

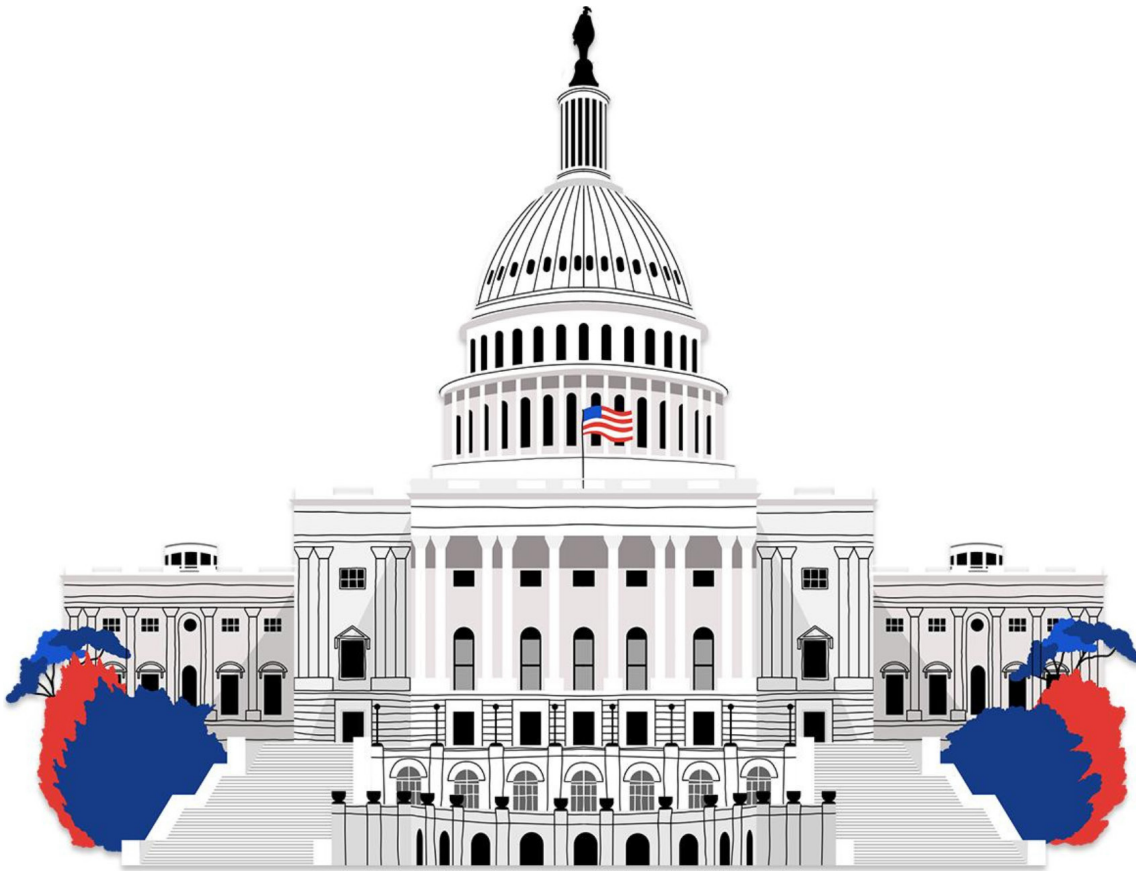
THE HARBINGER'S Newsletter

Empowering young minds through information

Miami Lakes Educational Center

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Possibilities of a Senate Flip

By Carlineissa Jean Francois
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Midterm elections are held every two years and determine who has the majority in Congress. The election is focused on the House of Representatives and the Senate, the two houses of Congress.

Members of the House of Representatives are elected after a two-year term has been served. Senate members serve a longer term that lasts for six years. In the November midterms, there is a possibility that the Senate might flip.

The last flip happened when Vice President Kamala Harris entered office in January 2021. Vice President Harris swore in three new democratic senators to fill in vacancies in the House. A tied vote gave Democrats the majority in both the House and Senate.

Currently, ten seats could flip the Senate and give the Republicans a majority. Senate flips happen very often and are typically based on the nation's state.

Mr. Moffi, the Social Studies department chair, has been teaching history for over ten years and explains that a change in the Senate will most likely not

have much of an effect on anything since the flip has happened before.

"We're voters it is important that we know about it. It is important because it is the will of the people, they get to choose. Historically you always have a switch at the midyear. It is probably as contentious now as it was during Truman's first term when he was going into the cold war"

"It switches it switches, its switches. If they get a Republican Senate in the House... think back to the radical republicans and what they did to Andrew Johnson so we're going to have to see. There is still a country to run." Mr. Moffi, Social Studies Chair at MLEC.

