



BIDEN'S HISTORIC VICTORY

Joe Biden elected 46th president of the United States

Kamala Harris makes history as America's first Black, South Asian and female vice president

Andrew Harnik | Associated Press

SYDNEY MCCALL
STAFF WRITER

After a four-day election process, Joseph R. Biden Jr. defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States. Biden's campaign was run as a "battle for the soul of the nation."

Biden won with 290 electoral college votes, surpassing the 270 needed to win the presidency. His victory was announced after winning Pennsylvania. The president-elect received a total of 75,678,364 votes, the most votes for any presidential candidate in history, according to the Associated Press.

Biden's triumph comes after one of the most tumultuous presidential elections in history. The president-elect routinely criticized the current administration's handling of COVID-19 and other key issues.

Black voters in urban cities helped deliver the election for Biden as about 87% of Black voters voted for the former vice president according to preliminary exit polling.

Black voters in urban cities like Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Detroit helped swing their respective states blue. These cities are around 39% Black, according to NBC news.

In his victory speech televised on CNBC, Biden acknowledged the importance that Black Americans had in his win.

"When this campaign was at its lowest, the African American community stood up again for me," Biden said. "They always have my back, and

I'll have yours."

With the election of Biden comes the new vice president-elect, Kamala Harris. Harris is the first female, first Black and first South Asian vice president.

Harris, the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, will be sworn in as the highest ranking woman in the country on January 20, 2021. Her victory makes her America's first Black, first South Asian, and first female vice president-elect. Harris' win comes at the end of the Trump era, largely affiliated with a rise in white supremacy, xenophobia and misogyny.

This is not the first time the California Senator has broken barriers. In 2016, she became the second African American woman and the first South Asian American to ever serve in the United States Senate. Her position as the future vice president comes as a triumph to many that were devastated in 2016 when Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump after being the first woman to ever win the presidential nomination of a major party.

Kamala Harris' win symbolizes a beacon of hope for women, people of color and HBCU students around the nation. Harris is a 1986 graduate of Howard University and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the oldest Black sorority in the country. Her victory gave her sorors and students at historically Black colleges a moment to shine while also

seeing a representation of themselves in a powerful place.

"I feel very empowered to know that a woman of color is going to be making some of the big decisions in this country," said Janiya Pearson, freshman class president at Hampton University. "Kamala has truly made history in this nation and seeing her lets me know that I can one day do the same."

In her first speech as vice president-elect, Harris wore all white, mirroring the uniform of the suffragettes, who 100 years ago advocated for women's right to vote in this country. She also recognized how historic the

"When this campaign was at its lowest, the African American community stood up again for me."

moment was and what it meant for women.

"While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," she said on CNBC. "Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not, simply because they've never seen it before. But know that we will applaud you every step of the way."

The vice president-elect also used her victory speech to recognize the importance of Black women in this

election, honoring them as the "backbone of our democracy."

Harris and Biden have stressed the importance of compassion and unity in the country and plan to use their time in office to do so.

"We did it. We did it, Joe. You're going to be the next President of the United States," Harris said on a phone call with Biden that she shared on Instagram.

Biden-Harris supporters gathered after the news of his win. Thousands of supporters spilled into the streets of Washington, D.C. and other major U.S. cities singing and cheering. "The Star Spangled Banner" played through Capitol Hill as thousands screamed "It's over."

While Biden and Harris will not be officially sworn in until January 20, 2021, the two have already shared their plans for their transition into the White House. On Nov. 9, Biden named a COVID-19 transition advisory board made up of distinguished public health experts. The president-elect also held a COVID-19 briefing, laying out his plans as the nation moves forward in the pandemic.

President Trump has shown no intentions to concede. He claims that there was widespread voter fraud that cost him the election and his legal team has filed multiple lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, battleground states that he narrowly lost. There is currently no proof of any widespread voter fraud, according to the Associated Press.

Trump is the first sitting president to not be re-elected since 1992.

