



# Poll: BC backs Kamala

*Survey shows strong support on campus for Harris but a clear divide exists in sex and gender issues*

**John Padgett**  
Contributor

North Carolina is one of a handful of so-called “battleground” states in this year’s presidential race, in which polls indicate a near tie between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump in their bid to become the 47th president of the United States.

But while the race may be essentially tied at the state (and national) level, at Brevard College, it’s not even close: by a more than 3-to-1 margin, BC’s students, staff and faculty prefer Harris over Trump.

This finding comes courtesy of a general election poll conducted by The Clarion from Monday to Wednesday of this week. Via an online form, 153 BC community members, 89 of whom are students, answered questions about the presidential candidates, the top issues influencing their choices, and their attitudes, beliefs and sources of information in this year’s election.

Analysis of the poll results also reveals some deep divides between support for the two presidential candidates, especially among students and along lines of gender, sexual orientation, and certain key issues, which include climate change, character and mental competence, and one other issue that has been at the forefront of American politics since a Supreme Court decision a few years ago struck down a right that had existed nationwide in American for nearly 50 years. That issue, of course, is abortion.

## Wide gap separates Harris and Trump at BC

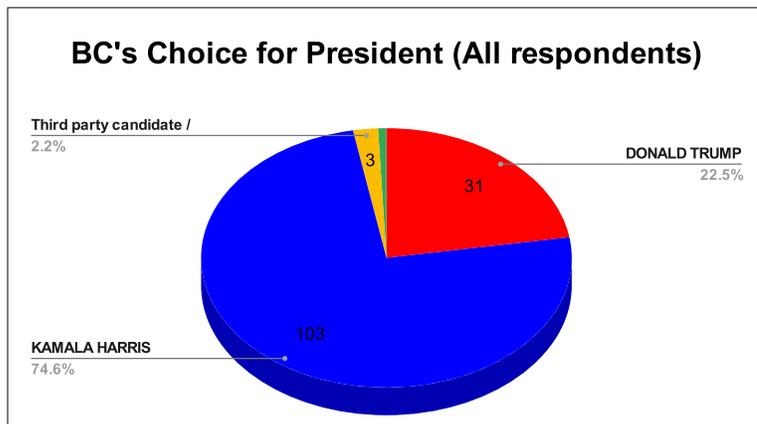
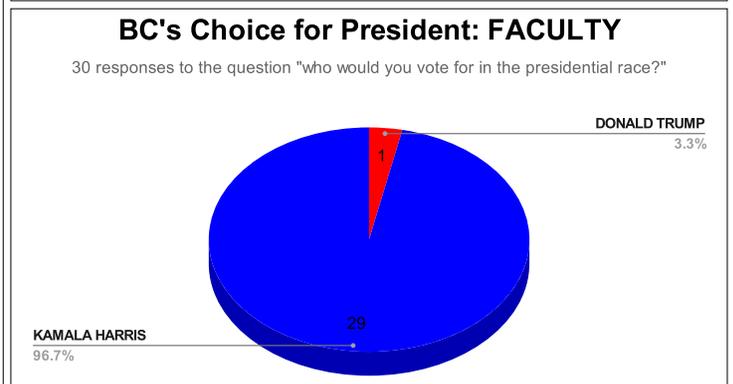
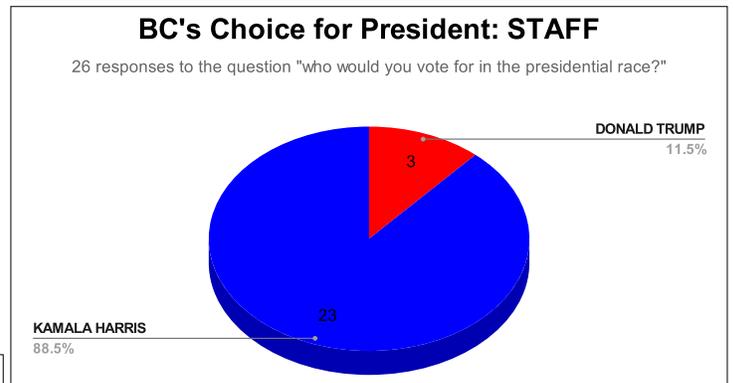
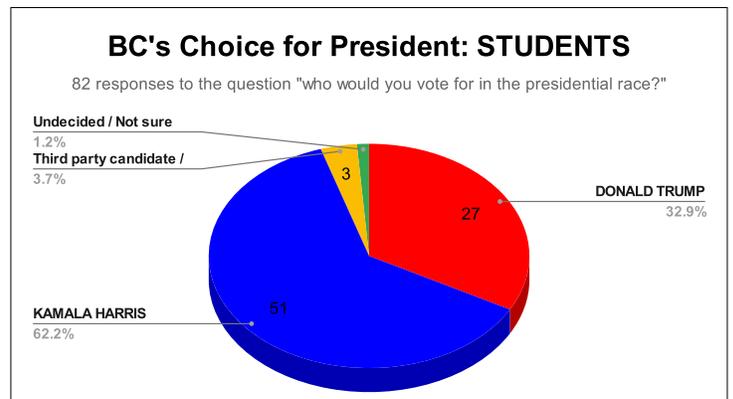
Overall, 75 percent of poll respondents said they would vote for Harris, compared to 23 percent saying they preferred Trump. The gap was even higher among faculty and staff, where 52 people picked Harris while only four chose Trump.

Among the 82 students who answered the question, the two sides were closer but still decisive: Harris led the former president by roughly a

2-to-1 margin, with 62 percent backing the vice president and 33 percent choosing Trump.

