How to vote in Bowling Green

Abby Shifley
Managing Editor

When the polls are open

6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 5, 2019.

Where to find the issues and candidates

On page 9, voters can find a breakdown by Vaughn Cockayne of some issues most important to BGSU students. A full list of issues on the ballot is at bit.ly/35Yygml, and the list of candidates is at bit.ly/31Dhaak.

Absentee ballots and early voting

Voters can submit absentee ballots and vote early for the upcoming election now (starting 29 days before the election). Voters can download the absentee ballot application at bit.ly/2W3jzKx, and mail it to the Wood County Board of Elections.

Early voting also takes place at the Wood County Board of Elections at 1 Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Early-voting hours:
- Oct. 8 - Oct. 25: M - F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Oct. 28 - Nov. 1: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Nov. 2: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Nov. 3: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Nov. 4: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

More information on absentee ballots and early voting is at bit.ly/35SNMAB.

Polling locations

According to the Wood County Board of Elections Master Precinct List, a total of 19 of Wood County’s 95 precincts are in Bowling Green. These Bowling Green precincts have 6 polling locations. On-campus BGSU students have one polling location in the student union, and the city of Bowling Green contains five polling locations.

Based off of information from the Bowling Green City Precinct Map, some BGSU students in apartments throughout the city can find their polling locations on the list below if they registered to vote and updated their address before Oct. 7.

Trinity United Methodist Church
200 N. Summit St.
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
- Columbia Courts
- Heinzsite Apartments

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
315 S. College Drive
Bowling Green, OH 43402
- Falcons Pointe Apartments
- The Edge Apartments
- Shamrock Village
- Stadium-View Apartments
- Ivywood Apartments
- Amherst Village Apartments
- University Village Apartments
- Bowling Green Village Apartments
- Winthrop Terrace South Apartments
- Varsity Square Apartments
- Copper Beech Townhomes

How to vote in Bowling Green continued on page 5
Conservatism is alive in Gen Z Americans

Eric Cox
Columnist

Let's talk about Generation Z conservatives. No, we are not the stereotypical old guys yelling at Fox News you might think we are. We are one of the most independent generations in American history, and that is why we are conservatives. We want the government to leave us alone.

Conservatism is believing in the ideals of the Constitution. We believe in the rights of the individual and protecting and expanding those rights. We believe we can disagree and still have important conversations. The government should not be able to control your life. Responsibility matters; your decisions impact you.

This concept has been lost in our current political system. Last week, there were Democrats on the national stage essentially arguing over who can give the government more power and take away more individual rights. Sen. Kamala Harris is trying to have Trump's Twitter deactivated; I guess that prosecutor didn't read the First Amendment. You have people like Hillary Clinton calling Tulsi Gabbard a "Russian asset" because she dares to disagree with current Democratic perspectives on foreign policy. You heard Sen. Warren go on the attack toward Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar because they do not believe we should abolish private insurance.

Obamacare was a colossal failure. We would like to point at every major poverty center in the country and say it once and for all: the government does not cure poverty. Forcing people who are having a rough time under government control does not better them, and we won't stand for it. Freeing the markets and allowing people to create their own wealth to stand up for themselves – that cures poverty. Cut their taxes and allow them to grow their own capital.

Our freedom of speech is under attack on college campuses. Conservatives believe in the First Amendment. Many public universities have established "speech" zones where they limit expressive speech to specific areas on campus. The defense for these is always protection from "hate speech"; that is utter nonsense. The reality is it is to separate messages of opposition the universities don't want the students to hear. College is a time for disagreement and conversations.

Limiting speech removes this dialogue. Thankfully, BGSU respects the First Amendment here on campus.

Many conservatives agree that climate change is real and we need to do something. That something is not a socialist takeover of the economy. The answer is expanding nuclear energy, reducing subsidies on energy, allowing true competition and allowing green energy to expand.

We will continue to stand up for life in America. No matter the insults hurled at us, we've seen the images, we've seen the practice and we believe abortion is harmful in America. "Safe, rare and legal" has been thrown away. We believe in loving them both. We stand up for women and their children, as everyone should. Conservatism is compassionate. Many of us contribute to organizations that are built on helping these women and their children. We won't apologize for it.

