

Election reactions

By: Noelle Regennitter @23norege

The non-official results of the 2020 presidential election were announced on November 7th, and reconfirmed by several recounts to reveal that the next president of the U.S. would be Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. The Electoral College confirmed his win officially on December 15th. This news was followed by a cascade of positive and negative reactions; some of which belong to students that attend the high school.

For example, Hannah Brase, sophomore, has her own opinion on the matter. When asked about the election Brase said, "Oh dear... this 2020 election season has been absolutely insane. I just wanted the decision to be made, over, and settled."

Brase also said that if offered the opportunity, she would have chosen to vote for Joe Biden if she had been old enough to vote

"I support Joe Biden. Now, don't get me wrong, he's not my ideal choice. But when compared to Trump, it's a no-brainer," said Brase. She went on to talk about why she affiliates with the Democratic party. She explained that she firmly believes that all people (including POC and LGBTQ+) should have equal rights. She also believes that there should be separation of church and state and strongly supports women's rights. All of which are all commonly associated



Clapton Kellerhals, '23, votes in the school's mock election.

with the democratic party. In addition to the already controversial election, an unexpected candidate was added to the 2020 ballot.

When asked how Brase felt about this candidate she said, "I actually thought it was ridiculous that Kanye was running. He had absolutely zero chance, so he was really just taking away votes from Trump and Biden. No matter who you wanted to win I think both sides can agree that it was idiotic and pointless to have Kanye's name on some ballots."

While Brase finds Kanye West's unexpected presence on the ballot somewhat bothersome, Spencer Sperial, senior, says he got a good laugh out of it. "West's presence on the ballot was humorous because he had the right and legality to be a presidential nominee, and I support that right to anyone eligible," said Sperial.

In Sperial's opinion, this year's presidential debates were pretty disorganized and not well moderated, but the vice presidential debate was much more successful. "The candidates and staff got right to the point and didn't bicker as much."

Sperial identifies as a Republican, and affiliates with this party because he thinks that in most circumstances Republicans support the 2nd Amendment, The Constitution, freedom of speech, pro-life, the immigration policy, lower taxes, and free market capitalism--all of which he also supports. Along with this, Sperial is also a loyal supporter of Donald Trump. "He is a businessman, knows how to negotiate, and is legitimately honest in doing what he says firmly," said Sperial.

Whatever your opinions might be about this year's election, I would like to encourage everybody to respect other people's opinions as each individual has a right to their own opinion just as you do.

For the next election season when more students are eligible to vote, it is important to stay politically educated and read and listen to credible news sources to make sure you are making the best choices. Who knows what political excitement 2024 will hold!

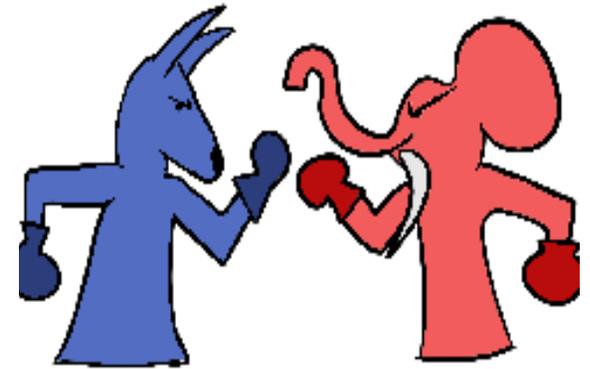
Looking past politics

By: Antonio Cayler @antoniocaylerr

For centuries, this country has held elections to determine who the President will be. Whether the stance you take is Republican, Democratic, or Independent, your views will always differ from others. Everyone has opposing opinions when it comes to the election, and some of those contrasting opinions can have a detrimental effect on relationships. Sometimes it can be hard to separate your beliefs from your friendships, but for some students, looking past the differences can be the better option.

"...I don't want to waste my time losing friends and arguing over something they aren't going to change their opinions on," said Xavier Papesh, senior. In some situations, speaking and standing up for what you believe in, even if others disagree, can be a very powerful thing. "I rarely talk about politics, but I speak up when it's something that I am strongly against, and I think isn't right for other people," said Elliott Dyrland, freshman.

Another reason politics can have a heavy effect on friendships is because the beliefs and opinions can sometimes come from a biased or an incredible source. Whether the information is coming from the media, or being passed down from family, it can be frustrating when the argument is not based in fact. "I believe that your worldview is shaped by



Both Republicans and Democrats struggle to maintain civilized relationships during the election season.

information, the things you go through, and the people who raise you," said Papesh. We never know why certain people think certain things, and judging them for it, could spark even more disagreement.

Dyrland supports President Trump because "He has been doing a lot of great things for this country, and he has handled this COVID situation pretty well." On the other end of the spectrum, Papesh aligns politically with President-Elect Biden, and got to vote for him in this recent election. "I voted for Joe Biden because he believes in science

when it comes to things like climate change and COVID-19. I also like how he has political experience and isn't some failed, washed-up businessman running for president to boost his brand."

In a time like this, it can be very hard to express your opinions, and still find a way to be liked and not get hatred for it. Some people may only want to associate with those who share the same views, and others may not care. Whatever the case may be, it is always important to find a balance between politics and friendships.

HUBBELL'S AUTO REPAIR
From oil changes to overhauls, we do it all!
www.hubbellautorepair.com

Michael C Hubbell
Owner
mhubell1100@hotmail.com

1318 270th St
Marion, Iowa 52301 (781) 377-6474

Ability
Physical Therapy
319-373-7311

Experienced Clinicians
- Orthopaedic & Sport Injuries
- Work Injury - Post-Surgical Rehab

www.ChooseAbilityPT.com

4215 Lewis Access Road #300, Center Point, IA
300 Vogel Ave SE, Vernon, IA
959 4th Street Suite 10,000, Marion, IA
411 Hagarman Ln, Solon, IA

Same day appointments available!
Provider for most insurances including BC/BS, Medicare.