When students’ choice for president are broken down further by demographic issues such as gender and sexual orientation, however, the results

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# BC poll: Harris favored over Trump

Continued from page 1

are more varied. More than twice as many women, for instance, said they would vote for Harris over Trump (26 to 11), and out of 14 respondents identifying as nonbinary, transgender, or other, none chose Trump. But for male students, the numbers are flipped: 16 men said they would vote for Trump, compared to 11 for Harris.

An even greater disparity can be seen in how students answered a question on sexual orientation. “Straight” students chose Trump over Harris (25 to 15), but gay or lesbian, bisexual, queer and pansexual respondents overwhelmingly went with the Democrat: 36 chose Harris, while only two chose Trump.

Students’ choice of major also showed a significant shift, although not as much as gender and sexual orientation. Respondents with a fine arts or humanities major were far more likely to support Harris than majors in science and math or social sciences. In the latter two academic divisions, support for the two candidates was about even—Trump even has a one-vote advantage among math and science majors—but the gap is bigger for fine arts and humanities students, where Harris outpaces the Republican former president by 12 and 14 votes, respectively.

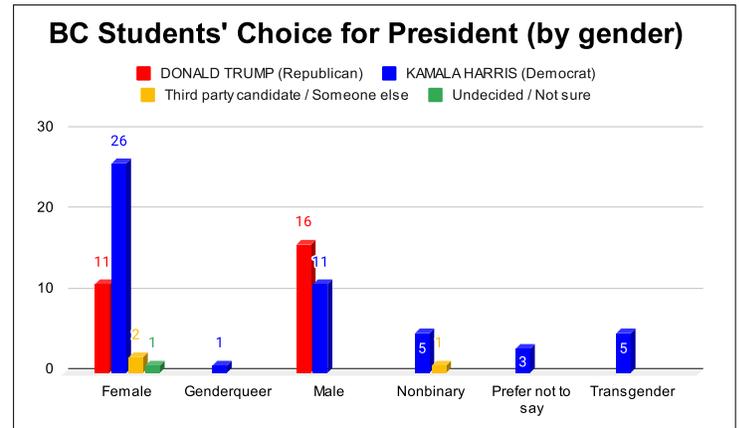
### Issues! We’ve got issues!

The discrepancies among students in the presidential race, and in the overall poll including faculty and staff (and even a handful of alumni who responded to the survey), can be explained in how respondents answered questions about the top issues that would influence their vote for president.

Respondents were given a list of 19 issues, which included some typical campaign-season topics, such as crime, taxes, and foreign policy, as well

as topics of potential interest to college students, such as climate change, education, LGBTQIA+ issues, and student loans.

From the 19 issues, they could choose up to four issues they thought would likely influence their vote for president. They also had an option to “write in” some other issue not listed and to



comment on their issue choices.

Topping the list, both alphabetically and in the number of responses it received: **Abortion**.

Mirroring national polls as well as numerous elections since the Supreme Court Dobbs decision in 2022 overturned Roe v. Wade, more than half of the survey respondents listed “abortion” as a key issue affecting their vote for president this year. Of these 84 responses, only 10 were for Trump; the remaining 74 picked Harris as their choice for the White House.

Even respondents who did not select abortion as one of their top four issues seemed to have it on their mind. “Abortion is health care,” one person wrote, “so while I didn’t select it as one of the four stand-alone options, I definitely consider it important and see it as a part of the larger health care issue.”

“There is absolutely no way to limit to four top issues,” another person wrote. “All of the above are top issues!”

And one other person who did not select abortion in the top four wrote, “Incredibly, all of these topics are critical in this election. Typically, I would be voting positively for a candidate with a radical platform—or at least one who might challenge the status quo. Unfortunately, Trump poses a threat in all of the above categories and the strategic vote is for a cop who continues to pander to the xenophobic talking points of the right.”

A close second to abortion in the number of responses it received was “**Character / Competence of Candidate**,” chosen by 79 respondents as a key issue in their presidential pick. Again, it wasn’t close: nine were for Trump, the remaining 70 for Harris.

Many respondents took the opportunity to comment on their choice of

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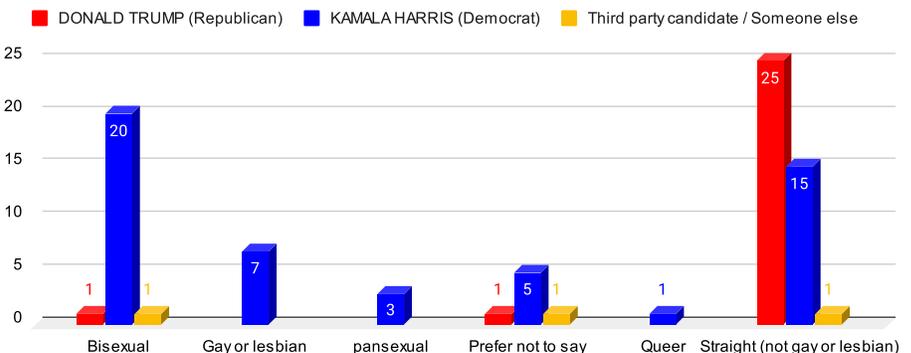
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## BC Students' Choice for President (by sexual orientation)



Survey Question: Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

# Poll: Abortion, character, and climate change

Continued from page 2

issues important to them as a way of saying something about the candidates themselves. “Competence is my primary criterion,” one person wrote for instance. “One presidential candidate is far and away more competent than the other, IMO.”

Another person who selected “Character / Competence of Candidate” as a top issue wrote, “If a felon can’t vote then a felon shouldn’t be able to run. I understand that felons may vote in many states, but Trump whines about how ‘they’ rigged the election while he has several federal convictions relating to election fraud, conspiracy, and obstruction.”