Students should get involved in local politics

How Wood County Young Democrats provides opportunities to learn about and be active in local government while creating relationships

Savannah Hinde
Guest Columnist

As a BGSU student, I came to the university with very little thought about the city of Bowling Green other than what it offered in night-time entertainment. As a political science major, I knew I wanted to get involved in the local community and its politics but was unsure on how to go about that.

Recently, I was told about a group called the Wood County Young Democrats. After being a part of the group for three months, I have become a more educated citizen of Bowling Green and value the relationships I created.

I believe that all young people should be invested in the community they belong to, even if it is just for the four years they attend college. For me, this was made possible by the Wood County Young Democrats. Back in mid-2018 there was a group of active Democrats in the area that had been aware of the shifting population demographics in the Wood County area and recognized that the local government was not representative of our diverse population. Over time those three original members turned into dozens due to the organization's focus on helping to provide opportunities for getting local, younger Democrats involved.

Since its formation, the Wood County Young Democrats have seen eight young democrats run for local office, completed a donation drive for the Brown Bag Food Pantry, hosted local candidate forms, offered petition trainings for state-wide issues, canvas and phone bank regularly for local candidates and issues and provide an overall platform for local young people at our monthly meetings.

We also offer internships to both high school and college-aged people to learn about civic engagement within the political realm. We also have several members now serving on both the executive and central committees for the county.

I would be remiss to not mention that our organization's growth would not have been possible without the constant support of Chairman Mike Zickar and the entire Wood County Democratic Party. Making discernible change takes teamwork and our organization is truly lucky to have a county party that has always stood behind our mission to both educate and include youth in our local governmental process.

I urge all young people, especially BGSU students, to get involved in local politics and other causes they have an interest in. Making the connections that I have because of the Wood County Young Democrats has led to some amazing opportunities I would have never received in the classroom. If you would like more information on how to get involved with the Wood County Young Democrats, email us at woodcountyyd@gmail.com.
Bowling Green City Council members need to make these things happen

Mary Ross
Forum Editor

Recently, I was caught up in a discussion about whether college students should participate in elections in their hometown or in their college towns. The person I was talking to argued that since college students only live in their college towns for an average of four years, they are voting for changes to be made they won’t stick around to see happen.

Though I conceded they had a solid point, even if college students don’t stick around to see the changes made, other college students will be coming in and filling their shoes. So, my question is why not vote for officials and for different ideas that could improve the lives of those students that come after us here at BGSU?

It’s no secret that I lean more on the progressive and liberal side when it comes to my political views, so what I want to see in the future seeks to move toward a more socially equal, environmentally friendly community that thrives economically nonetheless.

First, I want local Bowling Green lawmakers to reconsider and discuss the plastic bag ban. This was discussed last year, and I was a full supporter of the plastic bag ban. Single-use plastic bags are one of the biggest pollutants in our oceans. By creating a ban, it encourages the use of reusable bags, which not only can be used for activities such as grocery shopping and shopping in general, but also can be used for moving in and out of residence halls and off-campus housing back home for the summer. Even if the ban isn’t a full ban, a partial ban in order to limit single-use plastic bag usage would be awesome.

Second, I want local Bowling Green lawmakers to keep up and continue funding environmental projects such as Wintergarden in order to restore the environment to a healthy state to keep water quality good in the BG area as well as limit the amount of CO2 emissions in the atmosphere. If lawmakers could possibly even give more funding to environmental projects, especially projects that help lower income families in the area live in more sustainable ways, that would be awesome to see.

Lastly, if there are the funds for it in the city budget, I would like roads to contain bike lanes in order to make room for the many students that live off campus that ride their bikes to school. Currently, drivers don’t make room for cyclists to ride their bikes on the street, but the cyclists at danger of being hit by cars. One of my coworkers who has to ride her bike from the Edge to the residence hall we work in to get to work has told me countless stories of cars almost hitting her and cars honking at her, resulting in her being terrified the entire way to work.

These are just three ideas that may seem miniscule, but to me, they are issues I would really like to see discussed and possibly enacted in the next couple years.

