Sixty years of Progress Down the Drain? The Fate of Reproductive Rights

Elizabeth LaCasse, Assistant News Editor
Published Oct. 28, 2020

On Sept. 18 this year, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (R) died after a battle with pancreatic cancer, which ultimately took her life. Before her death, many questioned the future of reproductive rights as Ginsburg was an advocate for reproductive rights and was the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Ginsburg was a great advocate for access to legal and safe abortions, which has the potential of being overturned.

According to a survey conducted by The Student, 81.6% of student, faculty and staff respondents reported that they think the outcome of the Nov. 3 election will affect reproductive rights. Female-identifying respondents in particular believe reproductive rights will be affected, which is why 88.6% of respondents believe that the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade, which affirmed the right to access legal and safe abortions, has the potential of being overturned.

As an American student, I am saddened by the loss of this woman, who believed strongly in reproductive rights and was not afraid to voice her opinions.

This is the fate of the 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade, which affirmed that it is a constitutional right to access legal and safe abortions, which has the potential of being overturned.

Predicting the 2020 Presidential Election

Mike Nakata, Managing Editor
Published Oct. 28, 2020

As Abraham Lincoln once said, “Elections belong to the people.” Even since it became clear that Joe Biden would be taking on Donald Trump, there have been countless political analysts, news critics, and journalists arguing who will win the election. Personally, the majority of the political science faculty is planning to be in class the day of the election. From news stations like NBC to CNN to Fox News, election predictions have become nonstop.

The truth is that 2020 has been such a unique and unusual year, which has been hard to wrap our head around it all. From the misinformation at the first presidential debate to the Fly that stole the debate, the 2020 election has been a long continuous cycle of advancements and setbacks. However, just because the election has been difficult to follow, that doesn’t mean we can’t predict an outcome, at least that’s what we do at Bates. Professor Lichtman has made headlines all over the country for his intricate method of predicting the election. In 1981, Lichtman developed a new method of predicting the election, which is known as the Lichtman Prediction Model, which is an amalgamation of the Lichtman Prediction Model, and Lichtman’s Presidential Polling Model, which he has conducted for over 20 years.


Over the past four decades, Lichtman’s prediction model has worked wonders as he has consistently guessed each presidential election winner. Lichtman’s prediction model has been an important tool in predicting the election, and it has been used by many organizations to predict the election outcome. Lichtman’s prediction model has been an important tool in predicting the election, and it has been used by many organizations to predict the election outcome.

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

THE BATES STUDENT

PAGE 5

Students demand an election, not an appointment

Katherine Minnehan/The Bates Student
Published Oct. 28, 2020

As we live through the heartbreaking loss and chaos of this pandemic as well as ongoing police brutality and public controversy for institutional change, this election represents an assessment as to whether or not the American people are truly ready to create a government that will actually advocate for and protect everyone. We must recognize that the security of basic human rights is an adequate plan for reducing the spread of COVID-19, and the dynamics of public health and climate change are all currently on the ballot.

Due to these concerns, it is not surprising that stress and anxiety are spiking as the election approaches. A recent survey by Harvard’s Center for Health and Global Health Research found that two-thirds of Americans report overwhelming stress about election day.

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A special election issue for Bates students on the upcoming presidential election. Students demand an election, not an appointment. The Bates Student published on Oct. 28, 2020 to advocate for a fair and just election.
Sunrise March Demands Senator Collins Upholds Promise on SCOTUS Vote

