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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Elections reveal a shift in voter priorities

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

The 2025 off-year election brought a new historic win for Democrats across the country. Voters across the country on Nov. 4 cast ballots in the national elections for mayor and house special elections and legislative offices in different cities and states. Communication major Alexis O'Dell, a sophomore, followed the elections.

"I thought that the elections this year were competitive," O'Dell said. "I saw a lot of people posting about voting for different people."

Turnout was reported to be high in cities, including New York City, according to Politico. Democrats took back control of key offices and legislative positions this year.

The most anticipated race of the year was between none other than independent candidate Andrew Cuomo and Democrat Zohran Mamdani.

Mamdani won the election with 50.4% of votes, while Cuomo had 41.6%. Most votes for Mamdani came from young and new voters, which made him the new leader of the largest city in the United States of America.



Republican candidate Jack Ciattarelli, who lost, and newly-elected Gov. Mikie Sherrill.

According to data from CNN, Mamdani secured his votes in Queens, the Bronx and Brooklyn, while Manhattan was mixed, and Staten Island went towards Cuomo.

Mamdani is the first Muslim mayor of New York City.

In the beginning, Mamdani was racing against Eric Adams until he pulled out on Sept. 29.

Adams talked about his struggle as mayor in a new interview with journalist Ziwé Fumudoh on her talk show, "Ziwe."

"I think I'm the first

mayor that had to fight the federal government to defend this city from a \$7.2 billion hole in our budget that would impact low-income New Yorkers and have to pay the price for that," Adams said.

Adams has been under federal investigations for corruption and bribery. His campaign also had financial issues.

"I hope that the mayor of New York is going to make a good contribution like he says he will, and that he preaches, and I believe that he will. So, time will tell," O'Dell said.



PHOTO | NEW JERSEY MONITOR

us Virginians. That she will represent all of us and not just some of us," Earle-Sears said.

Debates this year were heavily focused on the economy, welfare, education and public safety.

For example, during the live debate for New York City mayor that was hosted on NBC, Mamdani was asked what his first foreign visit would be.

"I would stay in New York City; my plans are to address New Yorkers across the five boroughs and focus on that," Mamdani said.

The next major elections will be for next year's midterm, where voters will choose candidates for governors, representatives and senators.



PHOTO | ABC NEWS

The new mayor of NYC, Democrat Zohran Mamdani, and independent candidate Andrew Cuomo.

November breaks the silence on men's health

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

As the cold breeze of November sets in, so does a powerful reminder: men's health matters.

Often recognized through the "Movember" movement, the month encourages conversations and fundraising for issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health.

"I think all mental health is important," physical education major Kyle Scott, a freshman, said. "I think it's especially important for men because it's a common belief that men aren't supposed to cry."

For many men, opening up about their emotions can feel like a forbidden act, due to society's view on masculinity.

Scott said that belief is often instilled in young boys, as at an early age they are taught to hide and suppress their emotions.

For Scott, who has played football since he was 9 years old, he said his upbringing and experiences both on and off the field shaped his idea of what is considered to be tough.

"My dad instilled in me that it's a cold world, and if you let your feelings get hurt, you ain't gon' last long," Scott said.

Over time, Scott began to realize that being strong did not require him to be silent.

"We got to be tough as a man, but it's okay to cry," Scott said.

Similar to Scott, other young men are beginning

to unlearn what they were taught about hiding emotions.

For sociology major Ryan Phillips, a junior, that understanding came after facing some of the darkest moments of his life.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Phillips struggled with isolation and loss.

"I was locked away in my room. My favorite aunt passed away, and I was just suffering by myself because everyone was suffering. And I wasn't able to do anything about it," Phillips said.

Phillips said the weight of his emotions took a toll on him, both mentally and physically, feeling like an anchor.

"It feels like you're laying down, and you're sinking into your mattress," Phillips said.

Phillip said that even though his journey to find peace was an uphill battle, he learned that healing was possible.

Through honesty, vulnerability and connection, he learned to open up to loved ones and focus on what brought him comfort.

"I go on drives. I have a goddaughter and godson that I love to hang out with, and I go to my grandma's house when I get a chance," Phillips said.

For this reason, Phillips hopes other men who are struggling know that there is always someone willing to listen.

"Your mental health does matter, and it's important to find someone to talk to," Phillips said.

"It can make you realize that you're not really okay, even when you think you are."

Phillips's openness about his mental health journey reflects a change that more young men are beginning to embrace.

Increased conversation around mental health, can help to foster a movement towards breaking the silence that has surrounded men's mental health for generations.

For computer science major Quincy Atkins, a freshman, that understanding was instilled in him early on by the people who raised him.

"Growing up, both my grandmas and mom always checked in with me to see how I was doing," Atkins said.

Atkins said that their open communication taught him that strength can be shown through compassion and that listening can make a lasting impact on those who need it.

Atkins recognizes that society does not always approach mental health with the same level of understanding.

He said many people still overlook mental battles or avoid discussing them, as showing vulnerability is widely viewed as a weakness.

"Sometimes it may not be taken as serious as it should be," Atkins said.

Through it all, Atkins said that what matters most is learning to rise again.

"It's okay to have low moments," Atkins said. "Just never stay there."



PHOTO | THEWAYNESTARTER.COM

The "Movember" logo, which represents a campaign dedicated to raising awareness and supporting men's health.



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Sociology major Ryan Phillips, a junior, standing in Neff Hall Lobby on Thursday, Nov. 6.