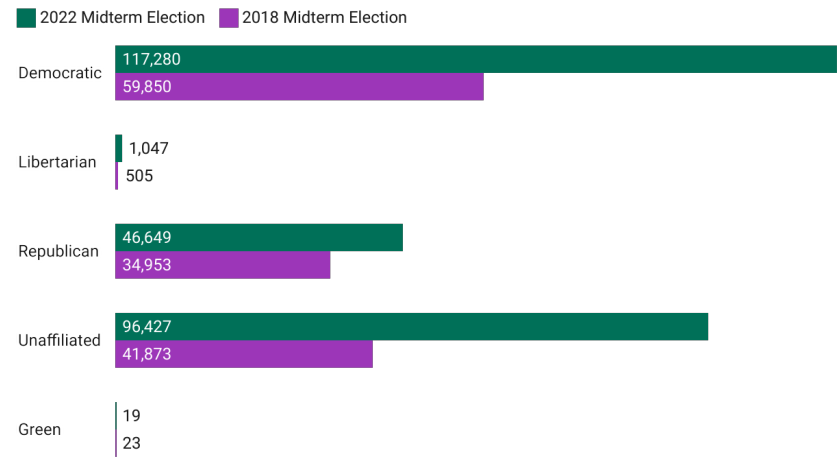
However, Turner said one of the biggest problems in Alamance County is a lack of retention in various departments such as schools and law enforcement. He hopes that with increased funding and reduced taxes, the problem will dissipate.

Voter trends in Alamance County, Elon University

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

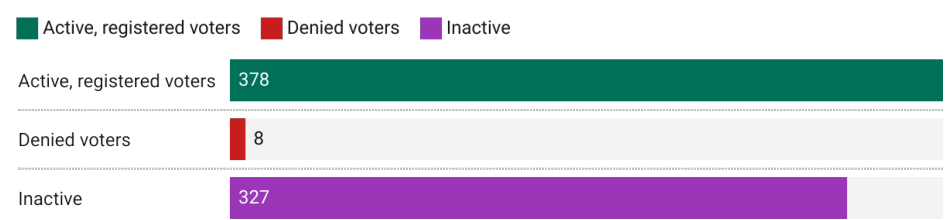
Absentee-by-mail requests

According to data from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, every party except for the Green party had more absentee-by-mail requests in 2022 than in 2018.