CAMPUS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

You voted, now what? HBCUs band together to discuss post-election activism

NOA CADET
STAFF WRITER

The 2020 presidential election season has sparked a fire within America like no other. Motivated by a need to be represented in the political arena, millions of Americans rallied to place their votes for the next president of the United States. However, does a push for change in this country end with who becomes the president? Not according to Hampton University's Political Science Club.

Hampton University, joined by several other HBCUs including Texas Southern, Dillard, Jackson State, Norfolk State and more, held a joint event entitled, "You Voted! NowWhat?" on Nov. 7. That evening, the universities discussed what to do to ensure change post-election.

The event hit the ground running with an impactful message from a special guest, U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson of Mississippi's 2nd congressional district. He advised students to remain involved past the election date and to continue to stay active in their community because local politics directly influence the area in which they live.

"You don't disengage, you stay engaged," Thompson said. "In a democracy, you stay involved."

From there, the conversation turned to the matter of political efficacy, which is the measure of citizens' trust in their influence upon politics and policy. Students from various HBCUs agreed that the best move to make after

the election is to remain involved, be aware of their local representatives and ultimately assimilate yourself within the community. By becoming involved in their local community, students can keep abreast of changes to policy and have a better understanding of how potential bills can impact the area in which they live.

The consensus among Hampton students, as well as other HBCU students attending, was that while voting is a very important part of maintaining their voice, it is just as important to make sure their elected officials are aware that they have a responsibility to the people first.

The second topic of the night was that of voter registration and, more specifically, voter suppression. A recurring problem regarding election seasons on their own, voter suppression has become even more important to talk about this election because of its popularity and how stressed voting has become. Event attendees were challenged to name possible sources of voter suppression, and they noted issues such as broken poll machinery, Exact Match laws and lack of accessible voting stations.

To solve these problems, HBCU representatives suggested volunteering at voting stations so that there were more personnel for more voting areas to open up, thus increasing accessibility. Also, lobbying against Exact Match laws was suggested, as exact signature match laws can easily result in an invalid vote if your signature has changed from the one listed on your registration.



Unsplash User Katie Rodriguez

Overall, perhaps the most important discussion of the night was when the conversation switched to institutional racism. Specifically, they considered how best to protect themselves in a country that wasn't originally meant to protect Black citizens and how to make their voice heard when elected officials fail to represent them.

In a time in which racial tensions are high, and acts of violence against Black people and minorities are becoming more common, the HBCU representatives present at the event stressed that unity among Black people is key. Now more than ever, it is imperative to band together and ensure that every-

one is made aware of the Black voice. Whether it be police brutality against a Black man or woman or a case of social injustice, the Black community should band together to support change on all fronts.

As the event closed, the HBCU attendees advised each other to make sure that they were aware of their representatives through apps like Causes, which lets you know who their representatives are and how to contact them. They made it clear that while voting is a wonderful first step, it is not the only step. Individuals must continue the fight for the change that we want. They fight today so that tomorrow is easier.

Tackling today's issues: "We Talk About It" talks politics with Virginia's elected officials

RAVEN HARPER
CAMPUS EDITOR

When it came to this year's presidential election, everything was on the ballot. Health care, the criminal justice system, the economy, education and COVID-19, to name a few. In the hopes of discovering how elected officials are tackling these issues, the "We Talk About It" show's Yordanos Belayneh and Bailey Smith hosted "Let's Talk Politics," an open and informative conversation with elected officials Congresswoman Elaine Luria and Congressman Bobby Scott in late October.

Sparked from a heated debate in Hampton's cafeteria one day, third-year students and friends, Mason Cardwell, Yordanos Belayneh, Bailey Smith, Cole Pryor, Darius Henderson, Amber Harvey, Terrell Arlington and Jenai LaGarde created We Talk About It. Built to engender stimulating and open conversations about a wide array of topics, the talk show prides itself on the diversity among its hosts as well as the different opinions that come with them. Just recently, their talk show made it to

iHeartRadio.

In a new segment entitled "Let's Talk Activism," Belayneh and Smith invited Luria, and Scott to their event.

Held via Zoom on Oct. 16, the show's purpose was to hear from two elected officials that represent Hampton students in Virginia on what they are currently doing from an insider's perspective to solve myriad political, social and economic issues.