According to the U.S. Embassy, whichever party has the majority leads Congressional hearings. The president's ability to pass bills or new policies is also dependent on the leading party. With Democrats having majority, Biden has been able to push for more partisan bills such as reversing policies passed under Donald Trump.

The change could have an effect on future legislation that President Biden wants to pass. An example of this would be any legislation relating to abortion and gun violence. According to NBC News, Biden is willing to

fast-track an abortion rights bill if Democrats regain majority.

Senator Mitch McConnell believes that there is a 50-50 possibility for a flip and the results could be incredibly close when addressing the Chamber of Commerce in Georgetown, Kentucky.

"Flipping the Senate, What are the chances? It's a 50-50 proposition...I think the outcome is likely to be very, very close, either way," he told CBS News. "If the House and Senate flip, I think the president will be moderate. He won't have any choice,"

McConnell believes that Biden will now be forced to disregard his party affiliations and ideology. He will have no choice but to make sure his views align with both parties in order for legislation to pass.

Steve Shepard, an executive election writer at Politico, calls control for the senate a coin flip. The states that could influence the flip include Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire.

The midterms will decide what party holds the future of Congress. The results could also have an effect on the Supreme Court since the senate votes on new justices.

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NEWS

Governor Race In Texas

By Bryan Pinero @brypinero

With midterm elections coming up this November in the U.S., voters across the country have the opportunity to vote in multiple electoral races that not only affect the future of their state but also the country as a whole. One significant race takes place in Texas, where Greg Abbott and Beto O'Rourke are campaigning for governor. Since the role of governor is the highest position in a state government, this race brings Texas voters the opportunity to vote for the candidate who represents their cause and allow them to lead the state towards the future they want for Texas. Abbott is representing the Republican Party while O'Rourke is representing the Democratic Party. Both of these individuals have experience

working in government as Abbott has been the Governor of Texas since 2015 and O'Rourke was a U.S. Representative for Texas from 2013-2019. Abbott's campaign revolves around securing the border between the U.S. and Mexico by implementing more troops at the border and having more arrests, securing communities by funding law enforcement, and ensuring the future for Texas taxpayers, parents, and seniors through bills such as the Parental Bill of Rights. This bill allows Texan parents to have a significant role in making decisions concerning their children's education. "No other governor has done more to secure our border than Greg Abbott," said Brandon Judd, President of National Border Patrol Council. O'Rourke's campaign focuses on how he will serve in Texans' best favor by focusing on what he believes is



The race for Governor of Texas is very close, and according to experts voter turnout will be the deciding factor.

necessary for the state, such as creating jobs instead of focusing on "extremist policies." "Those in positions of public trust have stopped listening to, serving and paying attention to, and trusting the people of Texas," he said. "And so, they're not focused on the things that we really want them to do, like making sure that we have a functioning electricity grid..." Currently, the battle between the candidates is a close one, as according to a poll from Emerson College, Abbott is in the lead of the race with 52% of the early votes going to him while 42% going to O'Rourke. However, according to Pew Research Center, 39% of adults in Texas are Republi-

Georgia's Place on the Midterm Elections

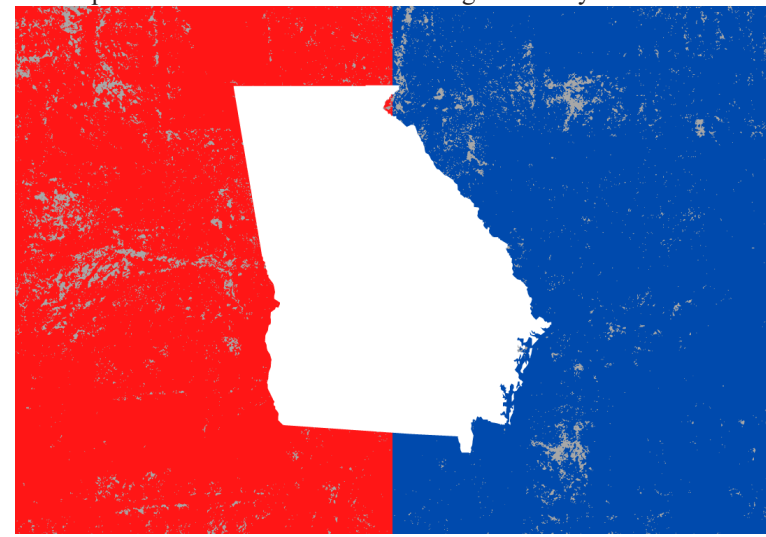
By Elizabeth Gonzalez @elizgonzalez_

Midterm elections are held for the two sections of Congress—the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives represents a portion of the state they're representing while the elected Senate will represent the whole state. Both the House and Senate are controlled by the Democrats. Georgia was a red state for years until the election of President Joe Biden, a Democrat, making Georgia a mix of red and blue. When a state is red and blue, also known as a purple state or swing state, elections can go either way. With a growing population and different political views, a flip can be predicted. Georgia has a growth rate of 0.95% a year, with around 100,000 people a year. Many locations in Georgia, especially the suburbs, have