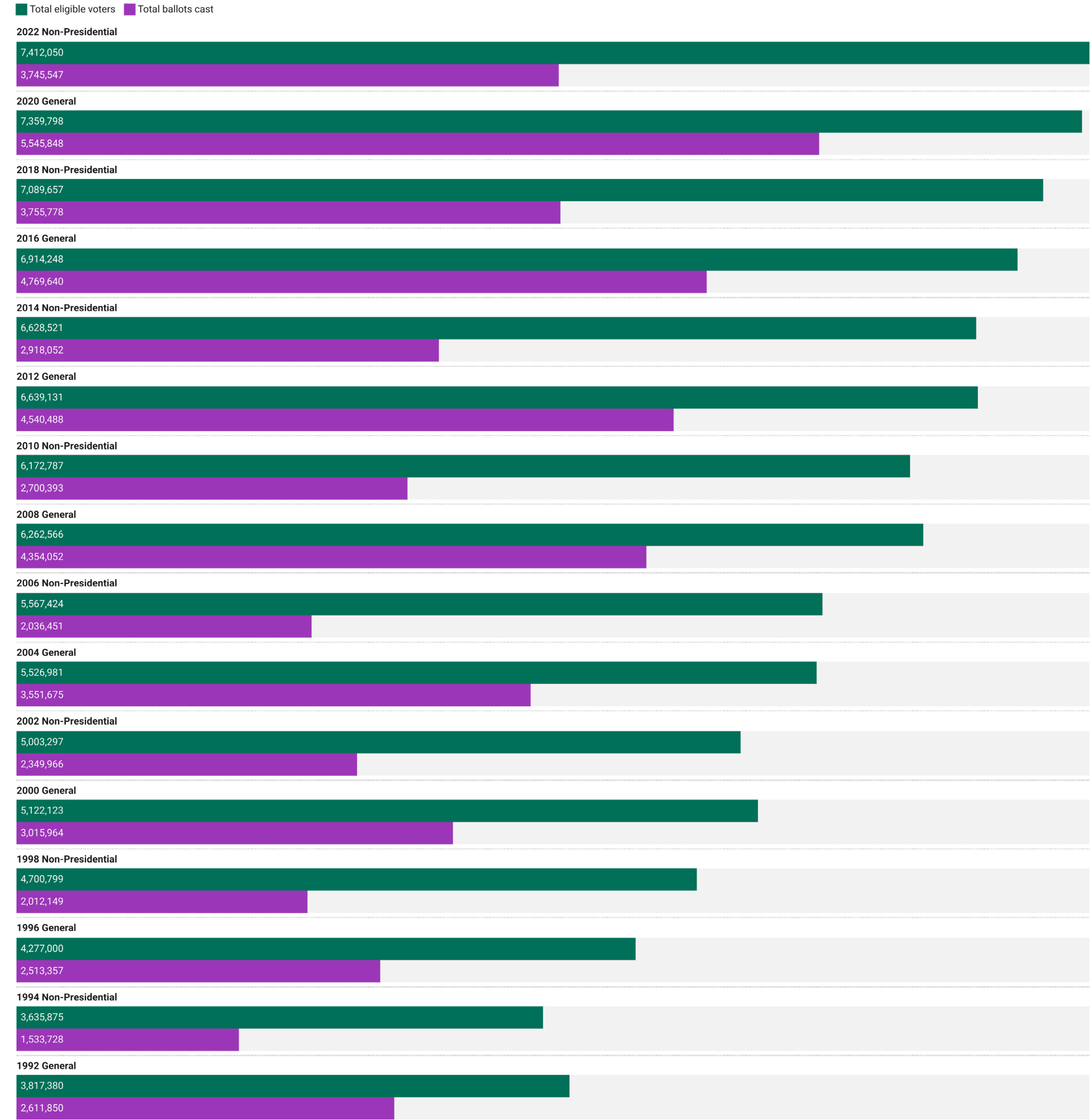
Elon University on-campus registration

Elon University has its first early voting polling place at South Gym this election cycle, allowing students to register and vote all in one place. Data pictured below is all students who used their on-campus addresses to register to vote, as of Nov. 9.



Historical trends in voter turnout, 1992-2020

According to data from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, voter turnout in the 2022 midterm election was 50.53% of all eligible voters in the state. The last midterm election, 2018, saw a voter turnout of just 53%.





Singer-songwriter Tai Verdes performs in Schar Center on Nov. 2 at the Student Union Board Fall Concert.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Fans and students celebrate following Elon's 1-0 victory over Drexel in the Colonial Athletic Association Men's Soccer Tournament semifinal at Rudd Field on Nov. 6.

JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Student Body President Nadine Jose crowns Christina Carr and Mahogany Madden-Roberts as Homecoming royalty on Nov. 5.

SYDNEY SPENCER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon president Connie Book addressing the crowd on East Haggard Avenue during Rock the Block on Nov. 4.

NOAH GOLDSTEIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior guard Bria Harmon drives to the basket for a fast break layup in Elon's season opener against Wake Forest University on Nov. 7 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. It was Harmon's only made field goal in Elon's 76-56 loss.



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University veterans reflect on time served

Campus will run as normal this Veterans Day, but the holiday still prompts retired and active service members to reflect

Margaret Faust
Elon News Network | @MargaretFaust5

Each Veterans Day, University Registrar Rodney Parks reflects on his days as a medic in the U.S. Navy when he was stationed in Egypt. This year, Parks said he will be thinking about that time while working on Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Elon University does not take Veterans Day off. Classes are still held, and university offices are still open. Elon is not alone — none of Elon’s 15 peer institutions take the day off either.

“Our work today is to serve the student body,” Parks said. “That’s our primary responsibility. Does the past matter for us? Yeah, it matters, but there’s a lot of ways that veterans celebrate: the call to honor, the remembrance and the little bit of reflection from the past.”

One undergraduate student and 11 graduate students at Elon currently receive veteran benefits, according to the Financial Aid Office. Neither the Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid Office, Bursar’s Office, President’s Office or Human Resources knew how many Elon employees are veterans. Regardless, everyone is expected to be in class or work on Friday.