Being in a state filled with various colleges and universities, the event kicked off with a discussion about the pandemic's effect on college campuses and what it is going to take to effectively and safely reopen.

Congresswoman Luria mentioned how funding is the major thing that is going to help with colleges reopening safely.

"We recognize that for colleges and universities to adapt during the time of COVID, that had a huge price tag to it," Luria said. "We want to make sure through legislation like the CARES Act, and if we can come to another COVID relief package, that it continues to include money and funds for higher education to do testing, etc."

The conversation continued, touching on the current initiatives and legislation on which both Representatives Luria and Scott are currently working, such as the George Floyd Policing Act, the College Affordability Act and the PROAct. These various laws were drafted to address community policing, the growing wealth gap and student loans.

Focusing on the largest issues affecting the people they have been chosen to represent, Luria and Scott both agreed that their hopes for the next administration are that their work can continue.

"Working with an administration who will be working with us, not against us on all of these [initiatives], will certainly be a delight," Scott said.

Toward the end of the event, hosts Belayneh and Smith opened the floor up for questions from the live audience in attendance. In response to a student sharing their discouragement to vote after watching the recent presidential debates, Congressman Scott shared how that should be the exact thing that inspires them to vote.

"I don't know why anybody would

be discouraged," Scott stated. "You ought to be activated to vote."

As the event came to a close, people in attendance were left with greater insight on what their elected officials are currently working on to fight for citizens like themselves. Host Yordanos Belayneh also left attendees with an encouraging message, urging them to go out in vote on November 3.

"To the young adults, as the future of tomorrow, it is our duty to stand up for change. The revolution starts with us. So why not act now?" Belayneh said.

To hear more discussions like this, find We Talk About It on Instagram @we.talkaboutit. Their podcasts are available on Spotify, WeHeartItRadio and YouTube.

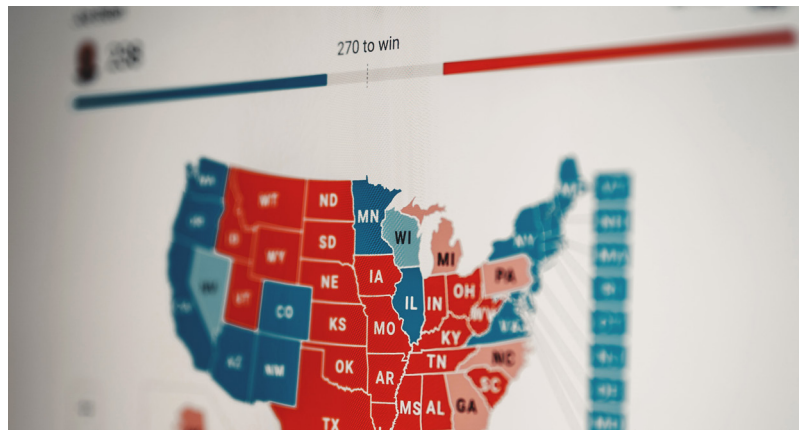
The votes are in: Hampton students react to the 2020 presidential election results

VASHTI DORMAN
STAFF WRITER

The election results are in, and former Vice President Joe Biden has been elected to serve as the 46th president of the United States. The news came early Saturday and with advances in technology and social media, the news of his victory quickly spread throughout the Hampton University community.

Since Hampton University is currently remote for the 2020-2021 academic school year due to COVID-19, for those Biden supporters, celebrating on social media was the closest thing to celebrating on campus. Even though students felt an obvious disappointment from not being able to share this moment in person with their fellow peers and classmates, Hampton students didn't allow distance to stop them from enjoying this monumental moment in history for their community.

"I found out through Twitter when one of my friends tweeted 'Biden Won,'" said Briana Previlon, a third-year political science major from Boston, Massachusetts. "I'm kind of



Unsplash User Clay Banks

sad we aren't on campus to celebrate together, but we celebrated together online in a way."

On every social media platform, Hampton students were celebrating by posting comical videos, sharing posts and tweeting to show their excitement for Biden. Also, many first-time voters displayed excitement for casting their first ballot for the first African American and female vice president.

