

Prepare for the primaries

Registered students can vote in the Presidential Preference Primary Election by mail, early vote through March 2-15 or vote on election day March 17.



Hillsborough residents can vote in TECO Hall, located in the Education Building, during the early voting period March 2-15. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

Your comprehensive guide to Super Tuesday



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The controversial presidential party debates and the nail-biting tension on Election Day Nov. 5 are soon to come but it's important to understand the steadfast Presidential

Preference Primary Election first.

For some students, this will be the first time voting in a presidential election — so here's what you need to know.

What makes Super Tuesday so "super"?

If you haven't paid attention to the election up to this point, now's the time.

On March 3, a large number of states will participate in the

presidential primary election nationwide, a day the media has deemed "Super Tuesday."

Fourteen states and one territory — Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and American Samoa — will be voting for the Democratic nomination.

It's up to the state's

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Supervisor of elections seeks to interest students in early voting



Lauren Pieper

STAFF WRITER

Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer and the Elections Service Center have been working to get USF students to the voting booth for the upcoming

Florida Presidential Primary March 17.

Latimer said they'll be coming to USF for the second year in a row so students can participate in the early voting process.

In Hillsborough County, 70 percent of registered voters cast their vote before primary election day, according to Latimer.

"I encourage people, especially students, to go vote the first week of early voting," Latimer said. "That way, if there is a

problem, they have a week to straighten it out."

Students who are registered to either the Democratic or Republican party will be able to vote in the primary elections March 2-15 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m in TECO Hall.

Unlike early voting, in which people can vote at any precinct in the county, during election day they are assigned to specific precincts where they can cast their vote based on

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Editor in Chief
Alyssa Stewart
@AlyssaKStewart

Managing Editor
Leda Alvim
@thats.leda

News Editor
Devin Perry

Opinion Editor
Nathaniel Sweet

Sports Editor
Brian Hattab
@BrianHattab33

Copy Editor
Haley Wirth

Staff Writers
Jared Sellick
Nolan Brown
Hannah Halili
Lauren Pieper
Jorgelina Manna-Rea

Graphic Artists
Aysia Hixenbaugh
Kennedy Murdock

Advertising Sales
Victoria Arama
Kennedy Murdock
Katelyn Williams

BY PHONE

Editor	974-5190
News	974-1888
Advertising	974-2620
Classified	974-2620

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EARLY VOTE

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their addresses.

If students do not wish to vote early or by mail, on primary election day they can vote at the Marshall Student Center (MSC), but only if they live on campus.

"The precinct is USF, so unless you are in student housing you are not going to be in that precinct," Latimer said.

Director of Communications at the Election Services Center Gerri Kramer said Student Government (SG) is putting up a banner in the MSC from the Election Services Center that will let the students know that early voting is at TECO Hall, which is located in the Education Building.

They chose the hall because they said students are likely to recognize the Education Building and know where it is.

Latimer said he and his team believe that students ages 18 to 25 have a lot of power in elections when they show up to vote.

"In Hillsborough County, 18 to 25 year olds make up the second largest block of voters, only outdone by 60 and above," Latimer said.

Kramer said she reached out to USF student organizations to ensure they're encouraging voting on campus.

Kramer said SG is the main organization they are partnering up with, but they do work with others as well.

"The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement have been holding meetings with a number of different groups" Kramer said.

If students are worried about finding parking to vote, Latimer said USF and the center worked together to make spots available for the event.

"There is free parking in front of our early voting site," Latimer said.

Kramer said the parking location will be by the library and designated for voters with traffic guards monitoring the area to make sure only voters are parking in these spots.

Latimer is confident that students will show up to vote in this election since he has seen successful outcomes in years past.

"We were at the Yuengling Center in 2018 and we actually had at least one voter from every precinct in the county," he said.

There are 390 precincts in Hillsborough County.

He encourages students to make sure they know their candidate is still running because the ballots were preprinted on Dec. 11.

For example, Cory Booker has withdrawn from the race, but his name will be seen on the ballot since he withdrew after they were printed.

Voters cannot revote, even if they vote for someone who has dropped out of the race.