Building Automation System Application Engineer Chris Turner said he isn’t bothered by working on Veterans Day either. He served in the Marine Corps for five years building and repairing radios. Even though he is new to Elon, having started his position in February, he isn’t surprised he is expected to work on Friday. In fact, he can’t remember ever having a job that took Veterans Day off.

“It’s no different than any other day,” Turner said.

Turner said if he was given the day off, he’d appreciate it.

“Any reason to get a little more time off, spend it with family,” Turner said. “It definitely would help to reflect on what the day might mean or even maybe to reach out to buddies.”

Mary Kay Hannah, assistant professor of physical therapy education, served as a police officer in the military and a physical therapist in Afghanistan. She said she has mixed feelings about working on Veterans Day.

“If you’re off for every single potential holiday, nobody’s ever in school. So I sort of get that,” Hannah said.

One of Hannah’s students, Britt Dixon, is a current service member in the National Guard. She has been deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait, the U.S.-Mexico border and multiple states to help with hurricane relief.

Dixon said Veterans Day isn’t particularly special to her.

“I don’t go out and celebrate my military status or anything like that,” Dixon said, “but it does make you pause and sometimes think



MARGARET FAUST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veteran and University Registrar Rodney Parks keeps pictures of his time in the U.S. Navy on his Elon University desk for safe keeping.

about things that you don’t always actively spend time thinking about.”

For example, she said she thinks about the places she’s been, the people she’s met and the comrades she’s lost. She said on the federal holiday, she usually hears from people she’s lost touch with. The support from people in her past is coupled with support from people in her present, as Dixon said she feels supported by her professors and classmates.

“I don’t think it actively bothers me as long as I know that the university itself is going to respect the fact that a service member is, at times, going to have difficult obligations,” Dixon said.

She hasn’t been called to active duty since starting at Elon, so she hasn’t had to ask the university for specific accommodations, and as such she said she hasn’t had the chance to properly gauge the university’s support of veterans.

Parks, Turner and Hannah are all planning to work that day, and Dixon will go to class. But they will each celebrate the holiday in their own way.

Parks has gone to Elon University’s annual Veterans Day Observance ceremony before and is looking forward to going again this year. He said it is a time for veterans on campus to reflect but also catch up and crack jokes.

“It’s always a kind reminder of the years that we put in and the fellowship and brotherhood that connected us all,” Parks said. “And it continues to connect us here.”

Although the event has been publicized,

Hannah thinks it can get lost in the shuffle.

“Elon clearly doesn’t think it’s different,” Hannah said. “It’s just another one of the millions of opportunities that we all have to attend stuff here.”

To Hannah, Veterans Day is about honoring a specific type of service. She acknowledges people who serve in other ways, such as volunteering, but she said serving in the Army is different.

“[It’s the] ultimate measure of devotion that you wouldn’t come home, that defines the difference,” Hannah said.

She said she thinks that Elon cares about diversity, but one diverse group can be left behind — veterans.

Hannah said she doesn’t think Elon actively excludes veterans, but more could be done to make them feel welcome. One idea she has to achieve this goal is to establish a veteran’s office on campus. She thinks an office would build a sense of community and recruit more ROTC students.

“We’ll have coffee on Fridays at three. And tell war stories and help people who need help and make friends with people who might feel different because they’re older than regular students,” Hannah said.

Parks said President Connie Book absolutely recognizes and appreciates veterans. He usually hears from her via email on Veterans Day and said Elon is working on getting more veterans to work at and attend Elon, as well as get an ROTC office on campus.

Without an office, Parks shares his

story with individual students. He thinks students who listen walk away with a better understanding of what it means to be a veteran.

“Some students that meet with me with coffee,” Parks said, “They get it. They understand.”

Parks explained that most of the students who ask to hear his story are usually the ones considering service themselves. And he wishes students who weren’t necessarily considering it would take an interest too.

“If you can create a restless spirit amongst the people that are learners, that restless spirit will carry them forward and create the energy and create the intrigue that allows them to really develop an appreciation for people outside of the United States,” Parks said.

Having also served abroad, Hannah also wants students to know the right way to greet a veteran.

“I think one of the most irritating and shallow things that anybody can say is, Thank you for your service,” Hannah said.

When people tell her that, she said she doesn’t know how to respond. She prefers when people say, “I honor your service” or ask a question to learn more about their service.

