

# GUIDE POST

NORTH HIGH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER ELECTION DAY SPECIAL EDITION

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## DONALD TRUMP'S REELECTION CAMPAIGN

Leila Bakshi, Dylan Kohanim, and Mia Delijani '21

GUIDE POST STAFF

P resident Donald J. Trump, the Republican candidate running for his second term, is being followed closely by both the media and American citizens as they make their final decision for the upcoming 2020 election. Over the last two months, President Trump has been promoting his case to the American people as to why he deserves reelection. Despite being impeached during his first term, he is campaigning strongly.

One of President Trump's top priorities is economic growth and success. To reach this goal, he and Congress cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, hoping to increase the amount of companies that invest money in the United States instead of keeping their products overseas. Trump had also decreased the unemployment rated to 3.5% in February of 2020.

Although he decreased the number of greenhouse gases and CO2 emissions, Trump has also been criticized for some of his other environmental policies. He signed the Climate Change Policy Reversal, which repealed several policies that were made to benefit the environment. Some of the policies he removed were the requirement of gas and oil companies to report methane emissions. He also removed regulations regarding air pollution on power plants who waste coal for electricity and the requirement for regional and state authorities to track tailpipe emissions from vehicles on federal highways.

Addressing environmental concerns is not a concern for the Trump administration. President Trump believes that if he goes forth with restrictions on businesses and the economy to ben-



President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally on October 25, 2020 in Londonderry, New Hampshire for his second presidential campaign. Photo: Scott Olsen

efit the environment, the net outcome for the American people will be negative.

The actions taken by Trump in accordance with the COVID-19 outbreak in early February have been viewed with heavy skepticism. On February 2, 2020, he placed a travel ban to restrict any contact with China and other countries with high COVID-19 cases. However, this was not that effective because many people still managed to enter the United States since there was no ban on travel from China's administrative zones. President Trump claims that his "administration will not stop at nothing to save lives and shield the vulnerable."

Mike Pence, the current Vice President, has taken a lead role in the fight against the pandemic. Pence was put in charge of making the big decision on what to do about cruise ships in late August of this year, as they were being reported to be a large factor contributing to the spread of the virus. When President Trump was infected with COVID-19, Pence took over the rallies Trump was planning to attend just a couple of days before the vice presidential debate took place in Utah.

Recently, Trump released a list of his fifty "core priorities," if he is to be reelected by the American people.

continued on fourth page

## JOE BIDEN'S APPROACH TO THE 2020 ELECTION

Kelly Chu '21 Columnist

With Election Day looming and more than 20 million ballots already cast, Republican nominee President Donald J. Trump and Democratic nominee Joseph R. Biden Jr. are both rallying in swing states in a last-ditch effort to sway undecided voters. Biden, a six-term senator from Delaware and 47th vice president of the United States under former President Barack Obama, has framed himself as a seasoned and reliable leader ready to guide the country through these unprecedented times.

Biden has made it clear that health-care is a top priority for him, in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Biden plans to nationally mandate masks and social distancing in public places, increase funding for coronavirus research, and hire as many as 100,000 Americans as contact tracers. From offering businesses financial assistance to retain workers, establishing protocols to help schools open safely, and even providing paid time off to those infected with COVID-19, Biden's plan also



Former Vice Presidentand Democratic nominee Joe Biden speaks at a campgain rally, in Warm Springs, Georgia on October 27, 2020. Photo: Andrew Harnick

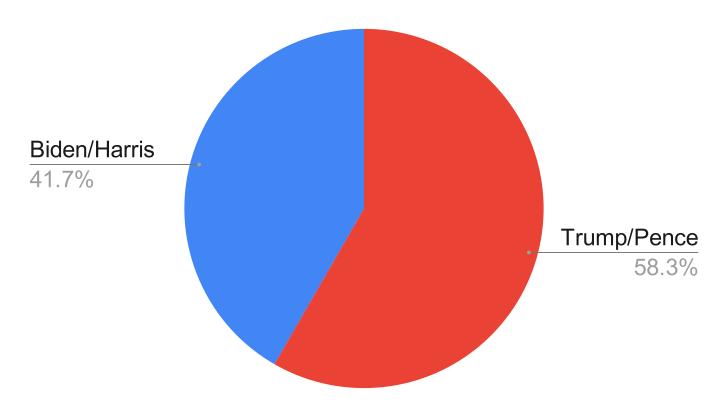
outlines the steps necessary to jumpstart the nation's economy. Additionally, Biden has expressed support in expanding the Affordable Care Act, which was established by the Obama administration, by adding a public option. Biden does not plan on phasing out private health insurance. The Biden campaign emphasizes the goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable, regular, and free coronavirus testing.