"This is my first time voting, and it just so happens that I was allowed the pleasure of voting for a Black wom-

an," said Cheri Manning, a third-year psychology major from Rochester, New York. "I cried when I found out Joe and Kamala [Harris] won. I never thought it would be possible in this America."

Many Hampton students felt the same way, tweeting about their excitement and joy for being able to see the first woman of color elected as the next vice president of America.

After months of struggling to adapt to online learning, receiving what seems like an endless load of bad news, and surviving the unparalleled year

of 2020 overall, students showed that they needed something to celebrate. The news served as a mental break for many, allowing them to set aside whatever stresses they were facing at the moment and fully embrace the presidential election results.

Later that day, the Hampton community shared a historic moment watching Harris give a speech on national television as the first woman-of-color vice president of the United States. Many students shed tears of joy.

"When I saw Kamala give her speech, I cried," said Daelin Brown, a third-year journalism major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "She even shouted out Black women. We never get the applause that we deserve, so I love her for that."

A lot of students were nervous throughout the week after Election Day due to the electoral votes fluctuating so much and the counts moving slowly. After the news spread about Biden and Harris surpassing the 270 electoral college vote threshold, they felt a sense of relief knowing they wouldn't have four more years of President Donald Trump.

OPINION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

What Biden's win means for Black Americans

MILES RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

So, after months of anxiety and social unrest centered around this election, we finally have a result.

Joe Biden ran his campaign by convincing the public that Donald Trump is the boogeyman for Black people. While being interviewed by “Breakfast Club” co-host Charlamagne tha God, Biden said, “If you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t Black.” Biden, along with many other political leftists, spent plenty of time, money and energy making sure we knew how important it was for us to vote Trump out of office. He blamed Trump for the COVID-19 deaths. During the first presidential debate, Biden critiqued Trump’s response to the COVID-19 death toll.

“It is what it is because you are who you are.”

He blamed him for the destruction caused by social justice riots and protests. At a campaign appearance in Delaware, Biden criticized Trump, “He’s stoking violence in our cities,” and went as far as blaming Trump for the deaths of Black citizens by the hands of police officers. At the same appearance in Delaware, Biden said about Trump, “This is the fact about how he is dealing with this perilous hour in our nation. And now, we have to stand against violence in every form



Atlanta Journal Constitution | Associated Press

it takes, violence we’ve seen again and again and again of unwarranted police shooting, excessive force, seven bullets in the back of Jacob Blake, knee on the neck of George Floyd, killing of Breonna Taylor in her own apartment.” Biden thought the quickest way for him to be elected was to be the boy who cried wolf. And it worked. So, what does all this mean for Black people? Absolutely nothing.

We voted for Biden and Kamala Harris because they told us everything we wanted to hear, and that’s OK. After all, the point of a democracy is to vote for the person who will best represent your interests. However, I would like to pose a question to all the Black voters out there: When was the

last time the condition of Black people in America drastically improved under any president? I’ve only been alive 20 years, but I don’t ever remember a time when Black people were saying, “Yes! So and so just got elected. We’re OK now.” The reason for this is because a politician’s primary job is not to serve the people but to say and do whatever is necessary for them to obtain a political position. So, if you thought Biden was going to somehow eradicate systemic racism, you’ve been misled.

Ever since I was a boy, my parents and grandparents have always preached to me about the importance of voting. It was not until now that I understood why an election year meant so much to them. People get excited about

elections because it gives them the opportunity to excuse themselves of all responsibility and allows them to hold someone else accountable for the state of their lives. I’ve witnessed this mentality take root in my community now more than ever.

For proof of this, just look to the protests held by angry citizens and the recent activities of the NBA. In order to push for change, LeBron James spearheaded a campaign to encourage people to vote as if we are so powerless that the only thing we can do to improve our livelihoods is pick the right white man and hope he comes through for us.

The recent protests seem to confirm this statement. Out of all of the protest footage I’ve seen over the last few months, I never saw one list of demands produced nor any sort of plan put together by Black people. Instead, these social justice protests were all about raising awareness, which is a nice way to say begging white people to solve our problems for us. The status of Black Americans will change when we get strategic about the improvement of our communities through actual work and planning.