Hannah said Veterans Day is not just another holiday. It has important implications.

“I hope that students, staff and faculty take a moment to reflect on the fact that those who serve in the military have provided a valuable service and now have important experience that they’re respected for that,” Hannah said.



MARGARET FAUST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



LEFT: Veteran Chris Turner uses the skills he learned in the Marine Corps in his work as an engineer at Elon.

RIGHT: Veteran Mary Kay Hannah served as a physical therapist in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2008. She now works at Elon as a physical therapy professor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY KAY HANNAH

THE DEBATE FOR DIVERSITY: THE SUPREME COURT RECONSIDERS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

As the Supreme Court reconsiders the importance of affirmative action, students worry for the future of equal opportunity at Elon

Hope Valenti
Elon News Network | @HopeValenti12

Checking the box labeled “African American” on her college applications was a proud moment for Uwera Izabayo – one where she was able to own her identity. She said she knew it would be a glaring part of the document, having a significant impact on the decision of the admissions board. Now a sophomore at Elon, Izabayo considers herself lucky that she applied to colleges when she did.

With the Supreme Court reconsidering the importance of affirmative action, Izabayo worries that the box could be stripped of its meaning. Without affirmative action, Izabayo said she would have been worried about getting into her top schools.

“I’m an African American, low income, first-generation woman,” Izabayo said. “The goal of the policy is to provide opportunity to disadvantaged students, and by taking that away, only those who are more privileged will get into school.”

Affirmative action refers to race-conscious admissions policies meant to promote underrepresented individuals in educational and professional pursuits. The practice compensates for barriers minority students may face when applying to colleges. The Supreme Court is currently revisiting the legality of the practice, specifically citing admissions systems at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina — a private and public institution respectively.

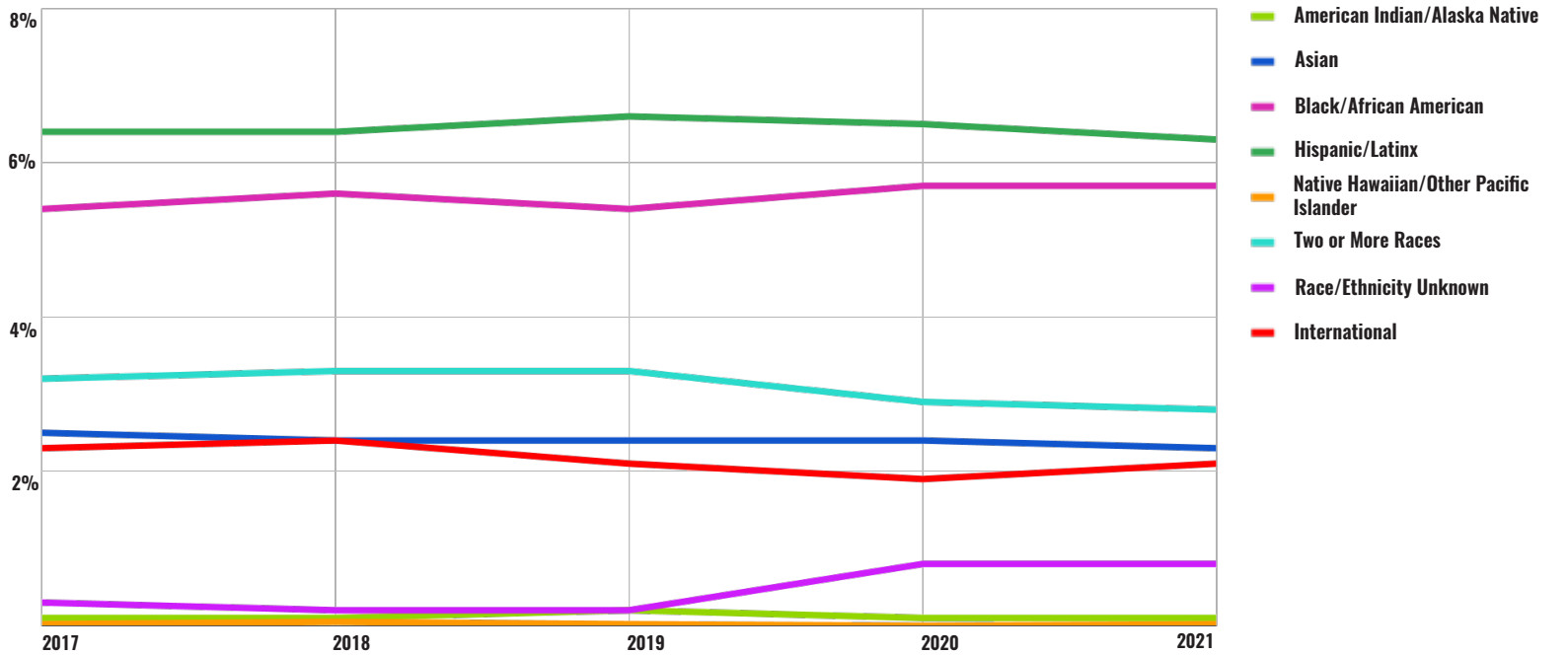
Associate Professor of Law Tiffany Atkins said the decision to ban affirmative action would be a step back for equality, going against precedents set in previous cases such as Grutter v. Bollinger. Decided in 2003, Grutter established that universities can use race as a soft positive, or a “plus,” on an application. Should the Supreme Court overturn Grutter, it would rule that higher education institutions cannot consider an applicant’s race at all in their admissions processes.