Biden has also been campaigning on an aggressive climate platform. President Trump's administration has not only pulled out of the 2015 Paris climate accord and curtailed regulations on greenhouse gas emissions during his term, but Trump himself has also repeatedly called global warming a hoax. Biden, however, plans to rejoin the Paris climate treaty as well as set the U.S. on track to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and achieve a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. Biden's climate action plan also includes elements of the Green New Deal, a plan authored and proposed by Representative

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#### **Special Feature:**

## The Results of North High's Mock Presidential Election



Source: North High Social Studies Department

All the teachers in the social studies department worked with their students to get ready for the mock election by discussing where students were on the political spectrum by using websites like **isidewith.com**. In our senior classes we also worked with the League of Women Voters to get students registered to vote by providing information as well as paper forms that the school submitted for the students.

Thursday, Oct. 29, using Google Forms, we participated in a school-wide Mock Election. The results for that vote were: 58.3% for Trump/Pence 41.7% for Biden/Harris 1,110 students voted in our election.

- Ms. Talamo, Social Studies Department Chairperson

## DONALD TRUMP'S REELECTION CAMPAIGN

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His biggest priority on this list is to create at least 10 million new jobs within ten months. In regards to CO-VID-19, Trump believes a vaccine will be ready by the end of 2020. He emphasizes cutting down prices on prescription drugs and lowering health care premiums.

President Trump has also made great strides in achieving peace in the Middle East. Recently, Trump brokered a peace deal between Israel and two Arab states, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. This was the first such agreement between Israel and a major Arab country since 1994.

Trump has also acknowledged that he plans to also include the Palestinians, and believes they will be more inclined towards a deal after more Arab nations also join the treaty. Trump has also managed to create another peace deal between Sudan and Israel.

The final presidential debate, held on October 22 at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, was moderated by Kristen Welker, an NBC journalist and show host. A critical part of the debate was the conversation about the future of the United States with COVID-19. During the last debate, Trump said that "[America is] learning to live with it...

We can't lock ourselves up in a basement like Joe does." Trump wants the country to start building immunity and get life back to how it was as soon as possible through the lessening of restrictions.

With the increasing racial tension in the United States, racism was another significant part of the debate. Trump, who has been accused of white supremacy and racism since the day he was inaugurated, boasted that he was the least racist person in the room during the debate. Last year, President Trump signed a bipartisan bill that provides more than \$250 million a year to the nation's historically black colleges and universities.

"[I've] gott[en] criminal justice reform done, prison reform, and opportunity zones, [I've] [taken] care of black colleges and universities," said Trump at the most recent debate. The president has come under fire in recent months for failing to address police brutality in a significant manner in the wake of mass protests after the police killing of George Floyd earlier this year. He came under further scrutiny for refusing to denounce white supremacy at the first presidential debate.

Although Trump's campaign and presidential success have come under fire and there is strong opposition to his campaign, it is clear that he is putting forth a great effort to win this election.

## JOE BIDEN'S APPROACH TO THE 2020 ELECTION

continued from first page

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York to address the impending climate crisis.

Biden's most controversial plan, however, may be his stance on the economy. He plans to repeal the Trump administration's tax cuts, enact a \$15 hourly minimum wage, and expand access to affordable education by making community college free.

Biden's economic plan also includes raising individual income tax from 37% to 39.6% only those who make an individual income of above \$400,000. He also plans on raising taxes on corporations from 21% to 28%. Although his tax plans have caused major backlash, only the top 1.8% of taxpayers would actually see an increase in their taxes.

Senator Kamala Harris of California, Biden's running mate, closely aligns with him in the center-left of the political spectrum. She is the first woman of color on a major party ticket, being of Indian and Jamaican ancestry. Harris had run against Biden earlier this year for the Democratic nomination but suspended her campaign in January.