Despite popular opinion, voting is not the most important thing you can do as an African American. What really matters is what you do when there’s no politician to beg or to blame.

The conflation of politics and moral values

RYLAND STAPLES
STAFF WRITER

People usually don’t like to talk about politics. Either it will lead to talking about something unpleasant or just make people angry. However, over the past four years, politics have become a larger part of our daily lives. Since the election of President Trump in 2016, people have been drawing metaphorical lines in the sand when it comes to how people feel about certain political figures.

Before the election of Trump, I feel like people knowingly stayed out of politics because it was either too confusing or they just weren’t interested in it. Even with something as simple as voting, there are lots of people out there who have never even considered voting in elections until now. A good example of this is Kanye West, who notably ran as a write-in candidate during the 2020 election. On election day, he posted a video of himself submitting his ballot, with the caption saying that this was his first time voting in his 43 years of life, a reality more common than people think.

Even during the 2016 election, when the call for mass voting first really got underway, there were still lots of people who either chose to sit out or just write-in some nonsense candidate like Harambe. People didn’t take Trump’s candidacy seriously and just assumed he would lose, which was wrong, and the country as a whole had to spend the last four years dealing with

the repercussions.

One reason why people may try to avoid politics is because it just stresses them out. Which is understandable, especially during an election year where candidates are trying to sway voters in every possible way. According to the Pew Research Center, 53% of Americans say that talking about politics with someone who they disagree with is stressful to them. However, due to the things that President Trump has done while in office, it’s become apparent that the people who are to blame are the people who put him in the position in the first place.

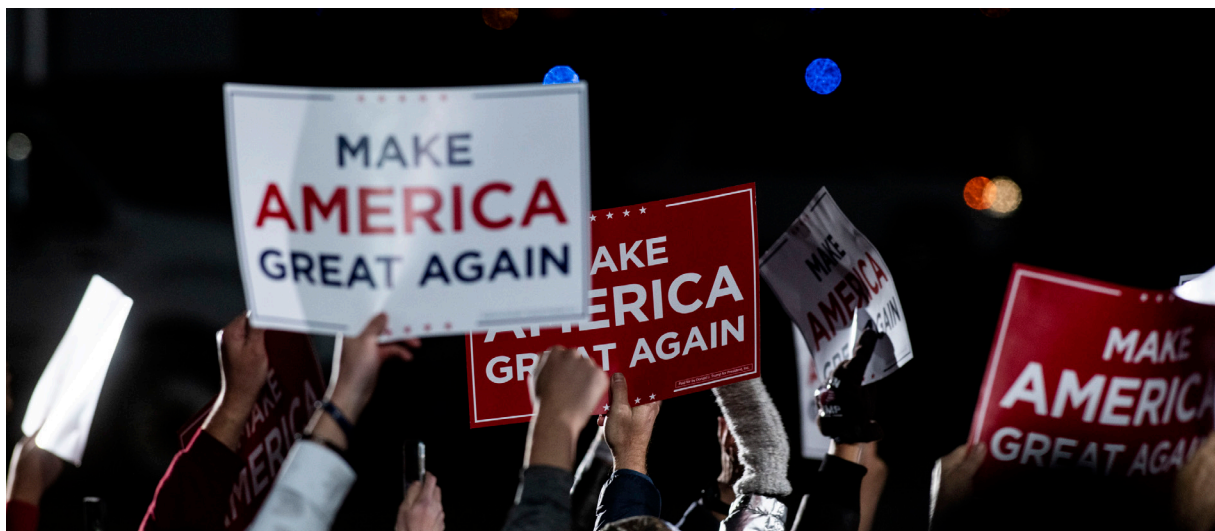
Over the past four years, people around the country have come to the realization that politics affects a large

facet of our lives. Which is why it has become so frowned upon when people say that they support President Trump. In a way, they are the people who are responsible for the terrible things that have been going on over the past four years. With the presidential election over and the victor decided, President Trump is doing everything in his power to delegitimize the results of the election.