The Bates and Bowdoin chapters of the Sunrise Movement organized a march last Friday, Sept. 25, to Senator Susan Collins’ office to demand that she uphold her promise to put off the vote on a Supreme Court nominee until after the election. Collins has consistently declared that she would not vote on a nominee before the election, but the majority of people believe it is the role of the president to nominate a Supreme Court justice. This march was considered a success by the leaders of the Bates chapter. Manning noted that the march coordinators had predicted that 20 Bates students would show up. In reality, about 40 Bates students were in attendance. Students from Bowdoin College and Brunswick High School also participated. Sunrise only started planning three days before the event. Manning detailed the process: “Every night we get one step further to organizing this and getting it done. It was literally the night before, and we were still figuring it out.” She continued, describing how vital organizing was, considering the pandemic. Manning acknowledged the importance of social distancing and wearing masks was required of march participants. Abhi Agarwal ’23 spoke first outside of Senator Collins’ office in Lewiston. Agarwal spoke to the importance of holding Senator Collins accountable for the sake of all United States citizens. He spoke of the effects of climate change on the planet, US citizens’ ability to access affordable healthcare, the importance of LGBTQ+ rights, and more. Other speakers discussed similar topics. Jude, a student from Brunswick High School, also spoke. Jude spoke about their experience as a queer person, and the Supreme Court’s role in returning due rights to the LGBTQ+ community. Eric Fleischmann ’23 gave a speech that highlighted the values of democracy, declaring that “the Supreme Court is not as it is intended to be. It is not governed by the people. It is not beholden to the interest of the people.” Fleischmann called for the students and the general public to hold the supreme court accountable for their undemocratic practices.

Like Fleischmann, Soares pledge to students that they would continue to voice their opinions, using the chapter as a resource. “I thought [the event] was really great,” she said. “Hopefully, it is a reflection on Bates students and our ability to get things done and to have people hear our voices in a safe and effective way.”

After the speeches, a crowd of Bates and Bowdoin students protesting against current Senator Susan Collins outside her office in downtown Lewiston. A member of the Bates Sunrise Movement chapter and the media representative for the march, Sunrise Movement is a national organization that aims to mitigate climate change and create new jobs across the United States. “Climate is obviously affected by race and class and age and gender,” Manning continued. “It is more than not climate action and climate justice, but they also know that you need to take an intersectional approach to any sort of justice,” said Ali Manning ’23, a member of the Bates Sunrise Movement chapter and the media representative for the march. Sunrise Movement is a national organization that aims to mitigate climate change and create new jobs across the United States.

The Bates Student is published weekly by the students of Bates College on an online newsletter and occasionally in print this year.

Letters to the Editor are welcome. Please email us.

Sign up for our weekly newsletter on the front page of our website.
The Bates Student
October 28, 2020

Politics at Bates

Political Clubs Rally Students

Elissa Wells, Managing Sports Editor
Published Oct. 7, 2020

With just a few more days until the Nov. 3 election, political groups all over campus have intensified their voices. In addition to non-partisan voting efforts like Bates Votes, there are a number of different politi-
cal groups that support different candidates and parties. Among these groups are the Bates Republicans and Democrats, including a Q&A session with a representative from the Bates Democrats and a debate on an election watch party. The Bates Student urges every eligible Bates student to vote. The letter stated that registering to vote in Maine is a declaration of residence, which “has consequences for compliance with other Maine laws.” Bouchard said that Bates students can register to vote in both Maine and New Hampshire “as students and faculty, and staff are of the College Republicans that Bates students voting in Lewiston, and more students work to prevent

A Brief History of Voter Suppression at Bates

Jack Elkins, Managing Sports Editor
Published Oct. 30, 2020

The ability of Bates students to vote is something that is often taken for granted. It is a constitutional right, yet still difficult for many students to put that right into practice. During the primaries, nearly 8,000 students

Benjamin Kinsley, Editor-in-Chief
Published Oct. 6, 2020

Troy often takes the lead in organizing these protests, where you can safely challenge protestors there yelling all sorts of nonsense, faculty, and staff are of the state with a tight Senate race. ‘The people we elect to office are the ones who will influ-
cence the future the most, so it is up to us to decide what future we want.' he said. ‘At a time with crises ranging from the pandemic to climate change to the widening wealth gap, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to elect someone who will address the issues that will define the rest of our lives.’

Troy concluded that while he is a

During the primaries, he main-
tained his enthusiasm for Biden. Despite his enthusiasm for Biden, Dewey did not support the candidate. During the primaries, he main-
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The Bates Student conducted a survey of current Bates students, staff, and faculty to investigate political views, affiliations, voting trends and other factors related to the 2020 election. The survey was distributed via Instagram and through class Facebook groups on Sunday. An email was sent to every student, staff and faculty on Monday morning. The survey was closed at 10 p.m. Monday.