Trump is protecting interest of US by pulling troops from Syria

Nick Bowers
Guest Columnist

In recent weeks, the United States has shifted from its long-time policy of intervention in the Middle East by removing troops from Syria. Numerous lawmakers as well as many mainstream news outlets have denounced the sudden withdrawal from the war torn country, but history shows us that there might be merits to the withdrawal as well.

What have we as a nation truly accomplished in the Middle East since we intervened? The United States has been waging war in the Middle East for almost three decades, beginning with Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in 1991 which prompted Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The U.S. military action in the region would only continue to grow with time.

According to Statista, 2,433 U.S. soldiers have been killed in-action in Afghanistan since we invaded in 2001. Additionally, countless numbers of civilians in the region have been killed or displaced since the conflict started. Why are we still there after all these years? Why haven't we won?

The answer harkens back to the lessons learned the hard way in Vietnam. I had the opportunity to speak to numerous Vietnam veterans at my job over the summer, and one of them made a remark I will never forget. To paraphrase, he said the war in the Middle East looks a lot like the one he experienced in the ‘60s and ‘70s; a seemingly endless guerilla war, where it doesn't matter what kind of technology you have. If you do not have the hearts and minds of the public, and you can not provide them with a stable government that can provide prosperity for them, you will simply never win. More insurgents will take the place of those you defeated.

In order to defeat modern counter-insurgents, the U.S. would have to mobilize even more troops than we already have, which would result in expanding our already massive military spending even further. The U.S. public simply is not willing to accept that, and really, I don't blame them.

Furthermore, the domestic consequences of a continual presence have been immense. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there was almost 38,000 homeless veterans in the nation in 2018. With faults in the Department of Veterans Affairs over the past years, why would we want to continue to add more veterans to this system? Rather than adding more veterans to that statistic, it might well be prudent to put an end to the wars which cripple and maim our nation's troops.
How to vote in Bowling Green
continued from page 2

Wood County District Public Library
251 N. Main St.
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Church of the Nazarene
1855 Gorrill Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Junior Fair Building, Wood County Fairgrounds
13800 W. Poe Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
-Residents in Center Township and Plain Township

A voter can look up her polling location at voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx if she is already registered to vote.

Updated addresses
Students who do not have an updated address won’t be able to vote in the upcoming election, because the deadline to update addresses was Oct. 7. However, Alyssa Tomins, BGSU Votes ambassador, still encouraged students to update their address now because of the upcoming presidential primary on March 17.

To change their address, voters can go to www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/ and click on the “CHANGE MY ADDRESS” tab.

What to bring
According to the Ohio Secretary of State’s website, voters must bring proof of identification and announce their full name and current address upon arriving at their polling locations.

Tomins wrote in an email that on-campus students who are registered to vote with their on-campus address need a Voter Identification Letter available in their MyBGSU student center.

“(On-campus) Students can log into their MyBGSU, click on Student Center, scroll to the bottom, click the drop down menu, click Voter Identification Letter, click download or generate, and then show the letter to the poll workers,” Tomins wrote. “Students can access the letter on their cell phone, or they can print it off.”

Off-campus students need to show some form of ID that has their registration address on it. In other words, students must show ID with their address in Wood County.

“For most students this won’t be their driver’s license because that lists their home address, not necessarily their current registration address,” Tomins wrote. But other acceptable forms of ID for off-campus students include “a utility bill, a bank statement, a military ID, a paystub, or any official government issued ID/document that includes their registration address.”

A voter can find a full list of acceptable forms of identification at www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/.

Provisional ballots
According to the Ohio Secretary of State’s website, if a voter doesn’t have any of the correct forms of identification, she can vote by providing the last four digits of her Social Security number to cast a provisional ballot.
Get to know the Bowling Green City Council candidates

Mark Hollenbaugh - Democrat, Ward 1

**Patrick Dearwester**

Reporter

*Q: Can you describe the platform you are running on?*
A: Application of the city’s land use plan with a focus on revitalizing our neighborhoods. 2. Increased collaboration between government, business, and education. Our community offers many benefits companies need to be successful: our proximity to transportation, our educated workforce, our outstanding public utilities, and many more. I would like to see us aggressively explore modern partnership and collaboration models to fully leverage these community assets. I will also utilize the guiding principles of the Community Action Plan (CAP) focusing on the quality of our neighborhoods. These principles are vital for the sustained and healthy growth of the city of Bowling Green.