I understand the idea of being together and forgiving one another for mistakes that are in the past, but one of the first things President Trump said on his campaign trail back in 2015 was calling all Mexican immigrants rapists and criminals. Voting for a person who openly questions the legitimacy of a

global pandemic, as well as calling his political opponents names like a child, just doesn’t sit right with me.

That may seem harsh, but politics has become more than just something that you keep to yourself. I feel like with this new generation of voters, politics have become more of a lifestyle choice for people, shaping the way they live and the way they go through life itself.



Nicole Hester | Associated Press

Divided in sanctity

KAILAH LEE
STAFF WRITER

Home. A concept of living that has a face of togetherness, warmth and security. It is a place to confide in family and rest one’s weary head. The feeling of family is truly what makes a home, but as family exists, so do individuals with layers and differing opinions within the home.

It is healthy to disagree, but to what degree does a disagreement become a problem? I can delve into debatable topics all day, but the issue of politics seems to be taking the wheel.

The choice a person makes between left or right might often determine their social status. People have lost friends, followers and even jobs just based on their views. But what about the family? Sure, you could distance yourself from a family member, but what if you live with someone whose different views present themselves as problematic?

“I mean, if I was living in the same household as an avid Trump supporter, I’m not sure how good our relationship

would be. Like you seriously have to have some missing screws to side with him,” said Dana Williams, a nurse in Henrico, Virginia.

So the next question comes down to if you could separate a person’s political views from their moral compass.

“If you elect an individual who believes in racism, misogyny and other -isms, to say the least, then you believe in those same things,” said Alana Stokes, a student at Randolph Macon University.

The argument is usually that they select someone who aligns with their conservative or liberal values; because voting is a duty, they must pick.

Which in reality is fair, but this political environment is not so black and white. When you select a candidate, you are not only voting with that party, but you’re also voting for a person with their own character and personality flaws.

“I thoroughly believe that a person’s character influences their decisions. What do we do the instant a president decides that he hates a race of people and gathers a group of minions to push his agenda for whatever? Like,

how could you side with someone like that?” said Savanna Ross, a Virginia resident.

As you grow older, you start seeing family members like people. As a result, home can quickly turn into a house—or merely a shell with bodies that do not interact. In fact, the home could equally be a nightmare as it is a dream.

The world already puts so much on you, and one’s humble abode should be a sanctuary. Many people deal with situations that negate this—home could equally be a place of great stress.

In hindsight, politics have been another reason to divide people, and it’s actually quite sad how politics have divided families.

“Politics is always the elephant in the room. One moment you’re making a joke and somebody gets mad. Now y’all are having a debate that was completely pointless,” said Andrew Williams, a Henrico, Virginia, resident.

How is it possible to live with people whose morals and views are counter to yours?

Believe me when I say it’s possible. It may feel like a never-ending

river of nagging and uncomfortable dynamics. Still, it is more than likely a temporary situation.

As much as you might want to talk about issues you are passionate about, it might be best to just suppress them in the name of parental control. You could leave, but if that is not a choice, try changing the topic.

If they initiate the conversation, think of a diversion to de-escalate the situation. Or just calmly agree to disagree.

By no means should you change who you are, but just think of the greater good. Suppose the topic of politics tends to make for a problematic atmosphere. In that case, it is probably best that you keep your different opinions to yourself.

Disagreements are perfectly healthy; it just comes down to the arguers. Now, are both parties willing to accept their differences and live harmoniously as possible? That’s a whole different story.

OPINION/LOCAL & WORLD

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Have rappers become the voice of the Black community?

JAMAIJA RHODES
STAFF WRITER

During the past two presidential elections, the world has seen politicians implement several tactics to increase their support from Black voters. One of the major strategies presidential candidates have utilized has been reaching out to Black celebrities, specifically rappers, to speak about the issues that the Black community is facing.

While I am all for Black celebrities using their platforms to uplift the community, there is something about rappers being the individuals who speak for me that just does not sit right with me.