Perhaps befitting Brevard’s attention to environmental awareness and stewardship, “Climate Change” was the third top issue for respondents, with 52 selections—only one of whom chose Trump. Several other issues showed wide margins in favor of Harris, including **LGBTQIA+ Issues** (37 for Harris, none for Trump), **Education** (31 for Harris, 4 for Trump), **Health Care** (Harris 26, Trump 1) and **Judicial / Supreme Court Appointments** (Harris 21, Trump 0).

Of course, in an election as close as this one promises to be, Trump did come out with more choices in several categories, including **The Economy / Jobs** (24 for Trump, 17 for Harris), **Inflation and the Cost of Living** (20 for Trump, 18 for Harris), and to no one’s surprise, **Immigration** (Trump 17, Harris 9).

Several Trump backers also made comments disparaging the current administration—which is only natural given how Harris was elevated to the top of the ticket when Joe Biden withdrew from the race in July.

“The last four years under Biden have been horrible,” one person wrote, “and Kamala has stated she wouldn’t have done a thing different. She also claims other times she’s going to change things even though she is in office now and can change things if she wanted to. Donald Trump while in office had low inflation and the border was secure; although he is far from

perfect, everyday life under Trump will be safer and cheaper. If Kamala is elected I don’t know how I am going to afford to live after college.”

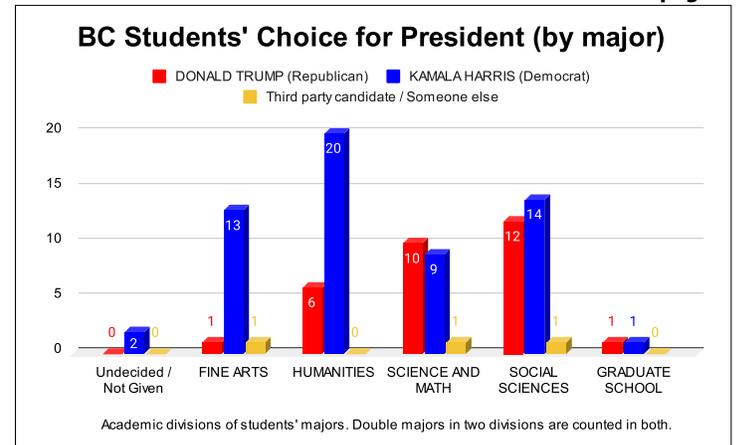
### Attitudes, beliefs, and sources of information

The survey also asked questions about how likely respondents are to vote (the answer: very likely!), would they accept the results of the election if their chosen candidate were to lose (solid levels of agreement on both sides there), and what attributes of a candidate, including age, race/ethnicity, and gender, might factor into their decision for president.

Not surprisingly, given the age of both candidates prior to Biden withdrawing from the race, age was cited as a factor. Neither race nor gender got significant hits, with respondents either strongly disagreeing or answering in a middle “neutral” area.

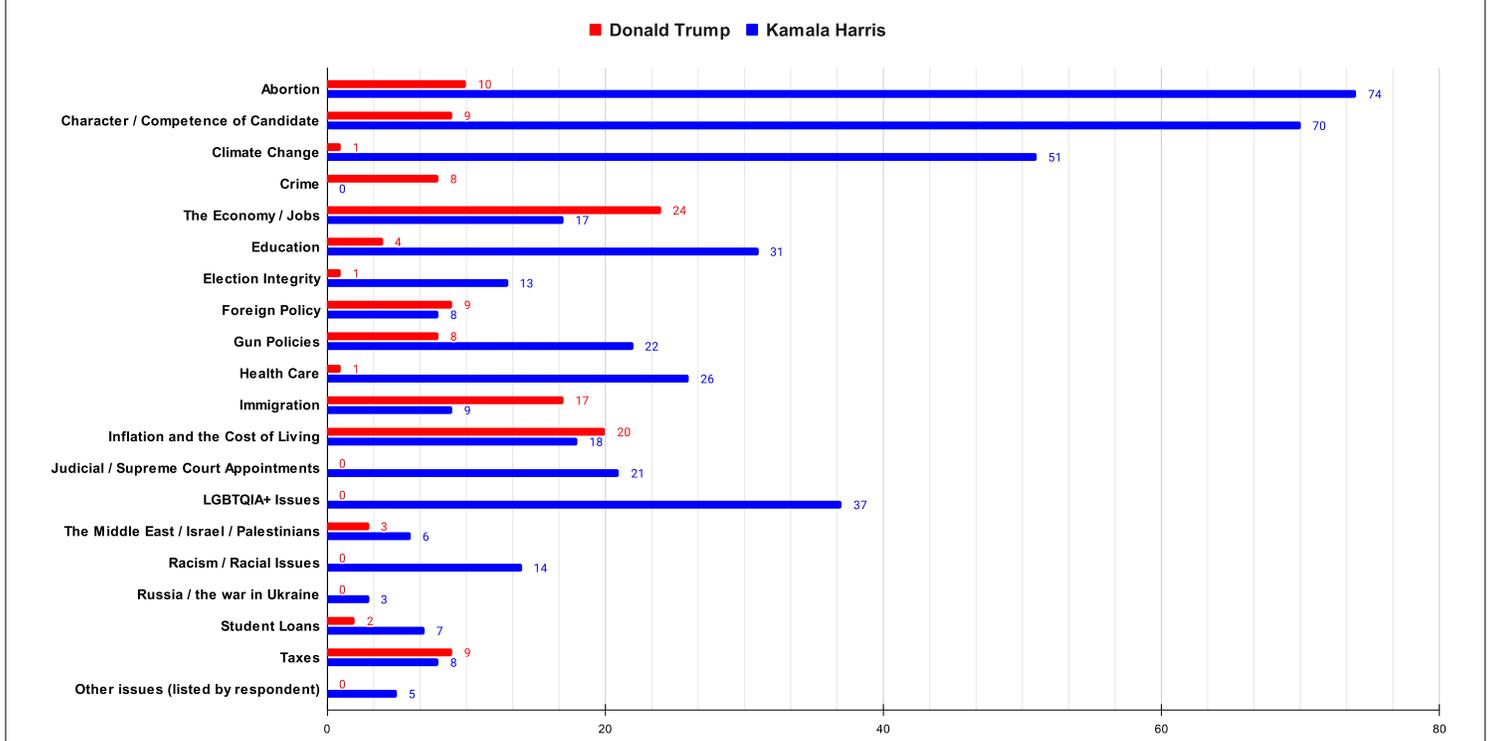
Garnering some agreement as a consideration were the choice of running mate and the political party of the candidate, pointing to the deeply

