

PROMOTE THE OTE

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Although several SA seniors will be voting in the upcoming presidential election and SA Middle Schoolers and fourth graders will be having a mock election, the SA Upper School will not be hosting any sort of vote this year, but the question that remains is why?

“The Student Council Officers decided that they did not want to have the vote,” History Department Chair Donna Patrick said.

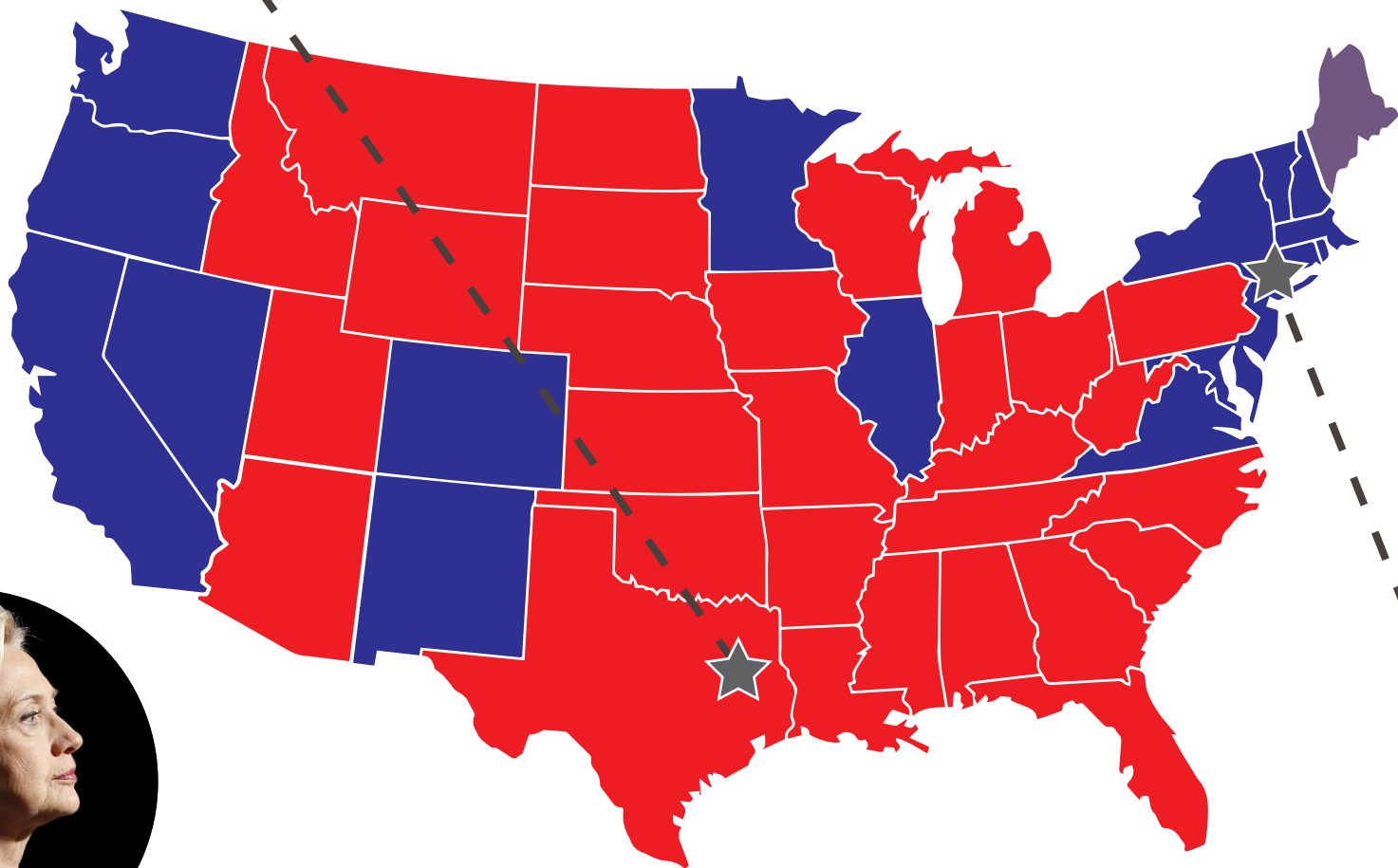
Patrick understands the Student Council as responsible for the decision to not have the election. However, regardless of the beliefs of the Student Council Officers and SA faculty, Upper School students are near voting age and will soon have to cope with the reality of divisive elections and differing views. Furthermore, St. Andrew’s is supposed to prepare

students for the future ahead; therefore, the school should be prompting students to vote as a fundamental right that should be exercised and teaching students about civics while regarding the right to vote as a principle upon which the country was established. At the very least, the Upper School could have taken a page from the Middle School, which is utilizing the election as a civics lesson.

“This was supposed to be more of a civics lesson, so we wanted to show the kids what it’s like to go to the polls and be able to vote,” Middle School History Teacher Meriwether Truckner said.

276 ELECTORAL VOTES

A HOUSE DIVIDED



218 ELECTORAL VOTES



Trucker and the other Middle School history teachers utilized the election as a learning opportunity, and, due to the divisive nature of this year’s candidates, the teachers focused on the civics aspect of the election, rather than the candidates and their policies. One caveat to the Middle School’s solution to this year’s polarizing election came with one caveat, the election’s results were not released.

“This was about the importance of voting and the importance of having a system that allows its people to make decisions,” Truckner said.

Truckner explains the purpose of the Middle School election and the Promote the Vote Program in which the Middle School participated. However, the Student Council officers and Head of Upper School Julia Chadwick believed that withholding the results

of an Upper School mock election would be unpopular, yet releasing the results would be too polarizing, which would undermine the educational and patriotic objectives of the election.

“The student leadership felt that students would not want to participate if the results were not published,” Chadwick said. “One of the things that I love about this school is I feel that people feel excepted here.”

Chadwick expressed her concern for the division in the country and wanted to avoid emulating the great polarity and friction in the SA community. However, with Upper Schoolers quickly reaching voting age, should St. Andrew’s shelter students from the inevitable reality of the free election?