*Q: Why did you decide to get into local politics?*
A: I believe governance is lacking at both the State and Federal levels, and as a result the one place an individual can make the greatest positive impact on people’s lives is at the local level.

*Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?*

John Zanfardino - Democrat, Ward 2

**Courtney Brihan**

Reporter

*Q: Can you describe the platform you are running on?*
A: I’ve been on council for 15 years and we’ve accomplished a lot of things, and we haven’t addressed the housing stock in a more aggressive way. ... My greatest emphasis next term is to implement the type of oversight that other college towns do. Rentals should be superior in BG: we have no oversight on that whatsoever, and other cities have mandatory inspections. If we were to implement something like a self report type system, it would mean that I would have to declare that my home is up to code on electrical systems, etc.

*Q: Why did you decide to get into local politics?*
A: I got involved almost by accident and I’m sure glad I did, but it was in 2004 for the John Kerry campaign — it was a heated election back then. But with that campaign I became much more married to politics.

*Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?*

At: I served a previous term as the First Ward council member from 2009-2011, after that I served as a member of the city planning commission and as a board member of the Wood County Historical Society. I’m also on the executive committee for the Eastside Residential Neighborhood Group and the Wood County Democratic Party. I’m union president for the North Baltimore Educational Association and have taught history and government at NBHS for twenty years.

*Q: What is the most important issue affecting the city?*
A: Application of the city’s land use and CAP plan is the most important work single issue at this time. These studies provide guidance and opportunities for moving Bowling Green into the future. We need to make Bowling Green a more attractive place to live and work by aggressively working to revitalize our neighborhoods particularly those East of Main Street.

*Q: What is one thing you think Bowling Green citizens and voters should know?*
A: I have been a resident of Bowling Green for over 35 years, I am a graduate of Bowling Green High School, and received both my BA and MA from Bowling Green State University. My vision for the city of Bowling Green has been honed over a lifetime of public service.
William J. Herald - Republican, Ward 4

A: … my key goals and general approach include: (i) assisting and representing citizens in their interaction with their city government; (ii) proactively identifying ways that our local government can better fulfill its legitimate role in the community; (iii) using my city experience and analytic background to logically and thoroughly analyze problems with citizen input as a vital part; (iv) going beyond just talking about issues and actually taking action to solve long-standing problems; and (v) doing my part to facilitate genuine respectful dialog.

Q: Why did you decide to get involved in local politics?
A: To make a positive difference by using my analytic approach and knowledge of public administration/policy.

Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?
A: Pertinent experience includes: (a) almost ten years of experience on Bowling Green City Council (1984-1991, 2018-2019); (b) faithful attendance at 23 years of BG Council meetings; (c) attendance at close to a thousand other city-related meetings; (d) decades of business experience (including current job as Data Scientist at First Solar); (e) over a decade of university-level, full-time teaching experience (BGSU and UT); (f) resident of BG for over 40 years; (g) four university degrees (BGSU: B.S.-Math & Computer Science, M.S.-Applied Statistics, M.A.-Public Administration/Policy, Ohio State: Ph.D.-Public Policy and Management).

More information is available at: www.williamjherald.org.

Q: What is the most important issue affecting the city?
A: The foundational issues are: (1) service to citizens including responsiveness, (2) providing for the safety needs of citizens including top-tier safety forces, and (3) fiscal prudence. Building on these, there is immediate need for (4) maintenance of infrastructure including streets and sidewalks, (5) neighborhood revitalization, (6) appropriate economic development.

Q: What is one thing you think Bowling Green citizens and voters should know?
A: That they live in a great city!

Ryan J. Holley - Ward 3

Ryan J. Holley did not respond to BG News reporters’ attempts to contact him.

Jeff J. Dennis - Democrat, Ward 4

Lauren Gregory

Q: Can you describe the platform you’re running on?
A: … my four goals are: (1) neighborhood revitalization, (2) updating our zoning code, (3) promoting sustainability and (4) improving our ability to attract and retain young families especially.