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## Top Issues Affecting Choice for President

Respondents could select up to four issues likely to influence their vote for president. The choice of president indicated here is in a two-way race (no third-party candidates).



## Poll: Attitudes, info sources, and key takeaways

Continued from page 3

divided nature of American politics at this point in time and probably to the historic unpopularity of Trump’s running mate, J. D. Vance.

Speaking of partisan division, several questions addressed perceptions about each candidate on such matters as knowledge and temperament, a grasp of the issues, and truthfulness. As one might expect, the results were divided pretty evenly along partisan lines.

Other takeaways from the poll:

- Nearly 100 percent of respondents said they consider themselves either “well informed” or “somewhat well informed.” Top sources of news and information they listed were news websites and apps (69 percent), TV news (60 percent) and social media (50 percent). Other sources include friends / family and newspapers / magazines, both of which were identified by 36 percent of respondents.
- Almost half of those responding said this will be their first time voting in a general (November) election, and 18-19 year olds constituted the single largest group of age ranges in the poll (29 percent). Next largest was 20-21 year olds (19 percent), followed by 60 or older (13 percent), 22-25 year olds (11 percent) and 30-39 year olds (10 percent).
- Nearly half of respondents said they consider themselves to be political independents (46 percent). Democrats counted for 36 percent, and Republicans for 14 percent.
- Among students, the response rate was nearly even among the four undergraduate classes, with first years (freshmen) at 27 percent, second years (sophomores) at 29 percent, juniors at 17 percent and seniors at 24 percent. In addition, 3 graduate students responded (counting as 3.4 percent).
- Also among students, 59 percent of those responding said they are student athletes, 38 percent are honors program students, and 32 percent are first-generation college students.