Latimer said he believes one vote can make an impact in an election and encourages students to vote in all elections.

"It's a tremendous amount of power," Latimer said. "So whether [students] get out and use that power or not is going to be the question."

TUESDAY

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discretion as to when it will hold its primary election, which is why Florida's isn't until March 17.

The vote is early in the primary election process, but it gives insight as to who the frontrunners will be for the presidential election.

A Republican primary is also being held in Florida, however, there are only two candidates running for the GOP compared to the six Democrats.

Some states have cancelled their primaries because President Donald Trump is running as an incumbent, who will likely be the frontrunner for the Republican Party.

How does it work?

Each state holds a certain number of delegates. Whichever candidate has a majority of the delegates by the end takes home the nominee.

Before Super Tuesday, 155 delegates were allotted, 1,357 will be given out tomorrow and 2,467 will be allotted moving forward, according to The Washington Post. A candidate needs 1,991 delegates to guarantee the nomination.

Because four states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — have already held their elections, the candidates have some delegates secured.

As of March 1, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders is leading with 58 delegates, former vice president Joe Biden has 50, Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren has eight and trailing behind is Minnesota

senator Amy Klobuchar with seven.

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg had 26 delegates, but he announced Sunday night that he was leaving the Democratic presidential race.

The pledged delegates for the Republican Party are allocated to President Trump with 86 and former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld with one. To be the Republican nominee, Trump will need 1,237 delegates.

Because Florida is a closed-primary state, only people who are registered with a major political party can vote in this election. However, other states are open-primary states, meaning any registered voters — Democrats, Republicans or Independents — are eligible to vote.

I'm ready to vote, now what?

Students will have three options for voting. They can vote by mail (or absentee ballot), vote early or vote on election day. A vote can only be cast in the county the person is registered to vote in, which can be checked on the Florida Division of Elections website.

There will be one question asking for your preferred democratic nomination with a list of the candidates who made the ballot qualifications. Candidates who withdrew from the race will still be on the ballot since it was preprinted Dec. 11.

To receive a mail-in ballot for the presidential primary, students will need to contact their local Supervisor of Elections Office by March 7.

Time is of the essence, because if the ballot is not returned by 6 p.m. on election day, then the vote will not be counted. The Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office recommends sending out the ballot at least a week in advance.

Students can early vote March 2-15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in person before election day. Students will need to bring identification that includes a photo and signature to USF TECO Hall (David C. Anchin Center), which is one of the 23 early voting centers in Hillsborough County.

Some examples of identification include a Florida driver's license, an ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, U.S. passport, debit or credit card, military ID or a student ID.

For students voting on election day, March 17, they will need to go to their respective precinct with identification. USF TECO Hall will be available for voting from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., but only for students who are registered to vote with an on-campus address.

If it is helpful, students can bring in a sample ballot to use as a reference even if it is marked. A sample ballot can be requested on votehillsborough.org.

Based on the number of delegates each candidate receives, the Democratic Party will name its nominees for president and vice president at a convention held July 13-16. The Republican Party will announce its nominees at its convention Aug. 24-27.

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HOOK

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change. She received a loud ovation as USF players and fans cheered her on, saying things like, "C'mon Britt," before she had even thrown her first pitch.

Sydney Hoyt stepped into the batter's box to greet Hook. Hoyt was 0-for-2, but stats really didn't seem to matter for anybody at that moment.

Strike 1 looking

Great start. Hoyt looked like she didn't know what to expect.

The "C'mon Britt" and other cheers continued, louder this time.

But not as loud as...

Strike 2 looking

Hook had thrown two pitches all season but looked as if she hadn't missed a minute.

The cheers and words of encouragement were louder than ever, but they reached their peak when...

Strike 3 looking

At this point, any emotion Hook might have been trying to bottle up flowed freely — she jumped up, embracing catcher Taryn Freshwater, which eventually turned into a mob of USF players surrounding Hook between the first base dugout and the pitcher's circle.

It was clear who Hook was pitching for that night.

"It was really important," Hook said. "I know my mom would have wanted me to come out here and just be me. Every time I throw, I think about her, so personally, it was really important for me just to go out there and just play, just because that's what I've been doing my whole life."