been seeing a rise in potential Democratic voters. Current Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock is running for re-election against Republican Herschel Walker, a former football star, and Chase Oliver, a libertarian. Recently, polls suggest that the race will be tight, possibly resulting in a runoff, which would occur if none of the candidates secure over 50% of votes on November 8. If Warnock is to lose the vote, Democrats would have to flip another Republican seat to maintain the control of the Senate. If Republicans take control of the House and Democrats keep power in the Senate, Congress would be split and possible examinations may open up. House Republicans have expressed wanting to disband the January 6th committee, which is in charge of the investigation of the capital attack that took place in 2020. If Republicans have con-

trol of both the House and Senate, they could block Biden's agenda and potentially push for a national abortion ban. If both sections of Congress are controlled by Democrats, it could result in them attempting to pass federal laws in favor of liberal ideologies, such as same-sex marriage. Georgia is one of the fastest-growing state communities in the nation, and their community's diversity has grown alongside it. "Our community is more diverse and open-minded," Nikki Samet, an independent who moved to Georgia in the last decade, said to NPR News. Recent polls have shown that the candidate matters more than their party in Georgia. For this upcoming midterm election, many are hesitant to vote Walker for Senate after many allegations were revealed about him and a former relationship. Being a candidate for the Republican party, the alle-

gations against Walker revealing that he supported his ex-girlfriend receiving an abortion, do not support Republican ideologies. This hesitation to support him after his past actions having conflicted with Republican ideals will affect what way Georgia turns along with minority populations growing. With minority populations spreading around the state, it's expected for blue areas to expand as well. Votes from those living in suburban areas play vital roles since they are able to change the direction of a vote. With early voting just starting, Georgia has already exceeded the number of early voters in 2018 with over 133,000 in-person voters. The extensive views on politics lend themselves to an unknown prediction on whether Georgia will stay blue or turn red.



How Can MLEC Get Involved in the Midterm Elections

By Sofia Palomino @Sofia_p4

A student's role in elections is just as important as the rest of the voters. Although some students do not have the power to vote, they can still participate in the election process in several ways. The upcoming election has a large part of government positions that are being voted upon, including all the seats in the House of Representatives, some of the seats in the Senate, and some of the states will elect governors. These elections come with a vast amount of information that can be overwhelming for students and first time voters. Students can start by gaining more knowledge on the issues going on in the country and the ones that are on the local ballot. They should also research and investigate the

candidates, the issues they address, and their plan of action. One way that students can get informed is by looking into webinars. These online events provide detailed insight on current issues and statistics regarding the candidates. Recently, the Council on Foreign Relations made a webinar for the upcoming elections that was recorded and released on their website. The speaker of the Academic Webinar: U.S. Midterms and Beyond was Christopher M. Tuttle, the Senior Fellow and Director of Renewing America Initiative, Council on Foreign Relations. The webinar touched upon the nine prominent issues that are going on in the U.S. and expanded on their implications for the future: democracy and governance, education, energy and climate, the future of work, immigration, infrastructure, social justice and equity, and trade

and finance. Students can benefit from webinars like these that present both sides of the opposing parties, since it serves as a learning tool for the elections and it gives students more of an understanding of the election processes. Even though students are not able to vote until they turn 18, there are other ways that can participate in the elections. In the state of Florida, teenagers can pre-register to vote at 16 and practice voting. MLEC hosted their own voter registration drive where most of the history teachers encouraged students to register to vote and consider the election process. Miami Dade County even linked the voter registration site on the student portal to make it easier for students to participate in the election process. "Teenagers who are interested in participating in the act of voting can use a

child ballot, it is not going to be counted [but] you can go through the act just to be able to see what it feels like," said Etta Akoni, a staff attorney at the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. "It's still a good opportunity because you can then go with a family member who might not go vote and it could be your way of encouraging someone to go vote," continued Akoni. Students can learn a lot from going through the motions of voting and they will know what to expect when it comes time for them to vote. Voting is important and students can work on promoting the upcoming elections through social media. There are several platforms like podcasts and social media that reach large audiences and students can use this to their advantage by spreading awareness about the elections.