As vice president, Harris plans

As vice president, Harris plans to bring about criminal justice reform. Her plans outline the necessary steps to create a national police systems re-

view board, end mass incarceration and the death penalty, as well as allow students to attend historically Black colleges and universities debt-free.

Many in public office with varying political leanings have set aside their differences with Biden to endorse him and Harris, uniting under the common goal of voting Trump out of office. However, many have also been critical of Biden for the increasing influence of mega-donors on his campaign. Some of the most influential Americans, including Netflix chief executive Reed Hastings, Hollywood producer Jeffrey Katzenberg, and tech entrepreneur Sean Parker, have all contributed handsomely to Biden's campaign.

During the final presidential debate, on October 22, Biden made sure to emphasize his key message of unity. Trump, who has repeatedly clashed with Democrat-controlled states throughout the course of this pandemic, attacked a coronavirus relief bill on the national stage largely in part because it gave a considerable amount of money to these said Democrat-led cities.

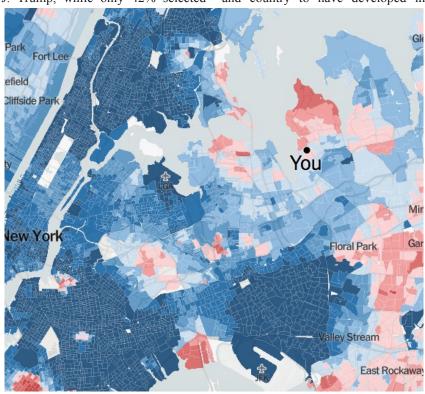
"Look what he's doing. Blue states or red states — they're all the United States," said Biden in response. No matter the outcome of this divisive election, it is apparent that the country does, in fact, need to be unified, especially during these critical times.

**Staff Editorial:** 

## **How to Read North High's Mock Ballot Results**

One thousand, one hundred and ten North High students voted in a mock presidential election in their social studies classes on Oct. 29. As seen on the previous page, approximately 58% of students indicated they would, if eligible, vote for incumbent President Donald J. Trump, while only 42% selected

It's clear from this data that the so-called "Great Neck Bubble" is not just limited to cultural origins and so-cioeconomic status — our town, and even more so North High, is politically distinct from our neighbors. Expecting those from other parts of the state and country to have developed in the



As published by The New York Times, this extremely detailed map of the 2016 presidential election demonstrates the stark contrast between the political beliefs in Great Neck and those only a few miles away in New York City. Graphic: The New York Times

former Vice President Joe Biden. Though only a few North High students are able to vote, these results are indicative of the political climate here on the north end of Great Neck: one where although there may be a Republican majority, there is also a significant population of individuals who prefer the Democratic Party.

Still, these mock elections results will likely differ from the state-wide results on Nov. 3: New York has not voted for a Republican candidate since Ronald Reagan in 1984, and polls currently show Biden with a substantial lead. Secretary of State and former New York Senator Hillary Clinton carried New York for the Democrats even as Trump won the national vote in 2016.

North High is clearly more conservative than the rest of our environs. As reported by the New York Times, Kings Point and the Village of Great Neck voted for Trump in 2016 while the rest of Great Neck (half of which is zoned for South High) voted for Clinton. Though New York as a state is solidly blue, Great Neck serves as an interesting waypoint as the first suburban town out of reliably-Democratic New York City. The rest of Long Island becomes more politically mixed as you drive east, growing redder the deeper into Suffolk County you go.

same political environment as many Great Neck residents have is a risky bet. And polls are often misleading, too: people's political beliefs and favored candidates, on both sides of the spectrum, are easily hidden. Silent Trump supporters in liberal areas are just as common as hidden Biden fans amongst a Republican majority. "People may still be a little hesitant to say that they're Trump voters," said Arie Kapteyn, an economist who leads the USC's Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research. The same way that a Trump supporter shouldn't see these mock election results as a sign to show disrespect to those who may disagree, a Biden supporter shouldn't see the ballot as painting them in an unquestionable minority.

So try your best not to see North High as 58% red and 42% blue. Politics are incredibly polarized nowadays, but speaking with an open mind to those who disagree with you can often be an eye-opening experience. Politics is more than red or blue — it's how different people, with different origins, see different ways to improve our country. We all go to North High (or begrudgingly log in to Zoom) every morning and sit in class with our peers, who come from all backgrounds and walks of life and just want the best for the nation in which we live.