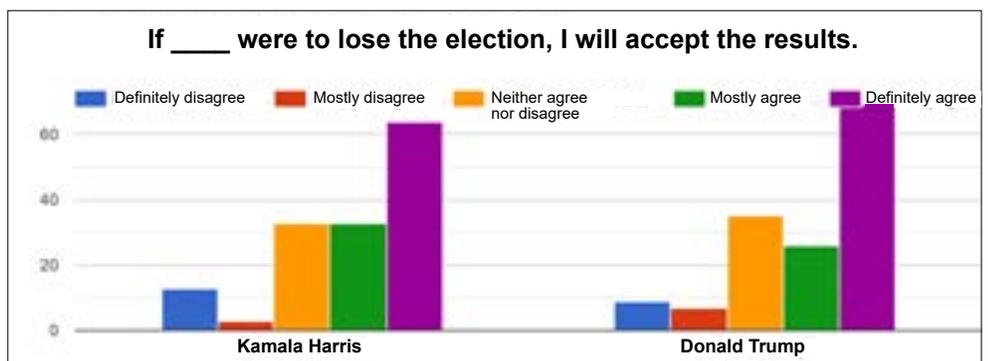
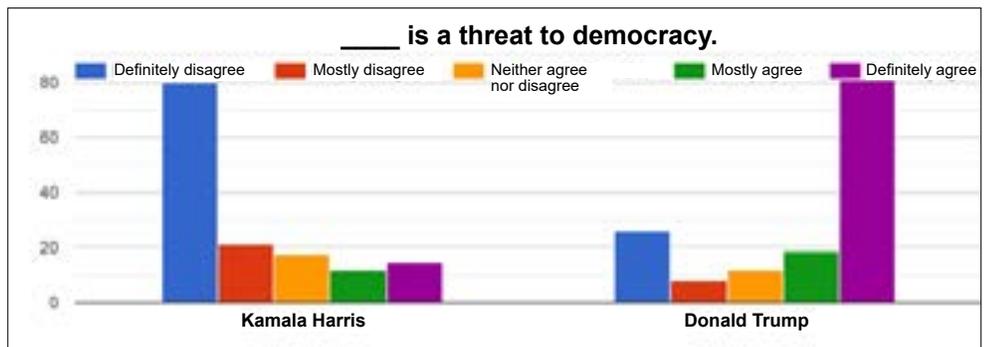
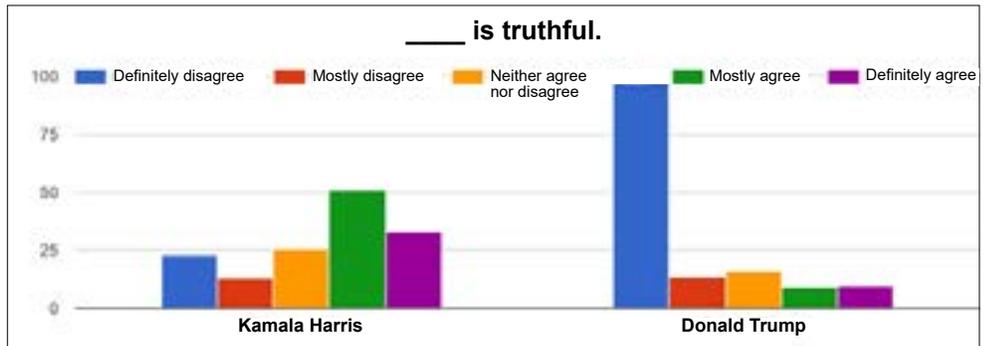
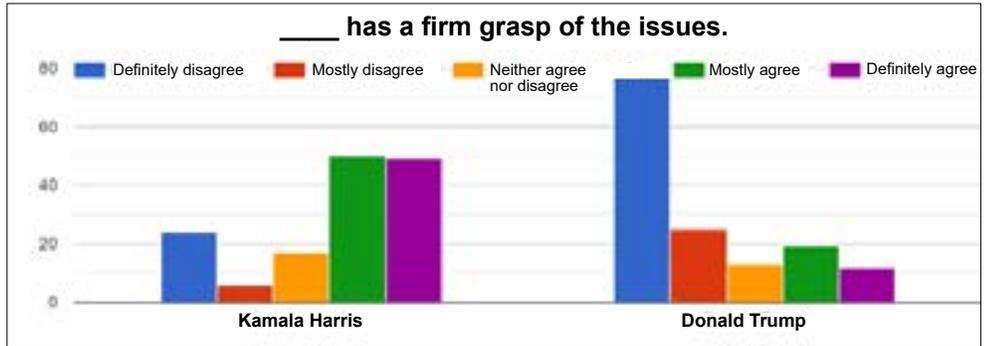
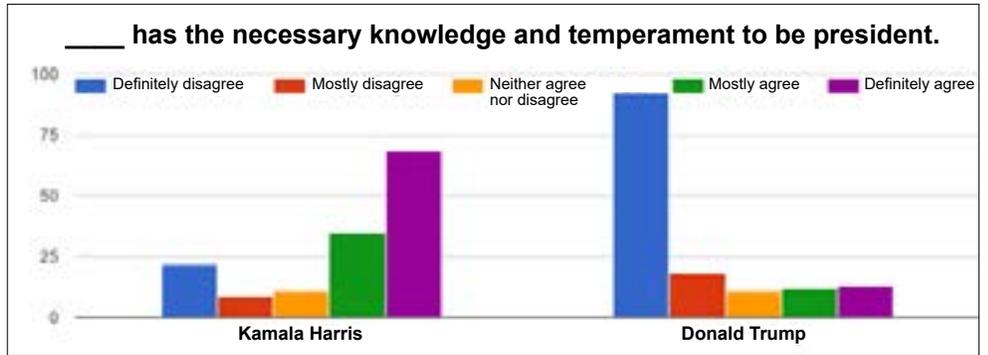
Finally, as a sign of how times have changed in recent years, it’s noteworthy that of the 146 respondents who said they would likely vote in the election, only 13 percent said they would do so at their polling location on Election Day, and another 11 percent were not sure.

Of this remaining 111 voters, more than half—67 respondents—said they had already voted in the 2024 election.

This poll was conducted via an online form over three days, Oct. 21-23, 2024, in which respondents were limited to one submission. The margin of error for this poll is plus or minus 7 percent. To view the full poll results, including unedited comments by respondents, scan the QR code at right or use this URL: <https://bit.ly/clarion2024pollresults>.



Clarion 2024 Poll Results



## 12 lessons from the first few days of early voting

The following article was released by the North Carolina State Board of Elections on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Raleigh, NC – The State Board of Elections asked the county boards of elections across North Carolina for common voter questions, concerns, and misconceptions during the first days of in-person early voting. We’ve compiled 12 of those below:

**Lines at early voting sites.** This is a presidential election, and millions of North Carolinians will cast ballots in 2024. There will be lines at certain times at early voting sites and Election Day polling places. Be prepared. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a chair if you have difficulty standing for long periods of time, pack water or snacks, and depending on the weather forecast, consider bringing an umbrella or handheld fan. You can also check your county board of elections’ website to see if they have a wait time tracker for voting sites. Lines are typically longest at the beginning and end of the early voting period.

**Photo ID.** Many different types of photo ID are accepted, including driver’s licenses and passports. Find a complete list at [BringItNC.gov](http://BringItNC.gov). If you are older than 65 and your driver’s license was not expired on your 65th birthday, you can use that to vote. You do not have to bring your voter registration card, but you should bring an acceptable form of ID. If you do not have one, you can get one for free from your county board of elections office, or fill out an exception form at your voting site explaining why you were unable to show ID.

**Secure, auxiliary bin.** Every ballot scanner, or tabulator, at voting sites has a secure, auxiliary bin attached to it. If there is a problem with a tabulator—power outage, ballot jam, etc.—voters will temporarily place their ballots in the bin instead of inserting them in the tabulator. When the issue with the tabulator is resolved, a bipartisan team of election officials will insert the ballots from the bin into the tabulator. Additionally, the county board of elections will ensure the total number of ballots cast matches the number of voters who checked in at the site. This ensures every ballot is accounted for and counted.

With hundreds of tabulators used across the state during early voting and thousands on Election Day, occasionally a tabulator can experience a problem. This is why the auxiliary bin exists, and it is the industry standard used to address these situations in jurisdictions across the country.