Students can learn from the real world and participate in the election process through internships. Alicia Lobaina, a junior in Global Studies, worked on an internship over the summer that promoted the election of state primaries back in August. She was able to use social media as a tool to encourage people to vote. "I received a lot of likes on my Instagram stories and the second reel I created got around 100 views. I also remember my first TikTok for the internship getting around 500 views which was crazy to me," said Lobaina. Students can easily go on their own social media and inform those around them about the elections and pressing issues. The upcoming midterm election is a great opportunity for students to get involved in their communities and contribute to the election process.

NEWS

What's on the Local Ballot

By Anthony Vidal, Pedro Tablada, Andres Palacios @AnthonyVidalR @PedroTablada5

November 8 is election day, meaning this is the last day for people in Florida to vote in the 2022 midterm elections. These votes will decide Florida's representatives in Congress, the state's leadership positions, municipal positions, and ballot measures. The people running for a seat in the Senate this year are Republican Marco Rubio, Democrat Val Demings, Libertarian Dennis Misigoy, Independent Steven B. Grant, and Independent Tuan Nguyen. The top candidates are Rubio and Demings. One of the most supported candidates is incumbent Marco Rubio and expectations for his re-election are high given that he has been one of Florida's senators since 2011. Marco Rubio's platform supports actions to vet refugees and lower corporate tax by 25%. His platform also stands firmly against limits and restrictions on the second amendment. Rubio has publicly changed his opinion on gun control many times. After the Parkland shooting, he announced that he would support background checks and age restrictions. However, on October 18 in the senate

debate, Rubio stated that legislation towards gun control "doesn't work" and would not have prevented the shooting. "The fundamental issue is, why are these kids, why are these people, why are these people, going out there and massacring these people? Because a lot of people own AR-15s and they don't kill anyone," Rubio said in a debate against Val Demings on Tuesday, October 18. "People who are families of victims of gun violence just heard that and they're asking themselves, 'What in the hell did he just say?'" responded Demings. The right to abortion was also a matter of discourse during the debate. Marco Rubio opposes abortion under any and all circumstances. Meanwhile, Val Demings is pro-abortion. Amongst other things, Demings' platform is in support of gun control, mostly trying to get weapons like assault rifles off the streets. In addition, she is active in the fight against climate change and is in favor of increas-

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT MAGISTRADO DEL TRIBUNAL SUPREMO JIJ KOU SIPREM Shall Justice Charles T. Canady of the Supreme Court be retained in office? ¿Deberá retenerse en su cargo al Magistrado Charles T. Canady del Tribunal Supremo? Eske Jij Charles T. Canady Kou Siprem lan dwe rete an fonksyon? Yes/SI/WI 60 No/No/Non 61 Shall Justice John D. Couriel of the Supreme Court be retained in office? ¿Deberá retenerse en su cargo al Magistrado John D. Couriel del Tribunal Supremo? Eske Jij John D. Couriel Kou Siprem lan dwe rete an fonksyon?

UNITED STATES SENATOR SENADOR DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS SENATÉ ETAZINI (Vote for 1) (Vote por 1) (Vote pou 1) Marco Rubio REP 10 Val Demings DEM 11 Dennis Misigoy LPF 12 Steven B. Grant NPA 13 Tuan TQ Nguyen NPA 14 Write-in Agregado por escrito Ekri alamen

Florida Senator Candidates

Florida Supreme Court Judge Candidates

Redistricting At the conclusion of the 2020 U.S. Census, the Florida Legislature and Miami-Dade County's local governments completed a process called "redistricting." This is the redrawing of district lines to adjust for growth rates. As such, your representative(s), district number(s), or polling place may have changed. The Miami-Dade Elections Department's role in this process is to ensure voters are placed in their proper districts for voting purposes and notify voters of any changes. Please refer to Redraw the voting boundaries



Incumbent Ron DeSantis and Charlie Crist join for their first debate at Sunrise Theater in Fort Pierce.