Guide Post strives to inform and entertain the student body, provoke conversations and debates, and provide insight on student and community life, while preserving and promoting journalistic integrity.

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## **Defending Donald Trump**

ZOE LYAHKOV, NIKITA SOLEYMANI AND MAYA MISHAN EZRONI '23 GUIDE POST STAFF

n Nov. 3, millions of Americans will cast their vote for the 2020 presidential election. Soon after, either former Vice President Joe Biden or current President Donald Trump will hold office for the next four years. For Americans who value lower taxes, peace within the Middle East, and an increase in job availability, Donald Trump is the right candidate.

One of Trump's main presidential goals is to lower taxes. Unlike Biden's plan, which will increase taxes, Trump's tax plan is in favor of the citizens. Tax policies and regulations will play a consequential role in the economy's recovery, after the severe damage sustained due to COVID-19. On Aug. 8, Trump signed the executive order "Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 7508A" that postponed Social Security payroll taxes from workers' income. This order delayed 6.2% of taxes until Sept. 1 and more to the end of the year for certain employees. However, Trump has guaranteed that if he is re-elected, he would pardon the deferred taxes. In addition to this promise, Trump's administration has supported his claim for lower taxes by decreasing taxes for middle-class citi-

zens by 7%. Americans planning to vote for Trump have high hopes that his future promises concerning tax decisions will materialize.

President Trump has overseen multiple historical peace agreements between Israel and Arab nations. Trump played a crucial role in the Israel–United Arab Emirates peace agreement, which benefitted Israel's security and eased conflicts within the Middle East. On Sept. 15, he hosted the signing ceremony in which both Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established a peace and recognition agreement with Israel.

This peace agreement was the first between Israel and an Arab country since the Israel-Jordan treaty in 1994. Following the ceremony, Bahrain and the UAE began working with Israel regarding education, healthcare, trade, and security. Trump has further advanced his mission to promote peace by working with Israel and Sudan. Finally coming to an agreement, Sudan and Israel normalized their relations and negotiated agreements regarding agriculture, economy, trade, and aviation on Oct. 23.

"This will be the third country where we're doing this – and we have many... more coming," President Trump confirmed later that week. His involvement in Middle Eastern normalization agree-

ments helped these countries prosper and move on from their previous conflicts. They are now experiencing a prosperous geopolitical transformation. Stability and peace have been regained by numerous Middle Eastern countries — a historic accomplishment that would not have been possible without President Trump.

By expanding apprenticeship programs, reforming job training, and protecting worker's pensions, the Trump administration has helped millions of U.S. workers. Trump has taken unprecedented steps in protecting the pensions of American workers and has

sion plans. When the Delphi Corporation left General Motors (GM) in 1999, its union workers received a deal from GM to protect their pensions, while non-unionized and salaried workers did not. After both companies went bankrupt, Delphi's union pensions were fully protected, unlike its non-union and sala-

ried pensions.

addressed the Obama admin-

istration's decision to end the

Delphi Corporation's pen-

Trump has issued a presidential memorandum directing his administration to review this decision and protect the pensions of working Americans, regardless of union affiliation. When questioned about his responsibility to help working-class citizens, Trump responded: "As long as I am president, we will never waver in our undying loyalty to the American workers." Since 2016, President Trump has helped the economy grow and influenced people's careers.

From lowering taxes to promoting peace within the Middle East while creating millions of U.S. jobs, Donald Trump has truly "made America great again." He is capable of promising and delivering a "better tomorrow." Over the course of the next four years, our country will experience dramatic change. As U.S. citizens, it is up to us to decide what type of country we want to live in. It is important that we elect a president, such as Trump, who can be a

part of a government that is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

## A Historic Election

## **Backing up Biden**

KATHERINE SMOLENS '21 COLUMNIST

In today's heavily media-driven culture, important topics can often get lost in the "political clickbait," which is enhanced by Donald Trump's frequent use of social media to push out controversial statements that are often untrue. This year, specifically, so many unpredictable events have occurred, making the political circus seem even more surreal. Following a year that has left many Americans in a state of uncertainty or distress, it is more important than ever to choose a leader who will aid the American people. Joe Biden is the clear choice, as he displays a willingness to truly help the American peo-

truly help the American people, significant political experience, and a maturity lacking in the current president. Although Trump likes to brag about the economy

to brag about the economy under his presidency, the economy is deteriorating at the moment due to Trump's lack of strategy in dealing with the COVID crisis. Biden, on the other hand, has experience in rebuilding a

econ-

failing

omy. When he and Obama came into power, they were faced with an ailing economy—the Great Recession. They managed to create jobs for struggling Americans and construct a thriving economy, which Trump inherited.