According to an interview earlier this year with Greg Zaiser, vice president of enrollment, and Kimberly Romero, assistant director of admissions for diversity and access, race is one of a variety of factors considered in an Elon applicant’s profile, as the Elon admissions office is intentional with its diversity recruitment efforts.

Atkins said the outcome will have a significant impact on Elon should the court deem affirmative action a violation of the Equal Protection Clause. She said it will ultimately be up to primary and secondary schools to focus on preparing students of color for higher education — and universities to find them.

“At a school like Elon, it will require some work to ensure

Elon University Undergraduate Student Body Racial Diversity



The racial diversity in Elon University's undergraduate student body from 2017 to 2021. Within this time frame the population of white students was between 79.5% and 79.9%. Data from Elon University Division of Inclusive Excellence.

that you’re still capturing those students,” Atkins said. “Even if you can’t necessarily consider race as a factor, there may be other things that can be considered. As an institution, we’ll have to figure out ways to increase that representation.”

Senior Mahogany Madden-Roberts said affirmative action provided her a sense of security in her college application process. She was aware of the demand for a heterogeneous student body, but this insight raised concerns about the intentions of her acceptance. Applying to predominantly white universities like Elon, she sought a school where she was not a statistic.

“When you know that you’re a minority, you know that they’re looking for students that don’t fit within the stereotypical student at that institution,” Madden-Roberts said. “But you don’t know how you’re really going to be looked at socially, or if you’re going to be viewed more as a token rather than a true individual.”

Madden-Roberts believes that, despite the school’s composition of primarily white students, Elon successfully supports students of different backgrounds and cultures. Now vice president of the Black Student Union and Homecoming royalty, Madden-Roberts has found a place of belonging. Through inclusivity efforts and organizations, she said, Elon has cultivated a safe space for all students.

“It’s no new fact that we are still lacking a good amount in diversity,” said Madden-Roberts. “But we also have cultural events where we can go and learn about different groups of people, and we have the chance to teach others about us.”

Izabayo said she worries the absence of affirmative action would threaten the impression of acceptance within the Elon community.

“It would definitely make Elon a less welcoming place,” said Izabayo. “There would literally not be half the Black students that are here. As it is, I don’t think Elon is super diverse, and they could be better at admitting more students

of color.”

According to Elon’s Diversity Dashboard, only 5.7% of undergraduate students in the Fall 2021 semester identified as Black or African American. Doing away with affirmative action, Atkins said, would take away from the experiences of all groups of students. She believes that such a loss would prove detrimental to the university.

“I know that Elon, as a predominantly white school, has its own set of struggles,” said Atkins. “And I think that losing the voice and perspective of students of color would be harmful. Because students at Elon benefit from having their assumptions challenged in the same way black students benefit from being in institutions with white students and having their assumptions challenged.”

Izabayo said the case is insulting to existing minority students. Considering the resources and support white students have, she said, affirmative action is only fair.

Growing up, Izabayo was aware that she had to work harder to achieve success. She knew that as a Black, first generation college student, the odds were stacked against her. But she also knew she had the right to higher education.