Generally, female-identifying Batesies responded to the survey more than male-identifying community members (56% vs. 42%). Three respondents identified as nonbinary and nine people did not wish to disclose their gender identity.

Unsurprisingly, the Bates community is very liberal. Overall, 80% of the Bates community is registered as Democrats. Republican students make up an estimated 6% and 12% identify as Independents. Staff tend to identify as Republicans and Independents at a higher rate than students and faculty. Of the 38 Republican respondents, 29% percent identified as female.

The Bates community is overwhelmingly voting for former vice president Joe Biden (Democrat). Ninety-four percent of students report that he is their presidential pick, while 5% of students are voting for President Donald Trump. Staff are the most likely to list a third-party candidate; 7% of faculty voted for Trump (7%). Faculty were the most likely to list a third-party candidate; 7% of faculty will rank Howie Hawkins (Green) as their first choice (Maine has ranked-choice voting). Not a single registered Democrat respondent said they would vote for Trump. In comparison, 57% of registered republicans will vote for Biden.

Most of the Bates community will be voting in Maine (79%). Twenty-one percent of students are voting in their home state, some who come from critical swing states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Hampshire, Colorado, Florida and Wisconsin. Climate change was ranked as the No. 1 key issue among students (31%). Racial justice (18%) and COVID-19 (17%) were ranked second and third. Staff listed health care as their greatest concern (21%) and faculty ranked racial justice (17%) only slightly above COVID-19 (16%) and climate change (14%). Some respondents expressed criticism for the question which asked people to rate their political views on a scale of 1-5. Some reported “very liberal” was not far enough to the left to describe their political views, and one respondent noted correctly that political views are not two-dimensional. Republican students particularly feel discriminated against on campus. One conservative student declined to note their home state for fears of being targeted.

“Republicans tend to be mischaracterized and I think that Bates needs to work towards bridging gaps in the community as these students are just a much a part of Bates as liberal or left leaning students,” one student wrote. “I do not see fair representation of both political parties on campus. I do not feel Bates is inclusive to conservative views. At times there is political discrimination on those conservative views,” wrote another.

Overall, the Bates community is extremely worried about the results of the election. Liberal respondents tended to be more stressed about the election than those who identified as conservative.

“I am extremely worried about the outcome of this election and the implications it holds for the rights of so many people in the U.S., but also the future of humanity on the whole, specifically with regard to the environment,” one student wrote. “These next four years could help or severely harm the future of the United States on many fronts.”
The notion of the undecided voter has pervaded the political landscape as a caricature in the greater milieu of American political elections – a concept that citizens can be compelled to vote for a candidate they do not support or in a political debate or party to another – is the same. This is an issue that listeners to their electorate in the first place. That is, the reason people don’t want to vote is because they are concerned about the future of the truth that human ideology is not immutable: voters can change at any time, for any reason, to shift their support away from or toward a particular candidate. But what, in 2020, does it mean to be undecided? In this election we have constructed an election we have invented – a farce wherein a citizen can be in a situation wherein all the votes that exist for them are laughable. He had modern day cowboy lawmen as Houston Chief of Police, exemplifying an extremely tene- dant display of compassion and self-righteousness. The Dem- not for a progressive in the White House. With the 6-3 favoring conservative Supreme Court, I can’t help but think that it’s of utmost importance to participate in the electoral system and elect someone that would have the chance to shake hands with both racists and liberals. The grid- locked nature, including an ex- putting on the facade of a genuine candidate or district, we can never truly vacillate between the two. While "undecided" is by definition a term that situates one squarely on the boundary of neutral- ity. To be "undecided" is to be "undecided" in the shape of a question. Instead, in this election cycle, we are told that the Large-scale change in a four-year election is also an extremely un- the Supreme Court, I can’t help but think that it’s of utmost importance to participate in the electoral system and elect someone that would have the chance to shake hands with both racists and liberals. The grid- locked nature, including an ex- putting on the facade of a genuine candidate or district, we can never truly vacillate between the two. While "undecided" is by definition a term that situates one squarely on the boundary of neutral- ity. To be "undecided" is to be "undecided" in the shape of a question. Instead, in this election cycle, we are told that the Large-scale change in a four-year election is also an extremely un-
Senator Are You?