Additionally, Trump's reelectionwould be detrimental to the planet. He holds a belief that climate change is a hoax, and has further normalized and popularized neglecting the rising climate and human impact on the environment being a legitimate stance. Joe Biden, on the other hand, sees climate change as the emergency that it is, and plans to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, a global treaty focused on protecting the planet.

Furthermore, Trump's reelection presents a great danger to so many of the American people. Trump's claims that he is the "least racist person" or the "best president for black Americans" which are both untrue and narcissistic. There are numerous incidents that detail problematic things said or done by the president, notably his open opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement and an absence

ent, notably his open osition to the Black Lives Matter movement and an absence of condemnation of white supremacist groups. Additionally, Trump is a

serious threat to LGBTQ+ Americans. He created a hostile work environment for LGBTQ+ federal employees, attempted to ban transgender people from serving in the military, and rolled back or challenged several Obama-era non discrimination legal protections.

Furthermore, Trump uses xeno-phobia and hatred to fuel nationalism, a dangerous tactic reminiscent of fascist nations like Nazi Germany. He has continued to blame China for the coronavirus, using derogatory terms like "China virus" and "Kung flu." This endorsement of racist terminology speaks to his lack of care for the American people and again led to violent attacks. Trump is openly racist, misogynistic, and just incredibly disrespectful toward anyone who challenges him via Twitter or mocks him publicly. In 2016, he ran on a campaign of anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim platforms. This behavior is unprecedented for anyone in his position, and Joe Biden certainly has shown himself to be not only much more accepting, but also a man of character. For example, Biden is opposed to the inhumane ICE practices, such as involuntary hysterectomies, occurring under the Trump administration. Aside from his view on the American people, the manner in which Joe Biden conducts himself is far more civil than that of the current president, as clearly displayed in the recent presidential debates. These comparisons, however, do not mean that Biden is the perfect candidate. No election is ever simply "good candidate and bad candidate," and if it feels that way it's probably a sign of lack of information. In the 2020 election, however, human decency, presidentiality, and the future of democracy are on the line.

It's important to remember that

the office of the presidency is meant to serve the needs of the people, and the purpose of an election is to choose a person who will best listen to those needs. Of course, there's no such thing as a perfect president, as the position held by the office of the president is inherently corrupt and oppressive. However, it is clear to see that Donald J. Trump has no intention of listening to any of the American people. It's horrifying that I could say "we can't afford to have Trump in office for another four years" and I could be talking about a variety of issues. Re-electing President Donald Trump threatens to repeat shameful parts of American history, and set us up for a dismal future.

The cartoons of the candidates are from The Washington Post, and the title banner is by Carolina Swiatkowska.

# THOUGHTS ON THE 2020 PARTICLE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

"I am very curious to see the turnout of this election. I don't think I've ever witnessed a more heated election since I had started taking interest in politics, and I am looking forward to hearing the results."

**EDEN REZNIK '22** 

"I'm excited."

**JOEL HAKIMI '22** 

"The choice between Biden and Trump is the lesser of two evils."

**CARINA BAZAC '23** 

"If I could vote, I would definitely vote for Joe Biden. I know that my entire family did thankfully. He's not my first choice, but I don't want to vote for someone so awful and someone who caused the death of over 200,000 Americans."

ANONYMOUS '23

"I feel good about the 2020 presidential election.
I hope Trump wins."

**JACOB ADHOOT '22** 

"Bad and stupid."

SHIFAN HE '22

"I feel it is necessary to make sure that everybody is informed of all issues before they vote, this year in particular."

