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Oct. 30, 2020 / Printed Three Times a Semester / Online Monday, Wednesday, Friday at albionpleiad.com

Albion College's Both Sides of the Political Spectrum

Erin Lathrop
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, the time will come for Americans to elect the president that will govern the country for the next four years.

Due to the drastically different platforms of each candidate, this has been a high tension, polarizing election grabbing the attention of Albion College students along with the rest of the United States.

Republicans on Campus

For the Republican Party, current President Donald J. Trump is running for re-election.

"His economic policy is the biggest for me and general across the board," said Cameron Hall, a sophomore from South Lyon and current Albion College Republicans president. "What he's done to bring jobs back to the US, to try and eliminate outsourcing."

Hall said that he, along with his family members back home, plans to vote



Students around campus are preparing for the the upcoming election on Nov. 3. Albion College is a diverse campus including diverse political views (Photo Illustrated by Irene Corona-Avila).

in person on election day for President Trump to serve his second term in the oval office.

Growing up, Hall said he has always leaned to the right when it came to politics. Coming to college, Hall's political beliefs didn't change.

"I feel like my views have been re-enforced since being here," said Hall.

Democrats on Campus

For the Democratic Party, former Vice President Joe Biden is running for the presidential election.

"I just filled out my absentee ballot yesterday," said Sara Crisenberry, a senior from Jackson.

Crisenberry said, due to the fact that we have created an Albion Bubble and students aren't supposed to leave campus, she felt like the absentee ballot was the way to vote. This restriction goes alongside the regulations put into place to protect students from COVID-19.

"I was going to do that anyways because of the whole pandemic thing," said Amber Zoerman, a junior from Holland. "It's just easier for me. One, not having to drive even without all these Albion bubble restrictions. And with the bubble, I think it's really important anyways."

Zoerman also shares similar political beliefs with her family.

"My mom has always been a Democrat," said Zoerman. "She voted for Obama twice and she hates Trump."

Unlike Zoerman and her family, not everyone voting for the Democratic Party did so in 2016. Some people who voted for Trump in 2016 aren't voting for him in this year's election.

"My family is all voting for the same



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voters are being encouraged to vote by mail with an absentee ballot. When receiving an absentee ballot, there's a sticker inside the envelope, just like the one given in in-person voting polls, to show that you voted too (Photo by Erin Lathrop).

presidential candidate," said Crisenberry. "In the past, my mom did vote for Trump, but she has seen he didn't do a very good job, and she is voting Democrat this time. My dad is going with the choice that's pro-choice, pro-LGBT and pro-women's rights."

Zoerman said that many of the reasons she finds herself voting for Biden stem from the things that make her who she is, including her background with some of the more controversial issues such as the Affordable Care Act and Planned Parenthood.

"I looked at this as a lesser of the two evils," said Crisenberry. "I don't agree with everything he is running for, but I know for sure that I was not going

to vote [for] Trump."

College is the time where people find who they are and for Zoerman and Crisenberry, and Hall on the other side of the political spectrum, college has strengthened their beliefs that they grew up with.

"I have always followed more of the Democratic beliefs than Republican beliefs, but I think being a political science major, I've definitely been able to be more educated on why I think the way I do and can kind of explain it better," said Zoerman. "I've just learned more. I understand better why certain things are important and how the streams of thoughts kind of work. They haven't changed, but I have become more educated."

Voting is a Privilege That Some Albion Students Do Not Have

Paola Amaya
Staff Writer

As the upcoming presidential election approaches on Tuesday, many people are preparing to vote. However, some individuals are unable to do so. This population includes a number of students on campus. These students, like others who cannot vote, encourage others to practice their right to vote if they are able.

According to the Pew Research Center, only 55.7 percent of the voting-age population in the United States voted in the 2016 presidential election. Various reasons, such as socioeconomic status, education and race, bar American citizens who want to vote from doing so. In the meantime, many people who are able to vote are not doing so.