This article is a work of satire. 

throw away that piece of paper and go vote for Biden.

You see a small child drowning in a river, what do you do?

months, Valen has been phone-

view. Throughout these past few

shows that Gideon is leading by

Gideon is ahead. The Boston

erlier in the year, recent polls show

for District 48 since 2012, is

a Maine State Representative

contentious Maine Senate race. 

Bates students have also been

across the country running high,

sure one of those conversations

you've been talking about — I'm

from your first-year seminar.

mons. Or maybe you've talked

late chip muffins from Com

apple crisp and banana choco

on the absolute perfection of the

you have probably had a vari

Published Sept. 22, 2020

Sacha Feldberg,

Collins? Gideon? What Do Students Think?

D.}

C.}

B.}

White (2 points)

Spring because that's when Jesus rose from the dead (2 points)

Fall, or “autumn”; whichever polls better with non-degree

July 4th, 1776 baby (4 points)

Gerrymander so he's no longer in your district (2 points)

Defund Planned Parenthood (4 points)

“I like Senator Collins because of all the work she does across the aisle,” Troy said. “She’s a real leader, the most bipartisan Senator in the Senate. In most cases, she’s the one who’s willing to not let a discussion come to a standstill in pursuit of legislation.”

Collins is greatly respected for her work ethic and moderate views. Gideon is admired for her liberal viewpoint and her promise to try. Troy explained one key dif-

focusing on those at the extremes in highly elevated brackets more, dis-

tributing wealth, prioritizing hav-

ing everyone comforted in some way, shape, or form with health care.”

King. I think she'd tackle wealth inequality, making Multicare more accessible, en-

able Affordable Care Act instead of trying to dismantle it. She addresses climate change much more substantially. She'll make Maine a more equitable state than Collins ever would.”

“Some of the sentiments that are quite literally in a battle for Maine,” Valen said. “It's not a battle that's won or lost by politicians; it's a battle that's won or lost by us as a country, which, yes, transitorily affects us as students and soon-to-be graduates. We are quite literally in a battle for the soul of our nation right now.”

Volen spent a year and a half researching and writing a thesis on how President Trump is playing diplomacy in danger and affecting interna-
tional perspectives of the United States. She likes Gideon because of her integrity, decency, and how she is “truly for the people of Maine and our country.”

And in another email, Quinn Troy ’22, president of Bates for Biden, re-

sponded via email for an inter-

view. Throughout these past few months, Valen has been pho-
harging for Sen. Gideon and Joe Biden. In her email, Valen de-
scribed one personal aspect that she appreciates about Collins: “Whether you're talking about “perceptions of the United States go from the world viewing us as a city upon a hill, to now, Trump’s America.”

“This Senate race is bigger than Bates, and even the state of Maine. It’s not just about Republican versus Demo-

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“This Senate race is bigger than Bates, and even the state of Maine. It’s not just about Republican versus Demo-


Well, it sounds like the controversy over Bates Student’s recent editorial is still very much in the news. The article, written by Sacha Feldberg, discusses the contentious Maine Senate race between Sen. Collins and Gideon, with Valen’s support for Gideon. The article highlights some key points from the campaign: Collins’ emphasis on unity and bipartisanship, Gideon’s focus on climate action and racial justice, and the major role of college students in influencing the election. The article also discusses the importance of voting and encourages students to make their voices heard. Overall, the article provides a thoughtful analysis of the campaign and its implications for Bates students and the broader electorate.
This is okay. thinking: myself. when I introduce myself. When I express myself. When I present I am tired of having to justify who I am. I refuse to submit to the victimhood mentality that is constantly mold.

I thought this school's mission is to engage with our differences they are foreign, that don’t question the status quo, that don’t see now only the views that don’t make us uncomfortable because I know the space that I occupy, and I am respectful of it. I now I am brainwashed, whitewashed, that I hold internalized racism, I identify as Latino. 

My Identity 

report based on how they did in gives each NESCAC school a National Study of Learning, V ot

dates. After each election, the of voter registration and voting Bates has ranked in comparison

Bates has ranked 9th in the NESCAC voter turnout at Bates in 2016 was considerably lower in comparison to other NESCAC institutions. Bates ranked 9th on the NESCAC report for the 2016 general election with a turnout rate of only 45.5%.

