

Midterm election poll results

Respondents preferred Democrats in campus-wide opinion survey

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By a more than 4-to-1 margin, Brevard College faculty and staff said they preferred Democrats in this year's midterm election.

For students, however, it was a much more mixed bag, with Democrats edging out Republicans by a slight margin.

These were among some of the results from the Clarion's 2018 midterm election poll, which garnered 103 responses from students, staff and faculty starting Friday morning until around noon yesterday. Because of the limited number of responses, the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 9 percent, and so the results may not accurately represent how the majority of people at the college truly feel.

Even so, the responses we did receive suggest that students (and people under the age of 25 in general) differ significantly from BC faculty and staff in their outlook on American politics in this year's election.

Just under half of the respondents, 47, were BC students. When asked who they were voting for in the election—Republicans, Democrats, or some mix between the two—17 students responded "all or nearly all Republicans" while 14 said "all or nearly all Democrats." However, nine

students said they had voted for a mix but with more Democrats, while two others reported voting for a mix but with more Republicans.

When all their responses are added together, students said they preferred some mix of Democratic candidates over Republicans 23 to 19.

For faculty and staff, the breakdown was much starker: 39 said they preferred "all or nearly all Democrats," while just eight said the same for Republicans. For those choosing some mix of the two parties, eight gave an edge to more Democrats and six to a mix with more Republicans.

Only three people—two students and one faculty or staff member—said their choices were a nearly equal balance between the two parties.

Respondents were asked also to rate issues that were factors in their votes choices. The biggest factor had to do with health care, with 59 respondents calling it "extremely important" and 25 more calling it a "key" factor. Two other issues respondents called "extremely important" were character issues (for 56 respondents) and civil rights (for 54 respondents). Both of these issues were a key factor for another 30 of those responding to the poll.

Read more about The Clarion's opinion poll responses and about actual midterm election results in next week's issue.

