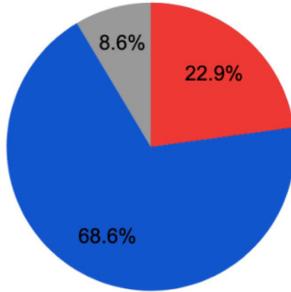


→ CONVERGENCE ←

Convergence Student-Wide Survey Results

If you were a voter in the US Presidential Election, which candidate would you vote for?

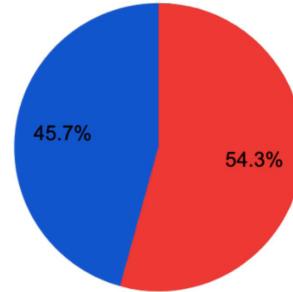
Based on responses of 245 UCC Upper School students



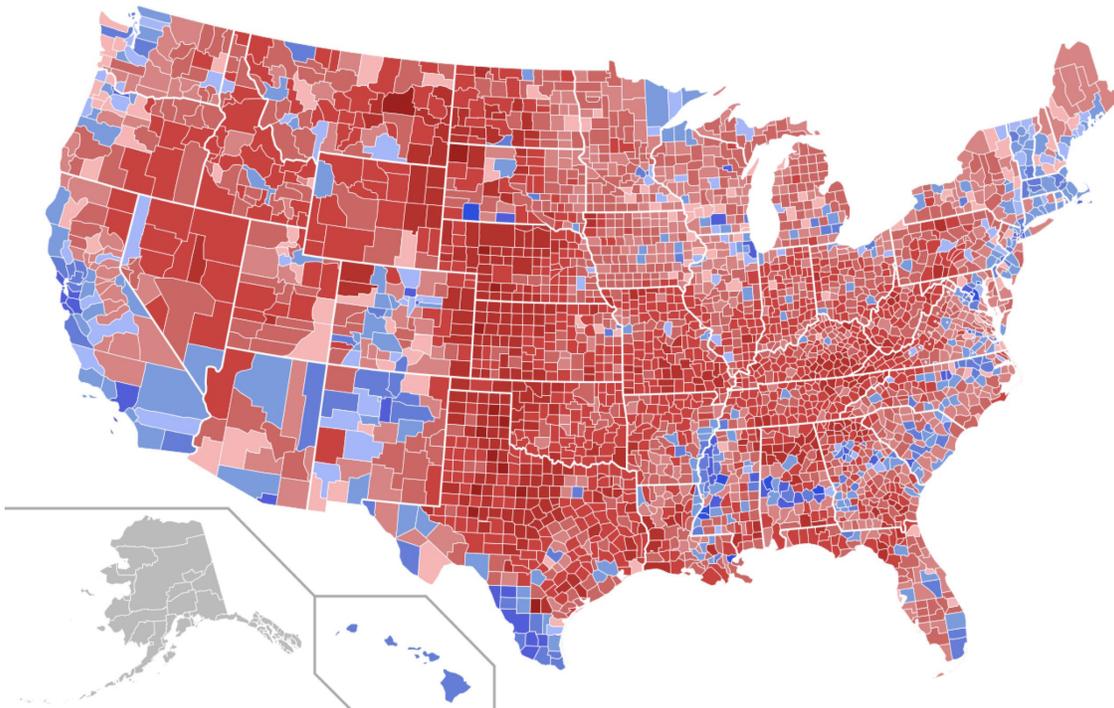
● Donald Trump ● Joe Biden ● Other Candidate

Regardless of your personal preference, which candidate do you think will win the US Election?

Based on responses of 245 UCC Upper School students



● Donald Trump ● Joe Biden



2016 Nationwide US presidential county map shaded by vote share, Source - Wikipedia

October 2020 Lite Edition

Student Comments on the U.S. Election

UCC CHOOSES BIDEN, BUT DOUBTS HE WILL WIN

On October 6, 2020, *Convergence* sent out a school-wide survey to gauge student opinions regarding the upcoming United States Presidential Election. We received a total of 245 student responses by October 10, 2020. The results of the survey are displayed on the cover page of this edition. Clearly, the student body strongly favours Joe Biden to be the next President of the United States, but slightly more students believe Donald Trump will actually win the upcoming election.

When I proposed the survey, it was intended to be separately sent to both the Upper School student body and all faculty members, so that we could compare the views of the students and the faculty in a typical *Convergence* Blue Page. In the end, we decided to only send the survey to all students, as a survey of faculty members required additional procedures that could affect the timeliness of this publication.

On the survey, we allowed students to anonymously leave their comments regarding the election. We received a staggering amount of thoughtful comments, and we have decided to publish all of them, with the exception of those intended as an unrelated joke and those inappropriate for school. By publishing the student comments in their entirety, I hope it will depict a whole picture of the diverse student opinions regarding this critical election during this uncertain time. We hope you enjoy reading!