Q: Why did you decide to get into local politics?
A: I am a BG native. I graduated from the high school and university, and my family has been here for generations. I really appreciate everything our community has to offer and I am so excited about the opportunity to give back. I think we have a lot of opportunities that we are not taking advantage of. I think there are a lot of cases where we aren’t using time efficiently. We’ve got a lot of people who are working very hard, and I’d like to take that hard work and turn it into more impactful progress.

Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?
A: I have a lot of volunteer work. I worked on a few political campaigns. Currently I am studying law at the University of Toledo, property law and zoning. Property law and zoning are some of the most important issues...
Get to know the Bowling Green City Council continued from page 6 & 7

Rachel Phipps - Democrat, Ward 3

Cornasia Sanford
Reporter

Q: Can you describe the platform you're running on?
A: I have been talking to folks about encouraging re-development along East Wooster and about supporting a more vibrant downtown. I've also been talking about the city of Bowling Green more fully living by our sustainability values.

Q: Why did you decide to get into local politics?
A: I have two small children, a five- and two-year-old, and I loved raising my family in Bowling Green. I see great possibility all around us and this was an opportunity to get involved and to help our community get where I think it could go.

Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?
A: I am currently an attorney. I started my career as an environmental attorney and then I actually did communication work for the University of Toledo College of Law for five years; I was the assistant dean for communication. ... Right now I do some free-lance writing and some contract review, but I have never ran for elected office before. This is all brand new.

Q: What is the most important issue affecting the city?
A: As far as something I want to act on immediately on council if I'm elected, is to quickly talk to the Ohio Department of Transportation about re-routing the state Route 25 on Main Street; I'd like to see that re-routed so we can make downtown more vibrant. Also, the climate sustainability issue is very important to me, especially having small children and having been this environmental lawyer. ... We do a really great job in Bowling Green but I would like to see us appoint a sustainability commission, come up with a climate action plan, and I'd like to see the city institute a curb-side composting program.

Q: What is one thing you think Bowling Green citizens and voters should know?
A: We are a community of really hard working people and I think we have a great story to tell, we just need to tell our story clearly and often.

Neocles Leontis - Democrat, Council-at-Large

Neocles Leontis.

Jake Klinger
Reporter

Q: Why did you decide to get into local politics?
A: I'm running so that we can put in some regulations that would require fire and health inspections for off-campus apartments. Also, I'm a scientist, I bring a scientific approach.

Q: What background or experience qualifies you for city council?
A: Over the last 10 years I have gone to many City Council meetings to lobby. Just shows you that a small number of people, when they have the right idea, can influence city government.

Q: What is the most important issue affecting the city?
A: Not having a tenant's bill of rights. People should have rights when it comes to renting property.

Q: What is one thing you think Bowling Green citizens and voters should know?
A: We do not periodically fire inspect, or health inspect, the apartments in Bowling Green, and we really should.
Important issues in Wood County

The general election has issues on the 2019 ballot ranging from a school levy to a marijuana ordinance.

Vaughn Cockayne
Web Editor

As the 2019 Wood County elections approach, here are some of the most important issues on the ballot for those in the Bowling Green area.

The full text of all the issues, including the ones below, can be found at the Wood County Board of Elections website under the elections tab.

Bowling Green City Schools

The most divisive issue in the Bowling Green area is the Bowling Green City Schools bond issue. If passed, it would allow for the construction of a new elementary school that would replace two of the three elementary schools in the area. This act would be funded by a combination of property and income taxes. The side against the bond issue is concerned with the raise in taxes while those in favor are mostly concerned with the condition of the existing schools.

Full text:
“Shall the Bowling Green City School District be authorized to do the following:
1. Impose an annual income tax of one quarter percent (0.25%) on the school district income of individuals and of estates, for thirty (30) years, beginning January 1, 2020, for permanent improvements?
2. Issue bonds for the purpose of constructing an elementary school; renovating and improving existing facilities if funds are sufficient therefore; furnishing and equipping the same; and improving the sites thereof, in the principal amount of twenty million dollars ($20,000,000), to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty (30) years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average over the bond repayment period one and six tenths (1.6) mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to sixteen cents ($0.16) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?”