Even after said mob dispersed and the Bulls were lining up along the first base line for the playing of the alma mater, Hook was still receiving individual embraces from teammates. The celebration was pretty much a microcosm of how things have been the last few weeks.

"They've been amazing, all of them," Hook said. "As soon as it happened, all of them were there for me. Nobody left the locker room and nothing's changed. They make sure I'm OK every day and that's something I really appreciate.

"Having that support makes it so much easier to be able to come out every day and just play."

Three pitches — three incredible pitches — changed the narrative of a game which already was set up for a dramatic ending.

"Oh my God, all I could think about was Brittany Hook," said Pierro, who would have been the hero otherwise. "That's incredible. We're all her No. 1 fan right now. Just strike by strike is all we were thinking."

After the game, Hook received an outpouring of love online, both from teammates and from friends in her home state of Pennsylvania.

"Gave me chills! So proud of you," Bulls senior Brooke Hartman tweeted.

"Always in our hearts here in PA," Twitter user Cathy Riggs wrote.

On paper, it was only a one-out save during a nonconference game.

Emotionally, though, it carried the weight of a victory in Oklahoma City in June. Hook's performance Sunday — one run on two hits in 2.1 innings in USF's 7-5 loss to Syracuse — was also up there, as it continued the process of getting back to what she knew she had to do.

"It was really important," Hook said. "I know my mom would have wanted me to come out here and just be me. Every time I throw, I think about her, so personally, it was really important for me just to go out there and just play, just because that's what I've been doing my whole life."

Additional reporting by Nolan Brown.

HOCKEY

Continued from PAGE 8

on a high note."

The Bulls have a longer break than usual though. Their last regular-season game was against Miami on Feb. 15, while nationals start March 24.

The autobid gives USF more chances to practice, but also time to get some much needed rest, according to Coleman.

"It's nice to have this stretch off. It does wonders for our recovery," he said. "We've got some guys that are banged up and healing some stuff."

While USF's success this season has been a result of work on the ice, the Tampa Bay Lightning have been beating the drum for the Bulls off the ice, which could help them in the long run.

"When we won the [conference] championship, we got to go out on the ice ... with the trophy," Weightman said. "They're pumping our social media and trying to get the word out there for any USF fan or any Lightning fan or any hockey fan in general."

More eyes on the Bulls means more chances to raise money for the student-funded team, which is especially important in the postseason, according to Weightman.

"This time of year, especially when we make the tournament, [is] difficult to raise money," he said. "We collect for everything up to this point and then getting past this point we've got to figure something out."

Putting eyes on the team and success go hand in hand. Confidence is the glue that holds it together — Weightman believes USF has what it takes to lift the trophy.

"It's a different feeling in the locker room and it's a different feeling on the ice," he said. "I've never felt as confident or as good about our shot as I do this year."

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The case for putting politics into Student Government



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

Last Tuesday, Student Government (SG) senators weighed in on the “Roots for Justice” resolution that condemned President Donald Trump’s plan for addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The sponsors of the resolution, including representatives from Students for Justice in Palestine, argued that the plan excluded Palestinian stakeholders and showed bias in favor of the Israeli government.

If this story sounds familiar, it’s because we’ve been here before. In early 2018, the Senate voted on a resolution to support a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine.

The year prior, a coalition of student groups called on the USF Foundation to divest from defense contractors providing weapons and services to the Israeli military.

At first glance, one might find it strange that a student government body is wading into international politics. As far back as 2016, a letter-to-the-editor published in The Oracle argued that these topics are outside of SG’s concern.

On closer examination, however, there’s little good reason to make these topics off limits for



There’s little reason to put political issues out of bounds so long as senators are up front about their opinions. ORACLE PHOTO

the Senate.

By and large, issues of politics and policy are relevant to the student body. At a school like USF, where students attend from 141 different countries, conflicts from all over the globe can hit close to home.

By taking a stance on these issues, the Senate can show solidarity with impacted students — unlikely to shift political winds, but meaningful for the students themselves.

It’s true that these issues are controversial, and not everyone will agree with the positions that the Senate holds. However, disagreement between students is not in and of itself a reason to avoid stepping into the fray.