Kevin Liu, Co-Editor in Chief

The below comments are written by students of the Upper School and do not represent the political view of Convergence.

“I wish Donald could learn from his mistakes. The Republicans have okay policies, we need a better candidate.”

“Apart from the blatant lack of respect and professionalism Mr. Trump displays on a daily basis, he has made moves that former presidents promised but never did. Most recently, his administration forged a peace deal between Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain. This deal sets a precedent for Arab nations to follow in the future. However, swamped by partisan media, Mr. Trump never received credit for this and similar acts of significant magnitude.”

“I think the old dude who has no clue what he is doing will be better for the country than the other old dude who has no clue what he is doing.”

“At this point in time, U.S. politics is so far gone, and I think that the likelihood of it coming back is fairly low. Both the Republican and Democrat parties are so deeply entrenched in their own sides that the U.S. will soon either end up with a non-functioning government as congress becomes completely divided, or possibly violent clashes as the country furthers itself into deeper and deeper instability.

Personally, I think that the Republican Party’s voter base is split between party and leader. So many big Republican leaders have denounced Trump and what he stands for, but a large portion of the voter base simply doesn’t care and still follows

him ravenously.

And with Joe Biden running as the Democrat leader, it makes me feel upset that the process that has been running the U.S. presidential elections for hundreds of years ultimately chose him as the best opposition. Having plenty of scandals on both sides and both 35 years or older than the average age in the U.S, with Biden and Trump I think that the U.S. is in a very tumultuous political climate right now.

I personally support Joe Biden because he is not nearly as authoritarian and slightly more left wing, and isn’t anti-science. But the fact that the U.S. let in a person like Donald Trump to be their leader makes me feel sad and to be entirely honest, slightly scared to be living this close.”

“If I was an American and lived in the US, I would’ve voted for Trump, but if I was allowed to vote as an American even though I lived in Canada, I would vote for another candidate.”

“F*** Trump!”

“Keep America Great 2020!”

“In 2008, it was who would you rather go out for a beer with. In 2020, it is who would you be less likely to slap in the face.”

“Joe is weird but nice. Trump is straight up rude and does everything on impulse.”

“I find it surprising that more people are tuned in about the US

elections in Canada than our own election last year.”

“It strikes me that people would still vote for a man who doesn’t condemn white supremacy, who doesn’t take a global pandemic seriously, and who has crushed the economy.”

“Don’t be a fool.”

“You guys all know I am a staunch conservative and Trump got my full support back in 2016. I believed he stood for something brand new that one had never seen in politics and I think many people had the same mentality in 2016. People were tired of establishment politicians and were eager to see someone clean to ‘drain the swamp.’ I liked many of Trump’s policies, including immigration policy, tax cut, and being tough on Iran and China.

However, I have also seen the widened political and social division that becomes seemingly extremely hard to heal. Trump’s terrible handling of national crises, COVID, race relations, recession and diplomacy. TERRIBLE. I think I could not support Trump anymore. In a sense, the principled Republican Party has become Trump’s own party. Biden might not be the best candidate one can find but he knows how to compromise and reach consensus, and that’s all we need. Unity before everything in face of national crises. - Jack Gao”

“Trump and his campaign highlights the lowest of the low in the US.”

“Andrew Yang 2024!”

“Donald Trump managed to win in 2016 due to being underestimated by most Americans and because he had an incredibly strong campaign. He has lost a significant amount of energy, his reelection campaign has been weak (he hasn’t managed to get the air time he needs and has missed key media moments like the debates), and his indecision and poor planning on topics like the riots and coronavirus have lost him much credibility. He will not win.”

“More and more people are turning away from Trump. He got COVID earlier this week which he was not worried about during the presidential debate. He is not what the people of the United States need right now. During his presidency he had multiple allegations of sexual assault and other horrible things as well as an impeachment process which almost went through. It just didn’t because there are more Republicans in the senate than Democrats. Joe Biden was the Vice President for Obama who had a successful eight-year campaign. He wasn’t there for all of it and he has some changes from Obama’s point of view, but he is the best left side option right now.”

“Biden for the dub.”

“The Democrats really sent their worst candidate.”

“I think Donald Trump still has a decent amount of support and people on either side should be aware that what the polls show now won’t necessarily be representative of the final elec-

tion results.”

“Joe Biden is a puppet... The funny thing is that Joe Biden forgot a dozen times what he was saying and had to take 5 second breaks to think about what he was talking about. You can just see in Joe Biden how empty his brain is - he has nothing to speak about while Trump on the other hand has so many things to say.

Also, Biden is more focused on the environment which people naturally care more about when in reality we are just gonna keep polluting the environment more and more every year and doing all these good things for the environment turns out being a waste of time and money. Trump on the other hand cares about the business side of being a president which is by far the most important if Trump can get people more money and more jobs and by far help people more than Joe Biden can.”