**In NC, poll workers often have to write on ballots.** This is done for various reasons as required by law. Social media posts suggesting that writing on your ballot will invalidate it have been circulating for years,

and they are false. For more information, see Fact: In NC, if an Election Worker Writes on Your Ballot, It Does Not Invalidate It | NCSBE.

**Your ballot will count, even if you leave some contests blank.** You do not have to make a selection in every contest on your ballot. If you skip contests, your votes will be counted in all other contests on your ballot. Leaving a contest blank will not invalidate your ballot.

**Your ballot will count, regardless of voting method.** The ballot of every eligible North Carolinian will be counted regardless of which voting method they choose—absentee, in-person early, or in-person on Election Day.

**In NC, it is illegal to take a selfie with your ballot or photograph your ballot.** North Carolina law prohibits photographing or videotaping voted ballots. Voters may use their electronic devices in the voting booth to access candidate information, provided they don’t use the devices to communicate with anyone or take photographs of their ballot or other voters. We encourage selfies with “I Voted” stickers at the voter selfie stations outside voting locations instead.

**Spouses can vote in the same voting booth, if both request to do so.** State law allows spouses to choose to vote together in the same voting booth. Poll workers should not encourage this practice; it should be up to both voters to decide.

**Inactive voters are still registered voters.** If an individual in “inactive” registration status shows up to vote, they will confirm their address with a poll worker, or update their address within that county, if necessary. They will also show photo ID as required by law.

**Curbside voting.** Voting from your car is an option for voters who are unable to enter the voting place without physical assistance due to age or disability. It is not for voters who do not want to wait in line. Curbside voters must sign a sworn statement affirming that because of age or disability, they are unable to enter the voting place without assistance.

**Poll worker duties.** Poll workers are there to ensure voters can cast your ballot securely and efficiently. They cannot discuss candidates or ballot items with voters.

**Candidate information.** Volunteers and supporters of particular candidates are allowed to pass out flyers and other information about candidates, provided they are outside the buffer zone, which should be marked at every voting site. If campaigners become too aggressive or are inside the buffer zone, voters should report it to an election official.

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### 2024 GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING

Begins October 17, 2024 at 8:00 AM  
 Ends November 2, 2024 at 3:00 PM

North Carolina is a no-excuse absentee state meaning anyone can request an absentee by mail ballot.

Voters may request an absentee by mail ballot through 5 PM on October 29.

Election Day voting is at your precinct location on November 5 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

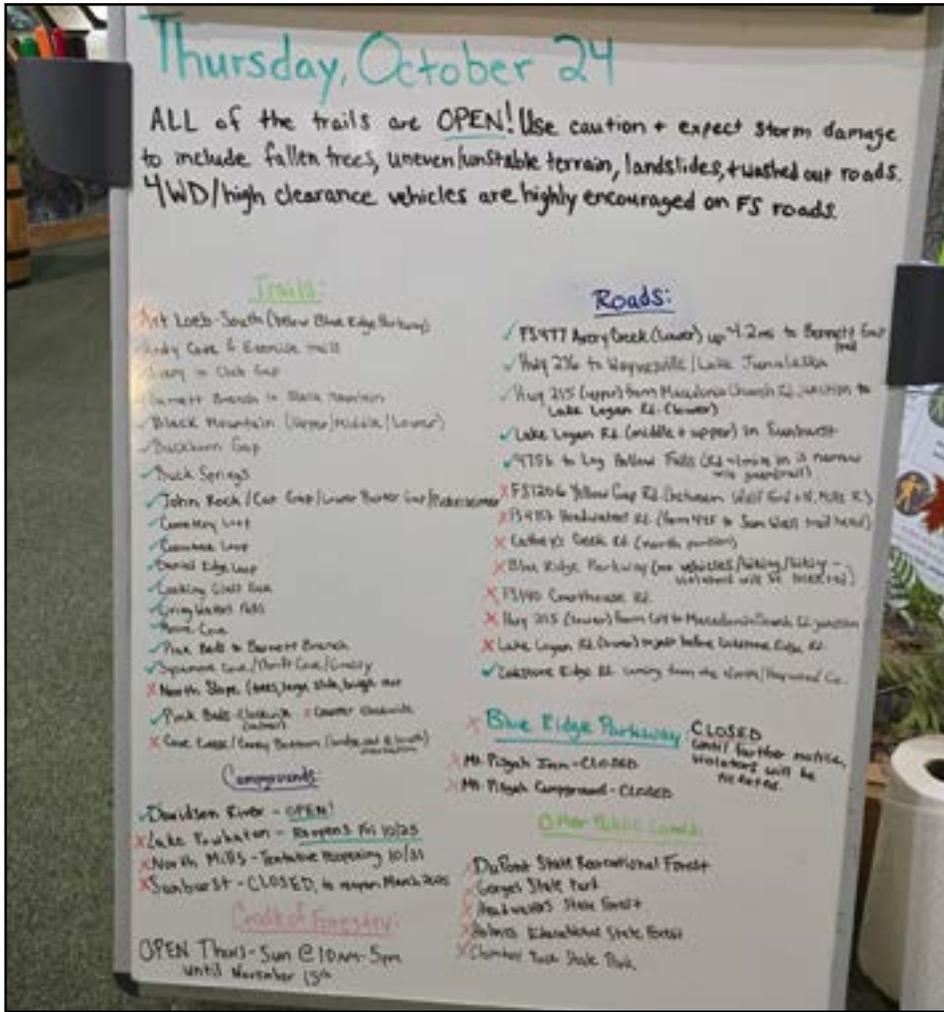
You will be asked to provide acceptable Photo ID before voting.