What, now, has been the response this year and what has the Bates community done to help spread the word so vote? 

In the summer, starting the sev-

en student-athlete-student-partner

 Bates Student Harward Center to improve the Harward Center Director of Committee (SAAC), some ath

ering with Bates V otes and the

Bates campus and communities.

student-athletes about vot

when they were determined to use the time we have left to really stir up, to get as many Bates commu-

pleased with some turning violent. 

We cannot shut ourselves off from the world by building walls or putting America first, because the world’s problems will eventually come after us, and they will not come after us in the same form.

So, why bother voting blue again? 

We should recognize that Bates’ culture of liberalism and the treatment of people like me won’t change, no matter who we vote for. 

The last four years have seen a stark contrast between conservatives, yet Bates’ left wing fanaticism and insubordination of other views shows that they’re closer to MAGA’s than they think they are.

The United States, along with its crucial partners, has managed to prevent this return to a photo op, and God to a world: a still unending conflict between modern nations, can we honestly say that venting countries from clashing.

The international structure, has led to massive con-

flicts between modern nations, can we honestly say that peace? The international struc-


diplomacy and negotiation tak-

years, can we honestly say that

ding America first, because the world by building walls or put-

world by building walls or put-

we have bodies in which countries can warn each other in a peaceful manner.

Salamanqing infectious diseases, and China does not make the U.S. strong.

Can we change the world by building walls or putting America first?

world’s problems will eventually come after us, and they will not come after us in the same form.
Professor Lichtman organizes presidential elections. This past August, he interviewed four professors from the University of Maine and Bates. Each professor has a different research specialty when it comes to their own election.

Michael Rocque, Associate Professor of Sociology Research Specialty: Criminal Justice

Professor Rocque focuses specifically on that impact the criminal justice system and is interested in understanding why people commit crimes. The past four years have certainly made the criminal justice system by signing bills into law that influence how crime is managed.

There has been some concern about the support for the 1994 crime bill and the role that the criminal justice system is an incarceration rate of male minorities. Rocque believes that this has never been more relevant as the criminal justice system can be traced back to this single bill and that the problems predating 1994 is running on a campaign that depicts how the lives of those who are not male minorities.

On the other hand, Trump has more support in his campaign speeches. Rocque, has a double meaning that suggests the pres- ident is trying to reduce crime but also criminalizing the behavior of protesters. This approach to reducing crime may further exacerbate the racial inequality that exists in the criminal justice system.

Rocque’s position is linked with crime and justice, and Rocque believes that existing a candidate that would be beneficial for this point is a candidate that fears that the wrong candidate will be chosen from a group of extremist groups. Also, if they are not wise in choosing a candidate and if it is not done peacefully and amicably, there could be an increase in violence after the election.

Francis Lamont, Associate Professor of Sociology Research Specialty: Education and Political Science

Professor Lamont focuses on national identity, interna- tional conflict, political behavior, international organizations like the European Union in its role in predicting presidential elec- tions. He believes that the re- sult of the election will have a direct impact on how the world will look in the next four years. Lamont believes that the most powerful person in the world and that almost every- one is not aware of the president, because the president has little to do with the world’s future. The results of this election might affect the U.S. on the right or the wrong side of history.

Emily Kane, Professor of Sociology Research Specialty: Criminology, Crime, and Family Policy

Professor Kane often stud- ies the interaction of race, class, and gender, and as a re- sult, is particularly concerned with how this election affects women. Resulting from Kane’s research, she identify the women “suburban women” being present in the role of the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett. Kane focuses on the states like Colorado, Ohio, and as it may feel out of our hands, col- laboration and coalition building are more likely to help to show why this election is crucial.

For Kane, studying mar- riage in the United States helps her to see the social implications of this election. Kane, as a mother of two, has been much more recently been talked about by politicians. Systemic racism is at the forefront of many issues discussed in this election cycle. Housing, healthcare, education, employment, and the rest of the areas where racial iniqu- ity exists are the baselines to viewing on how much of a systemic racism exists in the U.S. are also coming to light this election.

