

Students find the positive and negative in Clinton's Republican supporters

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Republican politicians and donors recently began backing Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, and some students at UNC Asheville are conflicted about the implications.

As the general election draws to a close, high-profile Republicans, like Sen. Jeff Flake and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, said they oppose Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump because he is too extreme and does not represent Republican principles.

Some Republicans who oppose Trump, like Rep. Richard Hanna and former Sen. Larry Pressler, said they will support Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to keep him out of the White House.

Elli Cole, a sophomore psychology student from Fresno, California, said she is glad the political parties are working together. Cole said she identifies more as a Democrat.

"It's good to see people coming to-

gether and not sticking to those strong political values. Moderation can be good," Cole said. "I'm happy to see that, but the division is definitely growing. The Trump fans are way out on one side and the Hillary fans are way out on the other."

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Jessica Odette, a sophomore atmospheric science student from Waterville, Ohio, said she is happy to see the parties working together, too. Odette said she is a Republican.

"I don't think people who identify with one political party should vote for their party just because it's their party," Odette said. "I think they should vote for

who they think is the most qualified to be president and I respect that."

Odette said the two political parties still have some work to do when it comes to bipartisanship.

"There are certainly some things that both parties need to work at agreeing on," Odette said. "The Zika virus, for example, I don't really understand why there would be a divide with that. It's a terrible disease."

Cole said she has concerns about the role of money in politics.

"I think it's awful. I really think big businesses need to get out of politics, their interests are not my interests," Cole said. "They're not working-class or middle-class interests. They are filling their pockets and destroying the environment at the same time."

During the primaries, Clinton's campaign began reaching out to a divided Republican Party in order to secure support in the form of endorsements and financial contributions. Among those supporters are donors to the Bush family and millionaires who previously fund-

raised for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

Odette said money in politics is normal.

"Everything revolves around money and now it's basically whoever has the most money wins," Odette said. "Between Trump and Clinton, they both have a lot of support and a lot of donors, so I think it'll be a tight race to the end."

Cole said she worries Clinton may be influenced by donations.

"I don't know how she could not be beholden," Cole said. "If somebody gave me \$100,000, it would probably be pretty hard to tell them, 'Nah, I'm not going to do anything for you.'"

Republican members of Congress and former administrative officials expect Clinton to offer access and influence over her administration in exchange for their support if she is elected.

Former Connecticut Republican Congressman Christopher Shays told *Politico*, "It wouldn't just be in token positions. I think her motivation would

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