Florida's Governor Race Breakdown

By Sophia Garcia @s_sophia

Florida's governor elections will take place on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The results of these elections will determine the next governor of Florida, and these results are critical for the United States' political future. Ron DeSantis has taken office as Florida's governor since 2019. Under his leadership, controversial bills such as the "Don't Say Gay Bill" have passed, causing uproar within the queer community. His stance on gun control has younger audiences to be more hesitant of him, and as more of them come of age to vote, at-

tention has been brought to DeSantis' Democratic candidate. Charlie Crist, Democratic candidate in the gubernatorial election, is a past governor of Florida, having taken office from 2007 to 2011. His past experience, as well as his clear opposition to DeSantis, has made him popular amongst the crowd of those who oppose DeSantis' methods. Crist's stance on issues such as reproductive health and housing are stark compared to DeSantis' campaign, as he takes an almost strict Democratic approach, where DeSantis does the same with a Republican standpoint. Florida is notorious for being a swing state during presidential elections, meaning both political parties have a similar

amount of supporters within the state. According to Florida's Department of State, in 2022, over 36% of Floridians are registered as Republican and 34% are registered as Democratic. These percentages show a trending decline within Florida's Democratic support and a growing crowd of independent or non-affiliated voters, as well as the growing Floridian support in the Republican party. South Florida's demographic, however, has stayed largely Democratic or fairly liberal, standing in contrast to the central and northern parts of the state. Though Crist is popular amongst a younger, more liberal voting crowd, DeSantis has much influence over a large

percentage of Floridians. DeSantis has appealed to Florida's Republican crowd with promises to "protect the integrity of elections," "fight special interests," and "make sure Florida remains the freest state in the nation," as detailed on his website. These promises have made DeSantis a probable contender in the presidential elections of 2024. According to the Financial Times, Ron DeSantis has raised over \$218 million in his reelection campaign, more than 12 times more than his candidate, and enough to fund a presidential campaign. As the current governor has dodged questions about the possibility of his likelihood in running in 2024, it is un-

clear if he will truly run in the upcoming elections, but DeSantis' supporters, and many of Donald Trump's, have an eye out for what is to come. According to a poll by FiveThirtyEight, as of October 17, DeSantis is on top with a 50.1% lead of projected votes. While these polls are especially helpful in projecting the outcome of the election, it is only a projection of the probable results and often changes as it gets closer to election day. Because of the fairly small margin, neither candidate can confidently say their position is secured. With the race still too close to call, it will be up to voters across the state to determine Florida's future.

EDITORIAL

Why Vote?

By Adriana Garcia
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Voting is a significant factor in who gets elected into government positions. By voting, U.S. citizens are participating in the democratic process; citizens can vote for leaders to represent them and their ideas.

Elections can provide an important opportunity for states, cities, and counties in the U.S to advance democratization. Electoral processes offer political parties and civic groups an opportunity to mobilize and organize supporters and share alternative platforms with the public. In addition, this helps the people of the U.S tell the government what they want it to do.

Voting is one of the most crucial rights and responsibilities that U.S. citizens have. There are about 150 million American citizens that are qualified to vote, however, many don't.

According to interviews with research institutions, advocacy groups, and legislators involved in those efforts, restrictive voting laws in many states discourage citizens from registering to vote. **Increasing the number of people that vote in each election will mean better representation, more funding to communities, and better quality of life.**

According to NBC News, early voting in the U.S has now passed one million vote marks for the midterms.

"The most important



ant thing we have in a democracy is voting, it makes me equal with everybody else and it gives everyone else a fair and equal chance to decide since everybody's vote counts.

If you don't vote you have no chance to prove yourself and state your opinion," says John Moffi, a U.S History teacher at MLEC

By not voting, words and opinions on those who are campaigning will not be expressed.

"I think it's important to vote when you have the opportunity to because it really does decide the policies in this country. If you want to see change then vote"

You can really create

a difference by voting for the people that carry your views and can represent you well. I am planning to vote when I am of age and I would suggest others do the same." states Danielle Mantilla, a sophomore in the Health Science Academy.

Even for those who are not of age to vote, it is important to stay informed on upcoming elections and urge those who can to vote. U.S citizens that are underage can still help with the elections by getting involved in Get Out The Vote (GOTV) work.

While working for GOTV, underage citizens can work on phone calls to encourage those who are registered to go to the polls to offer transportation

for elderly and disabled voters. Citizens can also get informed by going to election hearings or holding their own hearings.

"The citizens of age should also vote since they are the voice of the younger generation. Those voters are making the decision for our future, so they should vote not only for our responsibility but their own as well," states Mariana Marreti, a sophomore in the Communications Academy.

It's key that citizens of age vote for who they think is the best option. The winner of an election can be decided by a single vote and history would be changed because a person got or lost that vote.

"I'm planning on registering to vote in just a few months. I'll be voting because I want to make a difference in this country and who runs it. It's important to me that we choose a great leader to run my generation and the younger generation and we can only get there through the power of votes," states senior Tatiana Gonzalez.

The main priority when it comes to voting is for everyone to be able to have their own voice and opinions, which is what makes voting so important for this country to run smoothly. It is a major factor in our country's government, and without the voice of the people, we would not be able to be at the level that we are.



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