



LIVE BLOG: THE STUDENT DEBATE
Check statenews.com at 7 p.m.
tonight for a live blog of students
debating on behalf of the candidates



The State News

ISSUES VS. IMAGES



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Republican presidential candidate John McCain waves as he boards his campaign plane Monday in Columbia, Mo.

Obama, McCain use perceptions to shape voters' opinions of who they are

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

In the weeks leading up to the presidential election, the words "maverick," "change" and "hockey mom" might bear just as heavily in voters' minds as the candidates' political repertoires, experts say. The phrases have become mainstays in America's vocabulary after being uttered countless times by Democratic candidate Barack Obama, Republican candidate John McCain and Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin during this year's lengthy campaign season. Matt Grossmann, an MSU assistant professor of political science, said the candidates' repetitive use of campaign slogans and catchphrases is a way to influence public perceptions of their personalities.

"The point is to try to convey all of that together," Grossmann said. "The entire campaign is about delivering a message that incorporates both character of the candidate and issue positions." So far, Grossmann said, the strategy seems to be working. Both McCain and Obama are unusually popular with voters, he said.

"The candidates have more positive images than usual at this point in the election," he said. "In the past, dissatisfaction of both candidates would be higher."

Candidates spend a large part of their campaigns establishing a persona that is relatable to

See IMAGE on page 2A

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STEVE NESIUS/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama waves to supporters during a campaign rally Monday in Tampa, Fla.

ELECTION

First-time voters can now register, vote through mail

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

A group of Michigan's county clerks has made it possible for first-time voters who registered by mail to cast absentee ballots, but Ingham County Clerk Mike Bryanton said no MSU students have signed on.

Under Michigan law, first-time voters who register by mail — including those who registered with a clipboard canvasser such as the ones on campus this fall — must vote in person.

Bryanton said the procedure is meant to protect against voter fraud, but it causes difficulties for students who have to travel back to their hometowns on Election Day.

The new partnership would change that.

"It allows ... those students who have registered by mail the opportunity to participate in this election without having to go home," he said.

Sixty of Michigan's 83 county clerks have agreed to grant one another permission to verify a voter's identity if they are temporarily living outside the community where they registered to vote, Bryanton said.

MSU students who registered by mail and can't make it home on Election Day can go

New absentee voting measure

Sixty Michigan county clerks have partnered to allow first-time voters who registered by mail to vote absentee.

Michigan law mandates that first-time voters who registered by mail must vote in person.

The partnership allows voters to verify their identity with the county clerk in their temporary place of residence, rather than their hometown.

The deadline to request to have an absentee ballot mailed to you is Nov. 1.

Visit www.macc-mi.org to see if your clerk has signed onto the partnership.

Two bills proposing similar changes, House Bills 4474 and 5739, currently are being considered in the state Senate.

SOURCE: INGHAM COUNTY

to Bryanton's office in the Ingham County Courthouse, 341 S. Jefferson St., in Mason, or in the Veteran's Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., in Lansing, show him a valid form of identification and receive an

See VOTE on page 2A

UNIVERSITY

Third parties run for MSU Board of Trustees

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

Joe Rosenquist describes himself as an ordinary Michigander.

But unlike most Michigan residents, Rosenquist's name will be on every ballot in the state on Nov. 4 as part of the MSU Board of Trustees election.

The board is made up of eight elected officials who serve eight-

year terms. Rosenquist is running as a Libertarian, one of five third-party candidates vying for a position on the board.

"I'm just a basic, average, ordinary Michigan resident," the MSU alumnus said. "I bring a basic private-sector type of experience to a situation where they don't have that kind of outlook."

When MSU students head to the polls, they'll see nine Board of Trustees candidates' names

staring back at them, only four of which are Republicans and Democrats. Third-party candidates from the U.S. Taxpayers Party of Michigan, the Libertarian Party and Green Party make up more than half of the candidates running.

Robert Gale and Crystal Van Sickle are running as U.S. Taxpayers candidates, while Rosenquist and David Brown make up the Libertarian ticket. Therese

Marie Storm will represent the Green Party on the ballot.

Although third-party candidates outnumber the Republicans and Democrats, they face an uphill battle. From finances to name recognition, Van Sickle said third-party candidates experience a number of challenges when running in an election.

"The major challenge for third-

See CANDIDATES on page 2A

EAST LANSING

Council delays decision on greek historic status

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

Although the city of East Lansing is pursuing several urban developments, some of the city's fraternity and sorority houses might have their historic look preserved for years.

The East Lansing City Council deferred making a decision on the addition of a Fraternity-Sorority Historic District to its Feb. 3 meeting at its meeting Tuesday.

"It's really an intriguing idea," Councilmember Roger Peters said. "All of our other historic districts have geo-

graphical boundaries, and this one would be unique in the sense that it's based on a theme, and that's greek houses."

Many of the greek houses have distinct architecture and interesting history, which contribute to the distinctive character of the city, he said.

The idea for a separate historic district formed because, about four years ago, there was some concern that if fra-

ternities or sororities were not getting enough members, they might try to sell the buildings, said Ron Springer, community development analyst for East Lansing.

Someone could then demolish the building and build something else, or inappropriately modify the building, he said.

If a house is in an historic district, there are more strict requirements on renovations to preserve the historic significance, said Darcy Schmitt, planning and zoning administrator for East Lansing.

See COUNCIL on page 2A

BOOK

Author Richard Louv comes to MSU to talk about his work that connects issues between childhood problems and a lack of a connection with the outdoors, page 3A.



Weather

Sunny
High 52° | Low 32°
Three-day forecast, page 2A