**JONATHAN SANDERS '24** 

"Both candidates are running on populist positions devoid of logic or rational thought. The fact that these are our candidates is embarrassing and makes me less proud to be American."

"I'm terrified for the state of our world and the

state of women's rights everywhere.'

**GREG LEUNG '22** 

**VIOLET GORDON '21** 

"The sad part is that once again Americans are forced to choose between the lesser of two evils. In my eyes, neither candidate puts safety before the interest of their party."

**SAUL ADES '21** 

"Good."

**ARYA HADITALAB '22** 

"Even though many of my peers love incumbent President Donald Trump, I personally think he has been a terrible leader and has dug our nation into a hole that we may never get out of for years to come. That is why I support Vice President Joe Biden for the upcoming election."

DANIEL OHEBSHALOM '21

"I think that there are major flaws with both candidates... I'm not really sure what is going to happen nor would I actually be pleased if either candidate won."

**SOFIA BUZIASHVILI '22** 

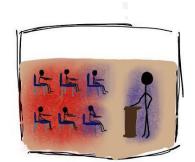
"Trump has been attacking women, people of color, people of the LGBTQ community, religious minorities, etc. his whole presidency, and I'm terrified of the consequences if he gets reelected."

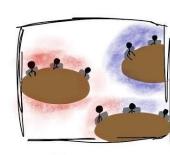
**ALIZA FINE '21** 

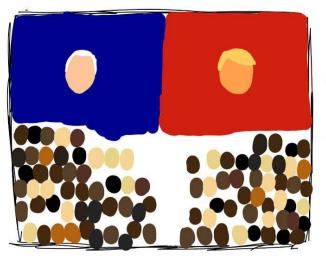


As the election nears, tension within North High rise as students' conflicting political opinions become apparent. The comic depicts how these differences in opinion impact the classrom and social settings. In some cases, these differing views divide students, while in other cases, they bring them together. The red clouds represent students with right-wing views, while the blue clouds represent students with more left-wing opinions.











## MORE THAN A SPORT

#### Menash Harooni '23 Sasha Rubin '23

GUIDE POST STAFF

W ith the 2020 election right around the corner, it has been essential to encourage young voters to become involved in the election process. The younger generation is being tasked with an important role: using their voices to stimulate change within our society. There has been a steady trend in past elections where the younger group of voters have chosen not to participate in the voting process.

However, developments within our society over the past year, such as the emergence of the Black Lives Movement, have motivated activist groups such as "More Than A Vote" to start up in hopes of increased voter turnout and involvement. The "More Than A Vote" campaign aims to overcome Black voter suppression and target younger people, generally in majority-minority areas, during the 2020 political race. So far, the organization has helped to recruit over 40,000 poll workers in efforts to volunteer for the election. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund created the push to gather surveyors. As of October 1st, an expected 10,000 individuals have elected to assist this campaign, as per the New York Times. The mission centers around 11 urban areas where Black voter turnout has been low in years past. targeted by the nonprofit because they are suspected to be targeted by forces of oppression. With COV-ID-19 still prominent in the United States, it poses an even higher threat to black communities. "In counties where Black people are the majority, death rates are 3.5 times higher than the national average," the organization wrote in a letter to its supporters.

"Our voting locations must offer safe, socially distanced voting. If we don't address this now, ... many Black people will be forced to put their health at risk just to cast a ballot." Their solution is to utilize as many arenas and sports facilities, which are conveniently vacant due to the halt in public sports events for the time being, into voting precincts. The convenient location in city centers offers the ideal opportunity. The voting rights coalition includes NBA star LeBron James, along with former First Lady Michelle Obama and her "When We All Vote" initiative. The rest of the members of "More Than A Vote" are made up of black athletes and artists, and it is fueled by police brutality and systemic racism -- specifically the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others. The group has a specific mission:

"educate, energize and protect Black voters." Although they are not politically affiliated with any party or candidate, their goal is to combat systemic racism in African American communities and encourage them to exercise their right to vote. The organization is offering transportation and personal protective equipment to early voters. NBA and NFL players collaborated with other athletes, artists, and influencers to dispatch the mission with a robust, open letter that puts forth the case for civic engagement and casting a ballot.

