

BC prefers Hillary

Campus poll shows 3-to-1 lead for Clinton over Donald Trump in presidential race

By John B. Padgett
Contributor

By a three-to-one margin, Brevard College prefers Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump in this year's presidential race, according to a poll The Clarion conducted this past week.

Many, however, seemed more concerned by what might happen if their preferred candidate's opponent is elected than what their candidate would bring to the job of president. Only 53 percent of respondents said they thought their choice was the best candidate for president, while 63 percent said fear of his or her opponent was a motivating factor for their choice.

Overall, Clinton was preferred in the poll over Trump 63 to 21 percent, with 7 percent going for Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. Clinton's lead over Trump is even higher in a two-way race, 70 to 22 percent.

A slim majority of students responding to the survey picked Clinton, with 26 percent choosing Trump and 11 percent for Johnson. More than 70 faculty and staff also responded to the poll, with staff picking Clinton over Trump 68 to 15 percent (7 percent for Johnson) and faculty choosing Clinton by a commanding 85 percent to just 13 percent for Trump.

Some who responded to the survey expressed reservations or outright disdain over the two nominees for the Democratic and Republican parties. "Like many others, I wish we had a viable other candidate other than the two we have," one person wrote. "This is really an election to choose between the lesser of the two bad choices."

Another person wrote, "I've felt like this election season has tested my optimism and resolve as a proud American citizen in ways I never thought it would. I'm trying to rise above disappointment in my fellow man this year."

Despite the clear disdain many expressed

about their choices for president this year, the former first lady, U. S. senator and secretary of state dominated in nearly class and category of respondents to the poll. Among students, only freshmen gave Trump an edge, 16 choosing him versus 11 for Clinton. Sophomores and juniors each had 12 students choose Clinton, with five and three in each class picking Trump, respectively.

Seniors were the most pronounced Clinton supporters: only four chose Trump, while 23 picked Clinton. Johnson also got a total of 12 student picks, five by seniors, three by freshmen, and two each in the sophomore and junior classes.

Men showed a clear preference for Clinton, favoring her over Trump 60 to 25 percent overall,

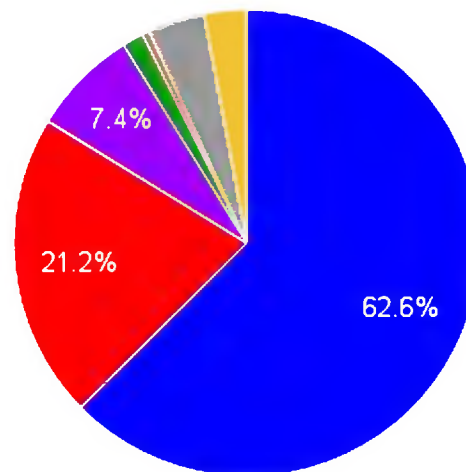
but women overwhelmingly went for Clinton, with two-thirds choosing her compared to just 17 percent for Trump.

The poll was conducted online from Wednesday of last week until Monday evening. More than 140 of the 214 total responses to the poll occurred on the first two days of polling, prior to the bombshell video released Friday of Trump making lewd comments about women on an "Access Hollywood" bus in 2005.

The Brevard College poll shows a much wider lead for Clinton than most other national polls, which for weeks have typically shown Clinton over Trump by 4-8 points. The margin of error for the Brevard College poll is plus or minus 6 percent.

See 'Campus poll,' page 6

BC's OVERALL Presidential Choices (includes third-party candidates)



- HILLARY CLINTON
- DONALD TRUMP
- GARY JOHNSON
- JILL STEIN
- EVAN MCMULLIN
- None of the above / Write-in candidate
- Not sure / Undecided