It’s not the job of a governing body to be universally liked, it’s to represent their constituents and act in their best interest. Sometimes that means making judgment calls on controversial topics.

If students don’t like what the Senate is doing, they always have the power to vote for senators who better represent their views. Here’s the catch. If senators

want to endorse a viewpoint on politics and policy in the Senate chambers, they need to make those views explicit in their campaign materials, including all of the tradeoffs that brings.

Students should know exactly what they’re signing up for when they vote for a Senate candidate. If the Senate speaks out on political issues, then that necessarily includes their political beliefs.

There are real drawbacks to this approach. Some candidates might be uncomfortable sharing their thoughts on these topics, and the views they espouse could impact their ability to get elected. On balance, however, these tradeoffs are necessary to give students informed choices.

As SG enters a new phase of consolidated governance, politics will inevitably enter the fold again. If senators choose to address these issues head on, that’s perfectly reasonable, but they need to be willing to campaign on their beliefs.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

New ballot initiative threatens voter control



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

Students on campus might be familiar with the paid petitioners that often hang outside the library and the Marshall Student Center (MSC), advocating for a “double elections requirement” for Florida constitutional amendments.

Unfortunately, this effort — designed to limit the ability of the public to influence our government — has found its way onto the ballot in November.

Floridians can currently petition their fellow citizens to get a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. If approved by 60 percent of voters, the initiative becomes law.

This new amendment would require all future Florida constitutional amendments to be approved by voters at a second general election — having to vote twice for the same amendment.

This amendment is nothing more than voter suppression. The last thing we need is to make it more difficult for Floridians to have their voices heard.

The group behind the effort, Keep Our Constitution Clean, claims that Florida has passed too many frivolous amendments since the founding of the Florida Constitution. However, Florida is one of 18 states with this process. The voting system proposed by

Keep Our Constitution Clean is by far the outlier, with only Nevada having a similar system.

When Nevada passed their law in 1962, it limited the impact that voters had in amending their constitution, with only 12 amendments being implemented in the following 48 years.

There is also the all-important question of who is funding this effort to weaken the impact of democracy. According to the Tampa Bay Times, Keep Our Constitution Clean has raised \$800,000 from undisclosed donors and has paid canvassers often seen around high-traffic public areas like USF. The fact that the measure is on the ballot at all is a testament to the force that those paid canvassers applied.

We don’t know who’s funding this proposal, but there are multiple industries that benefit from limiting the public’s ability to amend the constitution, including changes that can hurt certain industries’ bottom lines.

For instance, Amendment 2 on the 2020 November ballot would raise the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour by the year 2026. Service industries that pay the current minimum wage to their employees benefit tremendously from the status quo.

Florida does not need more roadblocks in the democratic process. Florida should make it easier for people to have their voices heard, and Floridians should reject this amendment.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

Campus Movie Fest award winner reflects on filmmaking experience



Jorgelina Manna-Rea

STAFF WRITER

Having created two award-winning films for Campus Movie Fest (CMF), USF student Shelby Bachnik said she knows what it takes to participate in the fest's launch on Wednesday.

CMF tours participating colleges and universities in the U.S. teaching students how to create a five-minute film in one week. It is open to all students on campus regardless of their majors.

Bachnik, a senior studying integrated public relations and advertising, first participated in CMF in 2018 and won several awards with a documentary film she directed titled "Just Like You," a film chronicling the life of a man living with bipolar disorder.

"I knew immediately that I was going to participate again," said Bachnik.

So she did.

Bachnik returned in 2019 to premiere her final CMF film called "El Viajante" which is a documentary that follows a man who immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras at 16 years old.

Bachnik already had in mind what kind of story she wanted to pursue before festival week started. She asked her best friend Ann Martin to join her as an assistant director even with no previous film experience.

"I knew I wanted to do a documentary again, and I knew I wanted to spotlight something controversial," said Bachnik.

While Bachnik took the creative lead, she said Martin played a big part in helping her vision come to life.

"For me, my part was making what she wanted to happen, happen," said Martin.