Moving away from social justice, Kane expressed how concerned she is with political sociology research methods at political science and political behavior of protesters. This argues against the ability to shape the country.

Professor Rocque’s research is centered around the comparison of elections. In the context of this election, he makes connections to the teachings of Michelan Louis. Professor of Sociology and Political Science at Harvard University. Lamont is interested in the understanding of how crime is managed. There are many more than one can talk to find a way to solve the problem. This is more likely to happen in American society.

In the past four years, the U.S. has been going through a lot of changes. This makes it even more important for citizens to vote this November.

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Moving away from social justice, Kane expressed how concerned she is with political sociology research methods at political science and political behavior of protesters. This argues against the ability to shape the country.

Professor Rocque’s research is centered around the comparison of elections. In the context of this election, he makes connections to the teachings of Michelan Louis. Professor of Sociology and Political Science at Harvard University. Lamont is interested in the understanding of how crime is managed. There are many more than one can talk to find a way to solve the problem. This is more likely to happen in American society.

In the past four years, the U.S. has been going through a lot of changes. This makes it even more important for citizens to vote this November.

Emily Kane, Professor of Sociology Research Specialty:
Criminology, Crime, and Family Policy

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As Truman wrote to his wife in a letter shortly after his victory, "Today, we should all see, the election was not won on November 3rd. It was won the day 138 million Americans went to the polls." Should we take heart from this statement? We should: voting by mail. Because the 2020 election is nothing if not an unprecedented election. So hold on to your hats. Let’s go.

As we progress from October in 2020 to the 1948 election is reaching its endgame. With the last presidential debate featuring the dynamic performance of Don-ald Trump and Joe Biden having ended, we can’t help but talk about it as much as the events that occurred on election day. Just like COVID-19, this year has been completely different from past years. As President Trump has been in the White House, he has been about getting the young voters to vote. Hispanic voters, for example, both Trump and Biden have been adamant about getting their votes to participate in this current year. However, for this article I want to focus on two main factors:

1. How voting has changed in recent years.
2. How voting by mail is going to impact election 2020

The Bates Student contribu-tors have written several articles so far about the 2020 election, analyzing the debates, discuss-ing voter suppression, and even trying to comprehend the political climate of this election. Following this election, this article has been thoroughly researched, to say the least. However, as we approach Nov. 3, it is important to look at the atmosphere because there are many people who have already voted and for which candidates.

For starters, during the 2016 election, a total of approximately 114 million Americans voted in the presidential election. This was the highest voter turnout in the country since the election of 1984. Nonetheless, they can’t be counted out, and whether or not Repub-lian’s mass registration effort proves correct, then the entirety of election day will be a win for Trump. Certain states have returned their vote. As insignificant as they may seem, the political signs that cover the lawns in suburban Lewiston are not merely decorations. Next time you drive through the outskirts of Lewiston, take notice of those signs. They tell the story of just how diverse one country is at the moment.

The Bates Student
October 28, 2020

Gabriel Coffey,
Assistant Features Editor
Published Oct. 7, 2020

In 1948, on the morning of November 4th, in the outskirts of Lewiston, Maine, just as the sun was setting, Lewiston Tigers football team was warming up for the 1948 game. It was a game that would prove to be a reaffirmation of that difference.

The Tuskegee Institute
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No group of people is more important, in my opinion, than the ones who never vote. They are the ones who do not participate in the political process and are least likely to be aware of the issues that affect us. It is our responsibility as citizens to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to make their voices heard. Bates Votes, a non-partisan group associated with the college, is working hard to make sure that all of the above statements are true and that we do not leave anyone behind. By organizing events and reaching out to students, faculty, and staff, Bates Votes aims to increase voter turnout and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to cast their ballot on November 3rd. Bates Votes believes that every vote counts and that it is crucial that we encourage participation in the political process. By doing so, we can ensure that our voices are heard and that our concerns are addressed. Bates Votes is committed to helping students register to vote and ensuring that they have the resources they need to make informed decisions on election day. This year, Bates Votes is hosting virtual events, including phone banks, text banks, and email campaigns, to reach out to students and encourage them to vote. With the upcoming election just around the corner, it is more important than ever to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our voices are heard.