**★ 2 EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS ★**

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 Old Kmart (next to Ingles)      Rosman Town Hall  
 686 N Broad St.                  6 Main Street

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DATE	THROUGH	TIME
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 18, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024	CLOSED	
Monday, Oct. 21, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 25, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024	CLOSED	
Monday, Oct. 28, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Friday, Nov. 1, 2024	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024	8:00 AM	3:00 PM



## Getting back to normal

A handwritten whiteboard in the Pisgah Ranger District visitor center gives an update on area parks, forests, and roads damaged by Hurricane Helene a month ago. The good news, as seen at the top of the board: nearly all trails in Pisgah District are open as of yesterday. In addition, the Cradle of Forestry reopened yesterday. It will close for the season on Nov. 15.

As can be seen on the board, several roads and campgrounds in Pisgah remain closed, as are the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina (except for a short stretch near Grandfather Mountain and the Linn Cove Viaduct) and state parks and forests in the area, including Gorges, DuPont, and Chimney Rock. Reopening dates for these areas have not yet been announced.

## Club Spotlight: BC Serves

Autumn Jones  
Managing Editor

Are you needing volunteer hours or just wanting to fill empty time? There's a club for both!

Rachel Cooke, the BC Serves club president, says the club's main goal is to "connect our campus to our Brevard community more and make community service more accessible." Every few weeks, or as needed, the club organizes a campus cleanup where members pick up trash on campus, keeping our campus clean.

"I wanted to help the community and strive to make a difference in any way possible," Cooke said. "I hope to get students more involved and want to make positive changes."

BC Serves also invites you to help assemble comfort-kits for kids affected by Helene. See flyer below for more information.

If you want to join the club, or even just get notified when a service opportunity arises, contact Rachel Cooke (cookere@brevard.edu).



# Helene takes a hit on Brevard's outdoor industry, forces mountain bike nationals to move to Arkansas

Olivia Hyde  
Editor in Chief

Hurricane Helene not only laid waste to the cities of western North Carolina but also our trail systems and forest. There are many landslides and downed trees that are preventing safe travel for mountain bikers and hikers.

Mountain biking is extremely important to the city of Brevard, North Carolina. The state is considered a major economic driver. Brevard has earned the title of "Cycling Capital of the South" due to the world-class trails located in the area, making Brevard a top mountain biking destination nationally.

Brevard is widely recognized as a premier mountain biking location, attracting cyclists from across the world. Mountain biking tourism has significantly contributed to the economy of Brevard. Tourists come and support businesses like bike shops, restaurants, and accommodations.

With many of our trails closed, tourists won't have as much of a reason to come to Brevard. DuPont State Recreational Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway have been closed for nearly a month. Many companies are working every day to clean up debris so outdoor recreation can resume.

The Appalachian and Grandfather Ranger Districts of Pisgah National Forest are still closed, including the Max Patch area and Harmon Den.

On Friday, Oct. 18, Pisgah Ranger District reopened, and as of Thursday, nearly all trails in the forest have reopened. (See the photograph above for an update at the ranger station and visitor center.) Bike parks like Rock Creek and Kanuga are fully functional and open.

Unfortunately, the Mountain Bike Nationals that were scheduled to take place Oct. 24-27 at Ride Rock Creek Park in Zirconia have been postponed and moved. The national championship races will now take place in Bentonville, Arkansas from Nov. 14-17, 2024.

# New study space on campus

## 'The Dungeon' now available for productivity, relaxation

Abigail Callahan  
Staff Writer

What is “The Dungeon” that everyone seems to be talking about on campus? Located in McLarty-Goodson Hall, this newly renovated workspace is designed with the student in mind.

Why is it open now, and what is the story behind it?

Renovating the space long known as The Dungeon was the idea of Dr. Charles Ecenbarger, assistant professor of communications and the program coordinator. Previously, it was an unused storage area that has been transformed into a multi-purpose workspace for students.

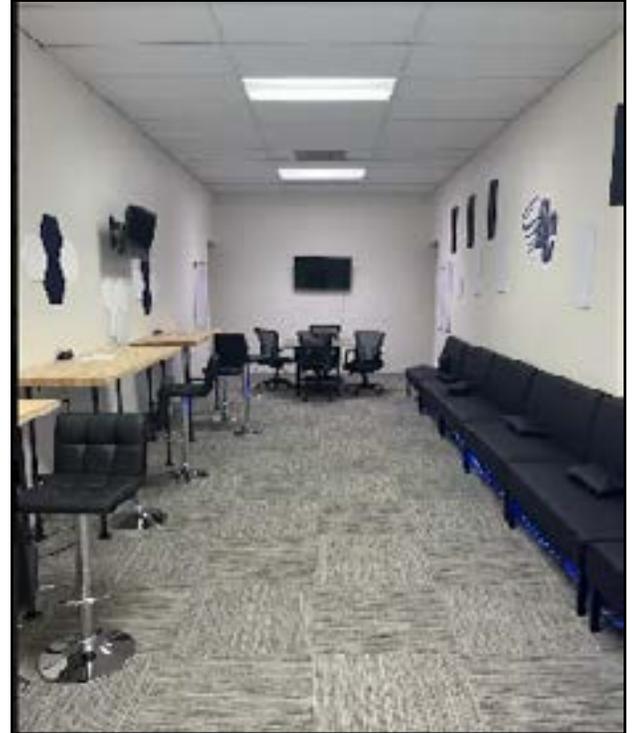
“The Dungeon is officially reopened and students have been using it,” Ecenbarger said. “It is meant to be a student work space.”