“Kinda sad this is the best the US has to offer.”

“In the upcoming election, if I could I would vote for Former Vice President Joe Biden for the simple reason that I believe President Trump actively tries to divide the country. If you look at how he has handled the recent crises it is blatantly clear he only seeks to politicize these events and not make positive change. Whereas with Biden, I firmly believe he will at least try to unite the country.”

“#BLM #VoteBlue #Biden2020 #VoteoutTrump #Democrats”

“It’s too close to call thus far.”

“I don’t, but my parents say Joe Biden is much better and so yea.”

“I think that Donald Trump has displayed obvious racist values. He once called white supremacists ‘fine people’. I think that for those reasons President Trump is not a sound candidate. He also displays authoritarian tendencies. I think that it is important that the US chooses somebody who might display better values in regards to racism. I hope that UCC develops into a school with a better atmosphere for marginalized students. There is a little bit of racism that goes unnoticed.”

“How can one vote for Donald Trump? His rhetoric and policy have been incredibly divisive and unsupportive for all minorities until he has introduced a ‘Platinum Plan’. He has alienated American allies abroad to focus on supporting Israel and Saudi Arabia, which is an incredible foreign policy choice. His domestic policy has attempted to limit LGTBQ rights, reproductive rights, and basic healthcare.”

“I’ve been disgusted with Donald Trump’s actions since 2016. I don’t care who comes into office as long as they are somewhat competent, unlike President Trump.”

“I am an American citizen yet I have no hope for the president because they are both irresponsibly stupid, racist, and what America was not made for.”

“... why even vote Trump?”

“Both candidates aren’t too fit for the position.”

“Honestly, both candidates aren’t the best. They are extremely old and their views on the country aren’t changing the future like those of Obama and voting is basically picking the ‘least bad’ candidate and not the ‘best’ candidate.”

“Vote Uche president 2024!”

“Donald Trump getting COVID was a scam in order for him to prove that COVID isn’t that bad.”

“I would in no way call myself a huge Trump supporter and even putting this in words seems stupid, but I believe he does do great things for the American economy - he runs it like a business and although he may not be a great man he is doing a decent amount for the country.”

“In my opinion being honest, I feel like Joe Biden is the better candidate here. He knows his ins and outs of the political system and he has probably seen the flaws that Donald Trump has and most likely can see those flaws and work with it. But I feel like Donald Trump might win this one because I think the majority of voters will vote for Trump, giving him an advantage. But for sure it will be a close one. Although my money is on Biden, I’m predicting the voting scores to be 51% Trump and 49% Biden (if I’m right tell me).”

“From my choices in the survey, one might mistake me for a Republican. I am no Republican. I am no Democrat either. I will take no part in the division and hatred between these two political parties, and none should. As Brecklynn Brown said, if politicians don’t get along, how can we?”

The two media sources I have followed for the past few months are CBC News for Canada and Sky News for the UK. Unsurprisingly, both of them have shown utter disapproval of the Trump administration. I am just befuddled on the logic and reasoning behind this bias. Many CBC videos covering Trump are characterised by an inflammatory, derogatory headline; an introduction that focuses solely on slamming Trump’s actions; or an edited clip of Trump speaking, followed by an interview with an ‘expert’ further criticising Trump. As with Sky News, reporters imprudently accuse Trump while shunning Biden’s mistakes or even praising him. It is just unfair how the President strives to serve the American people and receives nothing but criticism.

The 2020 Presidential Debate was a fiasco in every way. While both candidates were extremely impolite and unprofessional, it is significant that their strategies in gaining undecided voters varied. While Biden frequently faced the camera and connected with the Americans watching, telling them to have faith in the Biden campaign or criticizing the Trump administration, the president focused on a more aggressive approach, tackling Biden’s claims and pinning him down to every last detail. Although the media has been overwhelmingly critical of how Trump interrupted and attacked Biden’s every word, the Former Vice President also called Trump a ‘clown’ and told

him to ‘shut up’ - phrases never heard from any candidate in US history. Furthermore, I genuinely doubt that Biden had the energy to attack Trump - his voice was often very feeble. While Chris Wallace wasn’t able to contain the cacophony at all times, I deem that he did a brilliant job.

Although many of the world’s most brilliant minds reside in the US, many of them very intelligent and charismatic, only two men have the tenacity to take on the role of President - a role that suffers immense criticism, and a role that only those with immeasurable willpower can handle. Therefore, I believe that it is wholly unjustified for us to denunciate their actions. Instead, we must revere these two gentlemen, one 74 and one 77 years old, and honour their service to the country. Regardless of how November 3rd will unfold, we shall send our deepest gratitude to President Donald J. Trump and Former Vice President Joe Biden.”