“It’s upsetting because no one seems to be questioning whether or not white students should be at the institutions they are at,” Izabayo said. “Students of color have to work twice as hard for their spot because the system is designed against them. Not for them.”

Madden-Roberts said she believes discarding affirmative action will set back the fight for equality, putting minority groups at a disadvantage because it currently allows for underrepresented individuals to gain the same experiences and education as the majority. Without such exposure, Madden-Roberts said they are not set up for equity in the workforce.

“Underrepresented people are facing discrimination and losing out on these opportunities,” said Madden-Roberts. “There need to be policies set in stone to



IT’S UPSETTING BECAUSE NO ONE SEEMS TO BE QUESTIONING WHETHER OR NOT WHITE STUDENTS SHOULD BE AT THE INSTITUTIONS THEY ARE AT.

UWERA IZABAYO
ELON UNIVERSITY SOPHOMORE

emphasize to companies that they need to be diversifying and allowing other people outside of the dominant group to be within these work areas.”

Atkins agreed and said such a decision would present dire consequences in society in the long run. It raises concerns for her as both a woman of color and a law professor. In her race law class, Atkins informs students of the importance of respecting various points of view, as well as the significance of precedents. To rule against affirmative action, she said, would go against everything she has taught them.

“Diversity is important in our classrooms and to our professions,” Atkins said. “If the schools where they are educated are predominantly white, even more so than they are now, it creates a pipeline problem. There’s going to be a lack of diversity of perspective, resulting in the weakened ability to service our community holistically.”

Atkins is not optimistic about the outcome of the case due to the Supreme Court’s conservative majority. Atkins also said that because judges are appointed for life, she believes they will continue to take advantage of their position, challenging important precedents that reconstructed the Constitution to reflect present day America.

“The Constitution excluded Black people,” Atkins said. “It wasn’t written for us. The 14th Amendment was. It’s meant to ensure equal protection of the laws to all American people. To later say that that purpose is no longer needed, or that we don’t need that affirmative action step, would be very offensive.”

Izabayo said she worries about the outcome, knowing that it will impact her own descendants and alter the future of the nation, but understanding what her ancestors overcame provides her a sense of hope that future generations will persevere.

“People of color have continued to face many challenges,” Izabayo said. “And if anything, this is another bump in the road. It’s no reason to give up.”

SARAH MOORE | STAFF DESIGNER

LIFESTYLE

Burlington preserves past with carousel reconstruction

The City Park landmark is set to reopen by Dec. 22

Ellis Chandler
Executive Producer of Elon Local News | @ellis_chandler

After over three years of restoration and reconstruction, the carousel house in Burlington is nearing completion. The final steps of the construction process are underway this month as the city’s Recreation and Parks Department prepares for the holiday season, but one of the biggest milestones was recently completed — reinstalling all of the carousel’s animals. The 112-year-old carousel, located at the City Park, was last restored in the 1980s, and the new structure costs almost \$3 million. City of Burlington Director of Recreation and Parks Tony Laws said the biggest challenge of the restoration has been supply chain struggles. Laws said the issue was finishing the building, not finishing the animals, and the timeline is about one year and three months behind schedule.

“I get questioned every day about when the carousel is going to be up and when it’s going to be back, and so forth,” Laws said. “There’s been a lot of excitement locally. I’m helping to get the word out and people are excited.”

Laws said the carousel is a valuable asset to Burlington and called it the “city treasure.” He said several generations have grown up with the carousel, himself included. Laws used to run the carousel in college and said he has many fond memories with the carousel.

“It’s looking beautiful,” Laws said. “It looks brand new, even though it’s over 100 years old, and it’s been restored perfectly. We’re really excited about having it back.”

The animals were restored by Carousels and Carvings, a manufacturer based in Marion, Ohio, that specializes in working with entire carousels. The carousel features horses, cats, pigs, rabbits, lions, tigers and ostriches. Some of the animals move up and down while others are stationary.

There is also a bench and ramp compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act so that handicapped users can ride the carousel. Laws said some of the new additions were made so that all who want to ride can.



ELLIS CHANDLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Railings for the outside of the carousel house were designed by Casey Lewis and his team at Beechwood Metalworks. Lewis said he stylized the animals to make them look like the more modern, reinstalled ones and to add details to the fur, harnesses and other features.