The room offers several types of workstations, including standing desks with stools and couches with USB outlets. There are also lap desks available, four-person tables along with two whiteboards.

Stressing the flexibility of the room, Ecenbarger said, “In effect, it is meant to be a space where students can be productive or simply relax if they need to.”

A storage room located on the bottom floor of McLarty-Goodson Hall is where Ecenbarger realized his vision. “I randomly saw the space when it was being used as storage and thought it could be something more student-facing,” he said. “McLarty-Goodson doesn't really have a good space for students to call their own. The lobby is okay, but I thought they needed a functional space.”

As the Dungeon becomes more known, its purpose as a hub for productivity and collaboration should attract many students. Whether a quiet study place or a spot to work on group projects, the space is ready to serve, and with its thoughtful creation it will become a vital part of student life.



The Dungeon in McLarty-Goodson Hall. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

A promotional graphic for a Study Abroad Fair. At the top, it says "Study Abroad Fair" in a large, serif font, followed by "October 29th - 10 AM - 2 PM" and "Tornado Alley - Coltrane Building" in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below the text is a large image of the British Parliament building and Big Ben in London. At the bottom, there are two smaller images: on the left, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and on the right, Mount Fuji in Japan. A black banner at the bottom of the graphic contains the text "Learn more about how YOU can Study Abroad at BC!" in white.



## Tornado soccer enters home stretch

BREVARD, N.C. – The Brevard College Tornado Soccer programs are entering the home stretch of their respective seasons, with the women's team facing four games left on its regular season schedule and the men's squad looking ahead to a pair of USA South Conference matches.

Both teams remain in contention for the top portion of their respective tables. BC women's soccer is currently in first place in the USA South standings, with a 5-0-1 record through six contests for 16 points in the table. BC men's soccer sits second after a close defeat to first-place NC Wesleyan last Saturday, as the Tornados currently hold a 3-1-1 conference record with 10 points in the table.

BC's women's soccer team is off to its best start to a season in program NCAA history with an undefeated 10-0-2 mark in regular season action this year. BC leads the USA South Conference in goals (46), assists (35), assists-per-game (2.92), points (127), points-per-game (10.58), scoring average (3.833), opponent scoring average (.33), shots (319), shots-per-game (26.58), shots on goal (148), shots on goal-per-game (12.33), save percentage (.895), and shutouts (eight) through 12 matches this season.

Individually, BC has four student-athletes in the top-10 of the conference in goals scored, while Kinlee Mozley leads the USA South with seven assists. Five Tornados rank inside the top-10 of the USA South in total points as well. Sophomore goalkeeper Abby Nunez leads the USA South with a .291 goals-against average, a .913 save percentage, and is tied atop the conference with four solo shutouts.

Brevard remains amongst the nation's statistical leaders at the NCAA DIII level as well. The Tornados are one of only nine NCAA DIII women's soccer programs undefeated as of Monday, Oct 21. Brevard leads the country in shot attempts-per-game, is fifth in points-per-game, goals-per-game, and shots on goal-per-game, ranks 10th in assists-per-game and goals-against average.

The Tornados have accomplished several milestones along the way so far in 2024. Head Coach Juan Mascaro secured his 100th collegiate coaching victory, while the Tornados shattered the program single-match goals record in an 11-0 triumph at Hollins. Additionally, freshman forward Mikayla Rubin broke the single-match points record in the Hollins win with three goals and two assists for eight points.

The Tornados will prepare for a busy upcoming week that includes three matches, with two being USA South contests. First, Brevard travels to Pineville, North Carolina to face Johnson & Wales-Charlotte on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in a non-conference battle. Then, the Tornados host William Peace on Thursday at 4 p.m. in BC's seventh conference match of the season. Finally, a Senior Day showdown between the top-two teams in the USA South and a rematch of last season's USA South Conference Championship awaits, as Brevard hosts Southern Virginia on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Ives-Lemel Family Field. The regular season concludes on Wednesday, October 30 at 5 p.m. as Brevard travels to Misenheimer, North Carolina to face Pfeiffer.

On the men's side, the back-to-back USA South Conference Tournament champion BC

men's soccer team has positioned itself well with two matches left to go in the regular season. The Tornados sit in second place in the USA South Conference with a 3-1-1 mark for 10 points. Brevard controls its own destiny, as two victories down the stretch will secure the program's first-ever bye in the Tournament, guaranteeing a home semifinal playoff game for the Tornados.

Fifth-year senior forward and reigning USA South Conference Player of the Year Ryan Lynch has once again paced the Tornado offense. The Charlotte, North Carolina native leads the USA South in shots (69), shots-on-goal (33), goals (nine), goals-per-game (.818), and points (24) while landing second in assists with six. Lynch is the Brevard College NCAA-era record holder for career goals (43), assists (18) and points (104). Lynch currently leads all of NCAA DIII with 6.27 shots-per-game.

The Tornados lead the USA South overall in goals-per-game (2.73), shots-per-game (18.36), shots on goal-per-game (7.82), points-per-game (7.91) and assists-per-game (2.46), while ranking second in total shot attempts (234).

Brevard concludes the 2024 regular season with a trip to Staunton, Virginia on Saturday to face Mary Baldwin at 12 p.m. before a Wednesday, October 30 home date vs. Pfeiffer at 6 p.m.

The 2024 USA South Conference Men's and Women's Soccer Tournaments both begin on Saturday, Nov. 2 with first-round action, followed by the semifinals on Wednesday, Nov. 6. The 2024 USA South Conference Championships take place on Saturday, Nov. 9.