Irma Sierra, a junior from Chicago, strongly believes that people should be voting. Many people take their right to vote for granted and miss the opportunity to have a say in the governing system.

"If you don't vote, you're doing a disservice to yourself and everyone you know because politics affects everyone around you in one way or the other," said Sierra.

Those who cannot vote in the presidential election include non-citizens, people with certain felony convictions, people with certain mental incapacities and citizens living in U.S. territories. Some Albion students fall under this umbrella.

"DACA recipients don't have that privilege and they are very active in society, but they don't have that privilege to vote and have their voices heard," said Daniela Lopez, a junior from Chicago. "We depend on our friends who do have the privilege to vote and have our voices heard, if that's their belief."

As part of a democracy, voting gives the public a chance to give input on who they want in governing power.

"If people say, 'well my vote doesn't count,' I'm pretty sure it does if that's what they're asking for," said Lopez. "That's

how a democracy is built upon."

Those who are able to vote have the chance to choose their representatives. Although a big deal is made out of the presidential election, Sierra believes that smaller elections are equally important.

"Somebody should vote, not only in the big, national election but they should also vote in their state elections because they are the people that represent you at the end of the day," said Sierra.

Being undocumented and surrounded by undocumented people her entire life, Sierra recognizes the significance of voting. She found the 2016 presidential election the most difficult because of Donald Trump's claims of deporting immigrants. Not being able to vote, due to her status, made her feel useless to herself and those she cared about

See *VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE* on back.



Some individuals have the right to vote and others some do not. Daniela Lopez, a junior from Chicago, counts on those who can vote to be a voice for her during the election (Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Cortez).

What Albion's College Democrats are doing for the upcoming Presidential election

Taylor Dietz
News Editor

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is harder for groups, like Albion's College Democrats, to meet and host events. In anticipation of the 2020 presidential election, the Albion College Democrats are prioritizing the spread of information and awareness about voting and the election across campus.

College Democrats President Amber Zoerman, a junior from Holland, runs the organization's Instagram page. Instagram has been one of the main tools to spread information about the election, deadlines for registering to vote and any events that the College Democrats will be hosting.

Recently highlighted on their Instagram page, the College Democrats hosted watch parties for the presidential and vice presidential debates on the quad. These watch parties gave the College Democrats the opportunity to discuss what was being said during the debates.

"We've really made the spreading of information a priority because while most of our regular members know this information already, we hope it can be spread to other students who might be confused about how to vote, especially in this pandemic," said Zoerman.

The College Democrats have also hosted volunteer opportunities for those interested in the election. They've done remote campaigning for local candidates like Jim Haadsma and Hillary Scholten.

"A lot of our members are political science or public policy majors, so this major election has been a really good time for people to experience what working a campaign is like," said Zoerman.

Because of Albion's Together Safely guidelines, voting in person is not a viable option for Albion students. The College Dem-



The Albion College Democrats strive to educate students on how to vote for the upcoming election on Nov. 3. Amber Zoerman, President of the Democrats club and a junior from Holland, and Uma Shuford Williams, a member of the Democrats club and first-year from Chicago, pose with Lauren Bergeron, a junior from Riverview (Photo Illustrated by Savannah Waddick).

ocrats have been working to encourage their members and other students to vote absentee.

The College Democrats have worked with multiple groups on campus, including Student Senate and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), on tabling events to register students to vote and spread information about how to get an absentee ballot.

"In Michigan, you can both register to vote and request a ballot completely online, so it's been really easy to direct anyone who has questions about it on how to get their ballot," said Zoerman.

Because the younger generation is significantly less likely to vote than older generations, they are encouraging Albion students to vote, no matter their political affiliations.

"As the current president of the Albion Dems, it's been really great to see how involved other people my age are in this

election," said Zoerman. "This includes going out of their way to volunteer to just vote, no matter who they are voting for."