Perrysburg Exempted Village School District:

The Perrysburg Exempted Village School District bond issue aims to raise over $13.5 million for expenses. The tax is intended for the benefit of the students, those in favor of the bond issue claim. However, the confusing math may seem daunting for some of the residents of the school district, who see the condition of the schools to be adequate.

Full text:
“Shall the Perrysburg Exempted Village School District be authorized to levy the following tax for current expenses? The tax will first be levied in 2019 to raise $7,505,000. In the four (4) following years, the tax will increase by not more than $1,500,000 each year so that during 2023 the tax will raise approximately $13,505,000. The county auditor estimates that the rate of the tax per dollar valuation will be seven and nine tenths (7.90) mills, which amounts to seventy-nine cents ($0.79) per one hundred dollars of valuation, during 2019 and fourteen and two tenths (14.2) mills, which amounts to one dollar and forty-two cents ($1.42) per one hundred dollars valuation, during 2023. The tax will not be levied after 2023.”

Northwood County

The Sensible Marihuana Ordinance, which lowers the penalty for misdemeanor cannabis offenses, has been passed in five Ohio cities. The city of Northwood now has its chance to pass one of the more progressive drug legislations in the county. Though it will not affect Ohio state law, it will protect cannabis consumers within Northwood County.

Sign supporting the Bowling Green City Schools bond issue.

Sign against the Bowling Green City Schools bond issue.
BGSU Votes boosts student voter participation

Aubreyonna Van Hoose
Reporter

BGSU Votes, an on-campus organization dedicated to providing non-partisan voter registration and information, is part of a significant spike in voter participation among students at BGSU.

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, voter participation at BGSU increased from 11.9% to 35% since 2014. The national student voting rate is 40.3% according to another study done by the NSLVE.

Contributing to a difference of 23.1% in voter engagement at BGSU, BGSU Votes’ programs have encouraged student involvement in the political process from the 2014 midterms to the 2018 midterms.

Maddi Georgoff, a graduate assistant for the Center for Public Impact on campus, spoke on BGSU Votes’ impact on student voter participation and how they can get involved.

“I think BGSU Votes helped increase the student voting participation from 2014 to 2018 by increasing our visibility on campus,” Georgoff said.

She explained BGSU Votes collaborates with organizations, such as Campus Election Engagement Project and The Andrew Goodman Foundation, to increase their visibility.

By providing more resources on their website, holding special events on campus and having their trained volunteers advertise the club and voting registration at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, BGSU Votes has registered over 689 voters this semester. Georgoff said BGSU Votes aims to “make sure our events are fun, informative and student-focused.”

Geoffr noted the importance of volunteers within BGSU Votes reaching out to their peers.

“Our student leaders are passionate and committed to ensuring nonpartisan voter registration, education and engagement on campus,” she said.

Unfortunately for those who are interested in voting, the deadline to register for the 2019 November election has passed. However, students can start registering for the March 17, 2020, primary election. Registering to vote takes only a few minutes and offers students a chance to make an impact on their communities and have their voices heard.

For anyone looking to volunteer at BGSU Votes, the volunteer application form can be found on their website, www.bgsu.edu/BGSUVotes, or at the Center for Public Impact in University Hall 100.

Some voters hesitate to participate in elections

Student politician shares his experience with reluctant voters and their expectations for election outcomes

Annalynn Smith
Reporter

Tristam Cheeseman, an Ohio politician and BGSU history student, sees voters’ political abstinence as increasingly harmful to the voting landscape.

During Cheeseman’s senior year of high school, he ran as a Democrat for statewide office in Allen County, as a District 4 state representative for the Ohio Statehouse. He ran against Republican Bob Cupp, and his official campaign lasted from May until November of 2018. He lost the election, as Cupp garnered approximately 30,000 votes and Cheeseman garnered about 10,000.

The campaign was rough for Cheeseman, because he worked with no headquarters and did all the work involved with campaigning by himself. He experienced the full effects of attempting to collect votes with no workers to aid him.

“It was hard because you have to go to the people you’ve lived around your whole life, specifically in my suburb, and say ‘Hey, it’s me, Cheeseman, will you sign this petition so I can run for the party that you hate?’” Cheeseman said.