First and foremost, rappers do not live the same lives as the average Black person in America. Yes, of course they are Black, and status does not hide or dismiss one’s Blackness, but they are not facing the same issues as the rest of us Black folk. Hence, the fact that many of these rappers are more concerned with paying high taxes, while the rest of us are concerned about the quality of the communities we live in and ending the continued violence we endure at the hands of police officers.

Secondly, why are political candidates reaching out to rappers when there are Black people who are in politics. Stacey Abrams, Levar Stoney and Keisha Lance Bottoms are all Black politicians who are more equipped to speak on what goes on in our communities and what problems we are facing.

While Ice Cube and Lil Wayne may have some understanding of how politics work, I would much rather an individual who has experience with politics and who the Black community can actually hold accountable for their actions speak about our issues. I cannot personally contact or reach out to Ice Cube if I disagree with his contract for the Black community, but I can express



Unsplash User Vidarnm

my grievances with a mayor or a member of city council.

With the abundance of politicians reaching out to rappers, I also cannot help but be reminded of the fact that white Americans have had a history of seeing individuals of African descent as entertainers and entertainers only. For centuries, they have viewed us as people who create the cool dances and groovy songs, but we are much more than that.

This also speaks to how out of touch some politicians are with the Black community. I love College Dropout and The Predator as much as the next person, but most of us are not looking to Kanye West or Ice Cube for political advice. We are researching these political candidates and their policies just like everyone else. These individuals seeking to hold a political office are going to have to do a lot more than

snap a picture with Lil Wayne in order to acquire the support of the Black community.

Many Black Americans think there are better and more useful ways rappers can use their platform to uplift the community.

“I would prefer to see rappers use their platform to promote substance in their music and ways in which we as a community could push past years of oppression grounded in rap music. Like, why does filth get recognition?” said Kailah Lee, an HU journalism major from Richmond.

Promoting positivity within their music, giving back to their communities and encouraging their fans to vote and take action are all things that rappers could do that would be more beneficial for the Black community.

There is not a single Black person who is able to speak for and voice all of

the concerns of Black people, therefore it should be a collective voice. More specifically, a combination of experts within politics and individuals who have been directly affected by the decisions made by politicians.

Mississippi votes “Yes” to adopt new state flag

WILLIAM PAUL ELLIS
STAFF WRITER

In addition to voting for the next president of the United States and for the legalization of medical marijuana, Mississippi voters were tasked with a referendum that would address the state’s legacy and national perception.

Ballot measure 3, which asked voters if the state legislature should vote to adopt a new flag, passed with 71.4 percent of voters choosing yes, according to NBC.

In 2001, Mississippi voters voted overwhelmingly to keep the state flag; and in 2015, state legislators unsuccessfully proposed a bill that would take state funding away from schools that refused to fly the state flag with the confederate emblem.

The current state flag was adopted in 1894, and as of 2020, is the only state flag that still had the confederate emblem.

While many felt that the flag continued to highlight the state’s role in the country’s history of slavery and segregation, others argued that it prevented the state from growing relationships with outside economic influences. For example, in June, the NCAA announced that no championship game



Rogelio V. Solis | Associated Press

would be played in Mississippi until the state flag was changed.

The Mississippi legislature took the first steps in replacing the flag by passing House Bill 1796, which called for artists to submit proposals for a new flag and the retirement of the current flag.

A task force established by the bill sorted through more than 3,000 flag submissions, before eventually settling

on the new “In God We Trust” magnolia flag.

The flag features a large magnolia, the state flower, in the center of a deep blue background. The magnolia is surrounded by 20 white flowers, which represents Mississippi being the 20th state. A single gold star symbolizes the tribes of indigindous people native to Mississippi.

State representative Jeramey An-

derson praised the bipartisan effort by his fellow legislators in a statement to CNN.

"This was a bold, bipartisan step that shows the world Mississippi is finally ready to step out from under the cloud of slavery and Jim Crow. But it isn't the final step," Anderson said. "Mississippi and the United States remain plagued by systemic racism that keeps people of color from being truly free and equal."

This measure of progress is an example of the changing culture of the South, as changes are being made that were unthinkable less than two decades ago.

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