Martin, currently a junior studying statistics, transferred to USF last year. When Bachnik asked her to help her with "El Viajante," she didn't hesitate.

"It immersed me into the life of the campus," said Martin. "For my first year at USF, I see it as the number one thing I did, the thing that was the most memorable."

Documentaries aren't the only genre of film students create for CMF — student entries range from thrillers and horrors to animations and musicals.

"There is a lot of creative freedom that I felt comfortable to pursue," said Bachnik.

Exploring this creative freedom supplemented her work outside of CMF too, including internships and her education.

"Integrated PR and advertising is more creative," said Bachnik.

"My experience with CMF has helped me see different storylines in the world around me. It taught me further what the creative eye is."

Even as a statistics major, Martin had a similar learning experience.

"It was good practice for time management," she said. "For people that struggle with that, it shows that you need to learn how to schedule things and make sure



Shelby Bachnik, has won several awards with the documentary films she directed called "Just Like You" and "El Viajante." SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

you get it done on time."

Working with CMF requires a combination of creative and technical skills, along with working under stress. Students are provided filmmaking equipment including a MacBook Pro, Adobe Creative Cloud and a Panasonic HD camera.

Bachnik said she had experience with filmmaking equipment prior to her CMF participation, but the seven-day

window to create a five-minute film was still challenging for her.

"Prepare as much as you possibly can before the week starts," said Bachnik. "Try to get as much as you can get done legally — plan. Have a game plan."

Her emphasis on having a game plan comes from her biggest takeaways in her accomplishments with CMF— being timely and efficient.

"CMF definitely helped me learn how to work under pressure, that would be the key thing," she said.

For anyone who wants to participate in CMF this year, Bachnik suggests they do some preliminary research.

"Find your favorite movies. Watch Oscar-nominated films. Try to learn from the best."

Softball/Commentary

More than just a single strikeout



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

The Bulls took a 5-4 lead into the top of the seventh when all was said and done. Freshman Vivian Ponn, who entered in the second in relief of sophomore Camryn Dolby, had thrown 4.2 innings of scoreless, one-hit softball. It was her game to finish, especially after she came out to start the inning.

Ponn gave up a leadoff base hit, then retired the next two batters, although the aforementioned tying run moved into scoring position on the second out, a grounder to third.

Then, something extremely puzzling happened — at least that's how it looks in the box score. Ponn was pulled in favor of sophomore Brittany Hook.

Hook's appearance was, at the very least, unexpected for several reasons — other than the oddity of pulling Ponn with one out to



Brittany Hook's first appearance since her mother passed away was a one-out, three-pitch save. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF ATHLETICS

go. Hook only made seven appearances her freshman season, allowing 12 runs in 9.2 innings, mostly in games that either were or ended up blowouts.

But the biggest questions

about the pitcher entering the circle had nothing to do with Brittany Hook the softball player and everything to do with Brittany Hook the person. Hook was making her first appearance since her mother, Melissa, passed away right before the season

began.

How was this going to end? Everyone at the USF Softball Stadium appeared to know the significance of the pitching

See HOOK on PAGE 5

Hockey

Bulls gearing up to make most of nationals



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER



USF hockey is heading to ACHA nationals via an autobid for the second year in a row. USF HOCKEY/XOE BERGMAN

a row the Bulls have bypassed regionals entirely thanks to an autobid, earned by finishing in

one of the top two spots in the ACHA South region.

The Bulls were knocked out

of nationals in pool play last season to eventual-champion Sault College. USF, which also won the Southern Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament on Feb. 9, is looking to make the most of this year's trip to Dallas by making a deeper run in the national tournament.

"It would kind of be the exclamation point to my four years here," senior goaltender Sam Coleman said. "Really cool to win the conference earlier in the year, but definitely the nationals is the one that we're all

here for."

Senior forward Kenny Weightman wants to make up for the past years the Bulls have dropped out of the tournament earlier than planned.

"It was honestly really cool to win the conference championship," Weightman said. "All four years I've been here, we've made it to the final and it didn't end up in our favor and this year it actually happened, so it's all coming together."

"It'd be awesome to go out

See HOCKEY on PAGE 5