This movement is a result of foreseen staff deficiencies originating from the COVID-19 pandemic. During an ap-

pearance in the virtual crowd at Game 1 of the NBA Finals, for-President Barack Obama highlighted the significance for the people to vote and contribute to the election: "I wanted to come on to shout out all the folks who are volunteering as poll workers in the upcoming elections." He acknowledged the people who reached out and acted on this difficult job. T h e "More Than A Vote" campaign has brought issues to light

about voting, welcomed individuals to cast a ballot, make arrangements for launching a franchise, and urged individuals to elect to become a poll worker. This campaign will be working with accomplices to utilize the suppressed voices to help share reliable data and educate on the importance of voting. By casting a ballot, residents vote in favor of leaders to speak to them and their thoughts, and these leaders uphold the concerns of citizens. The mission went into overdrive following the shooting of Jacob Blake, as NBA players organized a boycott while the playoffs were already underway. They urged the league to convert stadiums into casting ballot destinations. LeBron James specifically

has become an energetic advocate for civic engagement and electoral turnout as he utilizes his platform to bring issues to light.

"If we want change, we have to make it ourselves," he said. James also sells merchandise with the guarantee to give all benefits to social justice organizations. "More Than A Vote" continues to release clothes and gear with powerful messaging. Accessible on the organization's online website, you can discover shirts, caps, hoodies, and other apparel that make a statement such as "I am here." These earnings will be given to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The firm attempts to secure equal

justice for all through the stan-dard of law, specifically targeting the imbalances facing African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. LeBron James is following in the footsteps of other historic leaders such as Obama and continues to show the world that he can be influential both on and off the court. COVID-19 has made immense obstructions to the 2020 voting process as the contagiousness of the infection hindered gathering in votlocations. ing

Accordingly, comprehensive safeguards must be taken to guarantee protected and clean in-person voting. It is significant to recognize these measures as the federal government has been hesitant to give essential assets to these communities. Furthermore, a citizen misinformation effort has been pursued across the Internet to ease any doubts about mail-in voting.

Due to the circumstances faced today, this has risen as a more safe option than in-person voting. The campaign has taken a unique approach to publicity for "More Than A Vote." In an attempt to reach the younger generation of voters, the group debuted a new

series on "NBA 2KTV." With millennials and Gen Z making up more than one-third of the U.S. electorate, a creative approach is necessary to spike the technologicallybased generation's attention. NBA 2K is a series of basketball video games that have been released annually since 1999. '2KTV" is a show within the NBA 2K video game. The show is split up into multiple episodes where an interviewee recounts a personal story, combined with historical context, to educate gamers on the importance of voting and why they should make a plan to take part in it. The series is produced in partnership with James' entertainment brand, SpringHill Company. In the first episode, Maria Taylor, ESPN Analyst and "More Than A Vote" member, shares her experiences with voter suppression. The second episode features Atlanta Hawks point guard Trae Young,

who is a "More Than A Vote" member.
"I'd just turned 18 during the last presidential election, and I didn't fully grasp how important it was to exercise my right to vote. This time, I understand what's at stake," Young said. Nike, has also become part of the movement. In a new branded PSA, the company encourages athletes and people from all across the country to "use their voice." Furthermore, James recently released a new animated short video starring Portland Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard. The video follows Lillard and uses him as an example for potential voters. The video highlights the importance of having a plan to vote either before or on November 3rd. Other features in the video include Maverick Carter, Stacey Abrams, Odell Beckham Jr., and Trae Young. In addition, James and his voting rights organization have increased voter turnout amongst NBA players dramatically. In the 2016 presidential election, only 22 percent of NBA players cast ballots, according to the players' union. However, voter turnout has risen to 85 percent among players for this upcoming election. 11 teams have 100 percent of their players registered.

Voter suppression continues to be a prevalent issue faced in society today; committed black athletes and artists have worked together with the hope to make a difference and evoke others to vote. Their efforts are ramping up now as the upcoming election edges closer. As Nov. 3 approaches, it is imperative to invigorate our society's involvement and to get as many voters involved as possible. This leadership and responsibility has been taken on by professional athletes such as those at "More Than A Vote" more than ever before.





LeBron James warming up in one of the many shirts approved by the NBA to promote political activism and involvement in the voting process.



A polling site created by "More Than A Vote" at State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the many stadiums that are being converted into polling locations.