In this process of working by himself, he said he recognized many people did not want to canvass for him because they associated his political party with a greater chance of losing.

Even general supporters found themselves unsure of canvassing for Cheeseman because they did not want to campaign for somebody they assumed would not win. This method of thinking is damaging to a movement — ultimately, allowing the opposing front to gain more votes.

While the national student voting rate nearly doubled from 2014 to 2018, attitudes of complacency and helplessness among voters still remain.

“Voters are more enthusiastic about voting than in any midterm election in over 20 years of Pew Research Center polling. Still, millions of Americans will not exercise their right to vote,” Hannah Hartig wrote in a 2018 study.

This PRC poll documented the attitudes Americans hold about voting, some of which aligned with Cheeseman’s experience from the other side of the voting booth. Of those polled, 8% said it would be difficult to vote because political participation did not matter enough, and another 4% said they think their vote would not change anything in the election.

Regardless of whatever political party someone affiliates with, many people tend to think of their votes and their opinions as insignificant in an election. Cheeseman said it is instinctual to want to be on the “winning” side of anything, so when the idea is planted that a candidate is expected to lose, hesitancy to participate settles in — people perceive abstaining as better than losing.

“The people who say they don’t vote are the hopeless people or the ones who live in a privileged bubble. That goes for all parties,” Cheeseman said.

According to the PRC study, people list many reasons for not looking forward to voting — these reasons range from distrust of politicians to logistical obstacles.

One 75-year-old woman responded to the open-ended question “Voting will be difficult this year because” with “Neither party right now looks out for the citizens of this country.” Another man, 40, responded with “Because voting is a painful process. In the 2016 election, I stood in line for 3 hours in the rain to vote. Local governments need to make it easier for people to vote.”
How BGSU students vote
Data for all graphs via The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement

BGSU VOTER REGISTRATION RATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voter Registration Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Midterm</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Midterm</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
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</table>

2018 BGSU VOTING METHODS

- 70.5% Unknown
- 12.6% Mail
- 3.2% In-Person
- 9.9% Absentee
- 3.8% Early Vote

BGSU VOTER REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voter Registration Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Midterm</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Midterm</td>
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Mayor Edwards steps down after 8 years

Shaelee Haaf
City Editor

After serving eight years as the mayor of Bowling Green, Richard Edwards will be stepping down from his position.

“I’ve had a long career. I’ve been working nonstop since 1961,” he said.

In the years prior to his election in 2012, he worked on the Board of County Commissioners for Wood County as an administrator. At the time, Edwards remembered Bowling Green, like many cities across Ohio, had “suffered greatly” because of cuts in local government funds by the previous administration in Columbus.

“We tried to help the city government as best as we possibly could. I was concerned about the financial health and vitality; we had so many deep cuts,” he said.

When Edwards took on the role of mayor, he came into it with his “eyes wide open,” as he could see the impact funding cuts had on Bowling Green.

One of his goals was to maintain a healthy relationship with BGSU. Because he had previously known Mary Ellen Mazey before she became president in 2011, having a close relationship deemed helpful for a number of joint efforts between the city and the university.

“I was really happy and welcomed the opportunity to work with President Mazey and incorporation with the city to move forward,” Edwards said.

With the spirit of collaboration, they updated the city’s 1987 Land Use Plan, which lead to Bowling Green relying on more sustainable energy and being named “one of the ‘Best Hometowns’ in Ohio.”

They also established a Not in Our Town movement and authorized construction of the bridge and roundabouts over I-75.

He attributes much of his success to city council working together.

“The only way you can get things done, especially at this level, is working together. That makes all the difference in the world. Government takes time, effort and a few setbacks along the way, it takes a process,” Edwards said.

Mike Aspcher, city council president, 3rd Ward and member of the board of education, says he’s excited, energized and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the city’s next mayor. Edwards believes the city government is going to be in very good hands.

“It’s been a joy to work with members of council. We’ve had very few difficulties along the way. We’ve worked well together. I am very grateful and it’s been a wonderful experience. I never thought I’d end my career in local government.”

Mayor Richard Edwards.