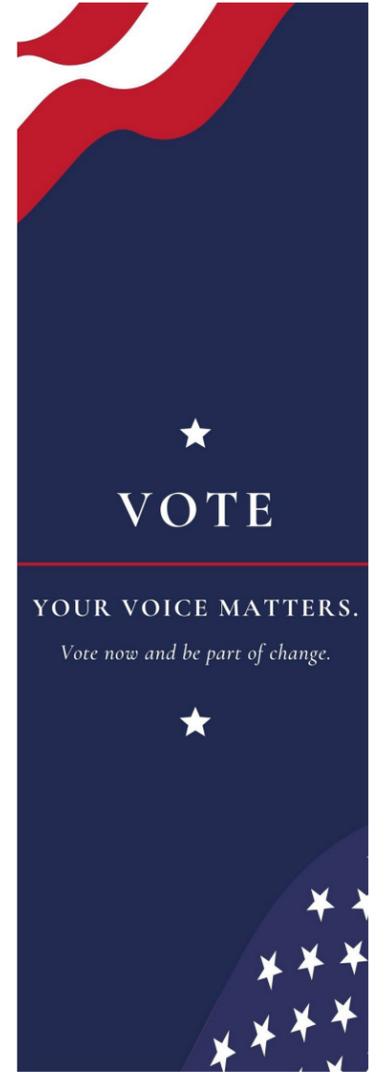


Albion College Democrats President Amber Zoerman, a junior from Holland, talks to Lauren Bergeron, a junior from Riverview. The biggest part of the College Democrats preparation for the upcoming election is encouraging students to vote (Photo by Savannah Waddick).

Voting is a Privilege

Continued from Front

"I feel like I really came to terms with it, so now, I really like to encourage people. I feel like I say this all the time, 'not everyone can vote so you should vote.' I say that a lot now because I experienced it firsthand, so now, it doesn't bother me," said Sierra. "Now I just want to put it out there that it's important that you should vote."



Albion College Republicans Prepare for Election

Samantha Semerau
Opinions Editor

As the upcoming 2020 election approaches, the Albion College Republicans continue preparations. These preparations include campaigning for Republican candidates, reviewing election material and encouraging their peers to vote.

Due to Albion College restrictions placed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the College Republicans have not been able to campaign as they normally would. However, this has not

stopped them in their support of Peter Meijer, Republican candidate for Michigan's third congressional district.

"We're doing some phone calling events since we're unable to go knock on doors and such," said Albion College Republicans President Cameron Hall, a sophomore from South Lyon. "We cannot go door knocking for the campaigns, so it's a lot of phone calls, really."

To help drum up interest in phone banking for Meijer, Hall and the Albion College Republicans held a competition on Oct. 21 against the College Republicans at Grand Valley State University. Whichever orga-

nization made the most calls for the Meijer campaign would win.

"The idea is that if there's a little bit of competition, there will be some incentive to reach more voters, and that's really our goal this election, to reach as many voters as we can," said Hall. "On top of that, whichever school wins will get a nice box of merch from the Peter Meijer campaign."

The College Republicans are also active in campaigning for other Republicans running for office besides Meijer. This includes a phone banking event for the Trump Victory campaign on Saturday and supporting Michigan senatorial candidate John James.

In addition to their work campaigning, the College Republicans have been encouraging their fellow students to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Along with other organizations and the President's Office, the College Republicans have assisted with Albion's commitment to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

"We co-sponsored the National Voter Registration Day event that the President's Office had," said Hall. "We definitely share the same belief that it is important to get students voting. It is a very big demographic that a lot of candidates really need."

For the College Republicans, what matters most is that people are voting and getting involved in the Democratic process.

"We're all about reaching voters," said Hall. "One of our biggest goals during an election year is to reach voters, talk to voters, try to maybe sway a vote or two. That's our big thing: Reach the voters."



The Albion College Republicans executive board consists of social media chair Diana Tello, a junior from Chicago, finance chair Isis Gibson, a freshman from Detroit and President Cameron Hall, a sophomore from South Lyon. The College Republicans have been preparing for the upcoming election on Nov. 3 (Photo by Patrick Smoker).



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