The animals and bench are positioned inside of the carousel house, which is glass-enclosed so that people driving by can see what’s inside. There are doors around the carousel that can be opened or closed to allow for year-round use, but the hours of operation have not been determined. Laws said it will be open on the weekends, and the city wants to keep it open some afternoons for people to come enjoy after schools let out.

There are also sculptures modeled after the animals that will be installed outside with the railings along the path leading into the carousel house. Those were designed and made by Casey Lewis, owner of custom fabrication shop Beechwood Metalworks in Burlington. Lewis has lived in the area his entire life and completed various other projects for the city over

the years, but he has been working on the carousel for the last year.

Lewis said he worked off of pictures of the restored animals and said he enjoys the design process for these kinds of projects.

“We sort of stylized what they were and hopefully made them a little more modern and interesting, just to keep up with the new house and things like that,” Lewis said.

Every harness, hoof and hair on each animal required a special eye for detail. Lewis said he and his team drew each individual element and broke them down into tasks, such as determining the color palette and proportions.

Lewis said his least favorite part is the installation process, but watching the reactions to his work from members of the community still gets him every time.

“It’s a fun feeling. I used to joke about

it to my girls and say what we do is just normal,” Lewis said. “I can see how, to me, this is all normal. This is what we do on a daily basis. For others, some people are really, really fascinated. It is fun to see people smile. That’s part of why we do what we do is to have people enjoy interacting with things, and it’s fun to see it when they don’t know you’re around.”

Laws said the carousel’s first big debut will be at Christmas in the Park on Dec. 22. The city and Recreation and Parks department is hoping to have a ribbon cutting for the carousel, and all rides will be free that day. The city is expected to provide a firmer opening date and further details before then, but the structure is still being inspected by the North Carolina Department of Labor as construction nears completion.

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CASEY LEWIS
OWNER OF CUSTOM FABRICATION SHOP
BEECHWOOD METALWORKS



ELLIS CHANDLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Casey Lewis and his team have been working on the carousel house for the last year. The custom metalworks company frequently works with the city of Burlington.

LIVING IN “THE MOMENT:”

Elon’s all-Blackcabaret premieres third installation



“The Moment” is Elon University’s first all-Black cabaret. Through a prefilmed series of scenes, monologues, songs and dance, performers aim to inspire Elon’s next generation of Black artists.

COURTESY OF “THE MOMENT”

Oasis inspired film will premiere Nov. 12 at Turner Theatre

Claire Schoenfeld
Elon News Network | @clairepsch

As this year’s artistic director for Elon University’s all-Black cabaret, “The Moment,” senior Zion Middleton was inspired by his experience participating in the performance’s 2020 iteration, but he wanted to transform the annual production into something that can evolve with the changing needs of Elon’s Black community. This year’s “The Moment” is based on the theme of an oasis and safe space for Black artists to engage with their craft, creativity and community.

“I think last year we kind of fell into a trap of trying to recreate something, but it’s a different group of people, and we need different things,” Middleton said. “There’s been a lot of change, and the only thing that has been consistent has been our community.”

“The Moment” is a cabaret that utilizes an entirely Black cast and production team. The showcase features a series of scenes, monologues, songs and dance prefilmed across campus and edited together to create a movie.

In addition to serving as artistic director, Middleton also starred in the production. He said on the surface, not all of the numbers may be clear in their meaning, but when audiences take a closer look, they can find nuances relating to the feeling of refuge.

“They’re all about finding that oasis,” Middleton said. “It’s living in that safe place with your Black art and your Black community.”

In previous years, the production was funded by the Department of Performing Arts, but this year’s show was funded by Elon’s Student Government Association with support from the Black Student Union. According to Middleton, the production would only receive department funding if it was performed live.

Senior Renell Taylor served as an



This year’s production of “The Moment” highlights the theme of safe spaces for Black artists.

COURTESY OF “THE MOMENT”

assistant director and starring actor for the production. He said he is very thankful for projects like these because they give him the opportunity to experiment with multiple different roles and responsibilities both on and off the stage.

“We have very little opportunities to be a choreographer or director, so we try and give everyone the chance because it’s much harder to do on a bigger level,” Taylor said. “Something like this can be your jumpstart so you can start to make your name and your brand.”

Taylor said he wants audiences to know this production is an opportunity to celebrate Black art and Black excellence and inspire his peers to make more art like this in the future.

