



Weekend

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JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

"It's my first time voting. It's the first chance I have to make a voice in the election — whether it goes one way or the other," mathematics junior Stephanie Donelko, front center, said of watching the presidential election at the Union. She heard election results while seated between second-year student affairs administration graduate student Jessica Inman, left, and marketing junior Jake Lestan.

THE YOUTH VOTE

Young voters make impact with strong turnout on Election Day, favoring Obama

By Zack Colman and Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

They were everywhere on campus. In the final weeks leading up to the election, avoiding somebody decked out in Barack Obama apparel was about as easy as finding an on-campus parking spot. Voter registration tables crowded the area by the Wells Hall bridge, forming a swarming blanket of politically active students that turned the grass underneath their feet brown just by standing there for so long.

Not as vocal were supporters of Republican presidential nominee John McCain, and the numbers showed that very fact.

About 2.2 million more voters in the 18- to 29-year-old age group showed up at the polls compared to 2004, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, or CIRCLE.

More telling were the results.

Youth voters sided with the Democratic Party by about a 2-1 ratio, according to www.pollster.com. In 2004, that number was 9 percent of registered voters in the 18 to 29 age group. In 2000, it was 2 percent.

As zoology sophomore Sarah Allan put it, President-elect Obama simply tried harder for their votes.

"A lot of the people were sick of the way government is going now and he supported change,

so that's why people more went toward him," she said.

It is traditionally held that young voters, especially those on college campuses, are more likely to identify with the Democratic Party. This year's election highlighted new and different trends with major implications for the Democratic and Republican parties, experts said.

For Democrats, they might have potentially created a wider base by capturing young voters who are still unsure of their partisanship.

For Republicans, it means there is a lot of work left to do.

Back to the drawing board

Louie Glinzak, press secretary for the MSU College Republicans, admired the Obama campaign.

He said his group, as well as other Republicans on campus, have to strengthen their voter education efforts. Obama supporters spent long hours attempting to register people to vote, but that

U.S. youth voter participation

2000: 16.2 million

2004: 19.4 million

2008: between 21.6 million and 23.9 million

Voters ages 18-29 represented 18 percent of vote, up from 17 percent in the past three national elections.

Youth voters favored Barack Obama by about 2-to-1 over John McCain.

SOURCE: CENTER FOR INFORMATION & RESEARCH ON CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

wasn't all they were doing.

"What certainly worked for the Democrats and I would love to see the Republicans do in the future is the Democrats in the Obama campaign didn't just register people to vote but used it as a way to enlighten and educate people on Democratic policies," Glinzak said. "That definitely worked for

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WORD ON THE STREET

What changes, if any, do you think Barack Obama will bring?



"Increase funding for scientific research and greater public awareness of science."

Fel Yuan,
physics freshman



"I think that we're just going to have overall better health care. We'll have a better connection to other foreign places and countries."

Amy Gibson,
English senior



"I think it's good to have a strong figure leading the United States. Somebody that, even if things are going wrong, make the people feel like everything's all right."

Abdullah Al-Attia,
chemical engineering senior



"He needs to bring his strongness to the economy to build us back up before like when Bill Clinton was there."

Kimberly Seaborn,
family and child ecology senior



"Hopefully Wall Street will go up and be doing better, but honestly, I really don't know what to expect."

Jacqueline Gorch,
communication junior



"Honestly, I think he talks a lot. I mean, I know he probably has good intentions, but I think sometimes he promises so much."

Lauren Guinnett,
telecommunication, information studies and media freshman



"I definitely think he will have a nice plan for our economy. What exactly about our economy? Who knows because everything is basically shot up right now ..."

Carlton Rolle,
interdisciplinary humanities senior



"Our foreign policies (and) we'll probably get out of Iraq. I believe a lot of our allies will be more on the same page with us now."

Mark Stermer,
environmental economics and policy senior

—Compiled by Heather Gurnther, The State News

For more about what's next for Obama and the Republican opposition, see pages 5A and 6A.

you oughta know

HEALTH EPA cuts standard amount of lead permitted in air

The Environmental Protection Agency cut the amount of allowable lead in the air from 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter of air to .15 ug/m3. This cut is the first made to the standard since 1978.

Lead emissions have fallen almost 97 percent since 1980, but more than 1,300 tons of lead are still being pumped into the air, according to the EPA.

The changes also will call for 236 new monitoring stations. The only one in Michigan is located in Wayne County.

For more on this story, see page 3A.

BUSINESS Students will have new dining option with Wis. chain

A new pizza joint is coming to Michigan as Toppers Pizza will open its first Michigan location at 1219 E. Grand River Ave.

Toppers, which has 20 locations in four states, has gained popularity in Wisconsin for its college-friendly atmosphere and numerous giveaway opportunities, such as one free menu item each week for 52 weeks to the first 50 customers at the new store.

The new location is planned to open Dec. 6 in the building previously occupied by Papiano's Pizza.

For more on this story, see page 5A.

SHOW Folk-pop artist makes Lansing debut at Magdalena's

New York-based singer and songwriter Meghan Andrews will be performing her original music tonight at Magdalena's Tea House, 2006 E. Michigan Ave., in Lansing.

Andrews plays alternative folk-pop. Her label, Blue Pearl Records, produced her debut album "Center of Gravity."

Magdalena's owner Miko Fossum said Andrews will be performing around 10 p.m. The show is \$5 at the door and is open to all ages. Fossum also said they will be keeping their kitchen open until midnight.

KARA PALIOKAS

FOOTBALL Fans say farewell to seniors in team's final home game

The 16 seniors on the MSU football team will walk through the Spartan Stadium tunnel for the last time Saturday.

In this week's edition of The Game, we explore the long and often-tumultuous rides experienced by four players. Additionally, we thank each of the seniors for their unique contributions in the locker room and on the gridiron.

This year's senior day has Big Ten title implications. The Spartans must defeat Purdue to keep their hopes of a title in reach.

For more on this story, see page 1B.