“We are making this for our people. We’re not really trying to prove a point to anyone,” Taylor said. “We want all of our peers and all of our people of color to enjoy this and to share this moment with us

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WE ARE MAKING THIS FOR OUR PEOPLE. WE’RE NOT REALLY TRYING TO PROVE A POINT TO ANYONE.

RENELL TAYLOR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

because it’s very special to us.”

Middleton said he hopes the production can inspire the next generation of Black artists at Elon.

“It’s my Elon dream that Black students come into this program and see in us what we saw in the seniors when we came to Elon,” Middleton said. “I can tell you, there are a lot of these other BFA programs that have something, but they don’t have ‘The Moment.’”

The premiere of “The Moment: Oasis” will begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 12 at Turner Theatre.

IF YOU GO
“The Moment”
Where: Turner Theatre
When: 5 p.m.



Elon University men’s basketball junior JaDun Michael fights for a shot during the team’s game against Erskine College on Nov. 7 at Schar Center.

ELLA PITONYAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ELON ATHLETE BOUNCES BACK TO THE COURT

Men’s basketball junior JaDun Michael has rebounded from back-to-back years of injuries

Mason Willett

Sports Director | @MasonWillett20

Two long years of waiting came to an end this week for Elon University men’s basketball player JaDun Michael. After missing his first two seasons of eligibility because of injuries, the forward has finally worked his way back onto the court.

Now a junior, Michael was a highly-ranked recruit in high school, according to recruit ranking group 247Sports, and was originally committed to Wichita State. He decided to decommit after the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted his senior year of high school, wanting to be closer to his home in Burlington.

Michael said efforts to recruit him expanded after he decommitted, but he chose Elon so he could be close to his family.

“I chose Elon just because it was closer to home, and at the time, COVID was a big thing. I just felt comfortable being around my family,” Michael said.

Michael says he had big goals coming in, but those goals were quickly cut short in freshman year after he suffered a torn shoulder labrum. He was held out in his sophomore year because of the same shoulder injury.

“I’m just like every other person wanting to come in and want to win Rookie of the Year I want to come in and help for winning. But, things changed,” Michael said.

His shoulder injury and a subsequent knee injury shook up the game for Michael. But at the time, he didn’t know it would prevent him from playing for two seasons.

“It just made me just sit back and understand,” Michael said. “You just have to be patient.”

Michael said the two-year rehabilitation process hasn’t been easy, as basketball was an escape from everyday stressors. He’s had to find new ways to get through the mental challenges that come with injuries, but Michael said thanks to his team’s support, he hasn’t felt alone.

“I really just found myself honestly understanding that I’m someone who takes a huge pride in mental health, self-care and stuff like that,” Michael said. “So I just started finding personal interests, like what makes me happy besides basketball.”

But his injuries aren’t the only disruption Michael has faced at Elon. He’s also been working with a new head coach, Billy Taylor. This is Taylor’s first season coaching the men’s basketball team as it played its first game in Schar Center Monday.

But Taylor said he is excited to work with Michael and understands the adversity the

athlete has faced.

“It’s been frustrating for him to be injured through the first part of his career,” Taylor said. “That’s a tough thing to kind of balance and overcome. So he’s had to work through a lot of adversity, and then you throw into that a coaching change.”

Only seven men’s basketball players return to the team this season, including Michael. So Taylor has set goals to bring the team together, regardless of experience levels. Taylor says team goals – and plans to reach them – are important to him this season.

“We understand that it doesn’t happen on day one,” Taylor said. “There’s a lot of work that goes into it. But understanding how we get there is important, so laying those foundational pieces so that we can continue to talk about it, reemphasize it and understand what it means, why it’s important and how we’ll ultimately get to the goals that we want to get to.”

The Phoenix won its Nov. 7 season home opener handily, besting Erskine College 80-55. As the season begins, Michael said he is looking to start off healed and healthy. He still has big goals and dreams of playing basketball at the professional level.

“I for sure want to be all-conference,” Michael said. “I think I’m very capable of doing so. A team goal. I want to win and I want to win it all. It’s really that simple.”



Elon University men’s basketball junior JaDun Michael goes in for a shot during the teams game against Erskine College on Nov. 7 at Schar Center.

ELLA PITONYAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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