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Fitzpatrick and Ehasz Face Off in Public Debate

GRACE LEVY

Centurion Staff

In a long-awaited forum, Republican incumbent Brian Fitzpatrick and Democratic challenger Ashley Ehasz publicly debated for the first time on Oct. 25 at the Lower Bucks Bristol Campus to a full, rowdy crowd of supporters, online viewers watching via livestream, and community members, as each candidate answered pre-selected questions concerning their political viewpoints and stances.

Fitzpatrick's bipartisan record in his previous two terms has resonated with many 1st Congressional district voters, and polling continues to predict him as the winner. Ehasz has struggled with campaign recognition and underfunding compared to Fitzpatrick; however, she said, "We're not funded by corporate donors, and that is something any candidate, especially a working-class candidate like me, can be really proud of...[especially] the grassroots organization that we've done."

Supporters for both candidates were outside the debate building, chatting with visitors. "I'm voting for the most qualified candidate," said Steve Cickay, a Bucks County community member.

"I'm proud Bucks can be a vehicle for discourse in our community," said Dr. Ganther, President of Bucks. "This is an opportunity for people to hear perspectives,

and to hear the candidates."

The candidates naturally have opposing views on many issues, one of those being abortions, "We have to protect a woman's right to choose at the federal level," said Ehasz. "I am standing here on this stage today as a second-class citizen at the hands of Brian Fitzpatrick," she said, referring to his vote against the Women's Health Protection Act, a bill that would prohibit the restrictions of abortion services.

Fitzpatrick emphasized his bipartisan stance, and said Congress needs to find ways to build solutions with each party. He also clarified that he believes in "limits, not bans" on abortions.

On the economy Fitzpatrick said, "Inflation is the result of bad policy," he continued, "We need to fix the supply chain structure, fix tax rates, and we need to find an equilibrium on monetary policy."

Ehasz stressed the importance of affordable childcare, overturning Trump tax cuts, and protecting social security. "Get rid of the Trump tax cuts; that will be my answer every time," she said, clarifying how she would pay for these policies.

"It can't be a one nation project," said Fitzpatrick on climate change. "We need punishments for countries that don't oblige. There needs to be a universal



system." Fitzpatrick mentioned his support of the Market Choice Act, a bill introduced into the House that would impose a tax on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

"As we move forward, we should not make the problem worse," said Ehasz, and agreed that corrective actions should be put in place.

Despite their differences, both Ehasz and Fitzpatrick agree to continue to support the war in Ukraine.

"I lived there; I have friends there. Initially, all they needed

was aerial protection, and now they need more. Our European allies need to step up," said Fitzpatrick. "I will fight tooth and nail for our friends and allies in Ukraine. They will get every last ounce of support they need as long as I'm in the House."

Ehasz, an Army veteran, said the United States needs to allocate more "resources, and make sure the weapon systems [Ukraine] currently has can continue to be used moving forward. So that means resources for maintenance, spare parts, and making sure [Ukraine] has the proper funding

to care for those soldiers who are going into harm's way."

During his closing statements Fitzpatrick said, "We are blessed to live in this country. We are so fortunate...Bipartisanship is how we preserve Democracy."

"Our community deserves a leader. I believe I am that leader. I want to make sure this community is cared for," said Ehasz. "I'm not funded by corporate donors. I'm funded from supporters, in this grassroots campaign, and that's something I'm proud of."

Photo Courtesy of Grace Levy

Biden Says "The Pandemic Is Over"

EVAN ANDERSON

Centurion Staff

During a recent interview with 60 minutes, President Joe Biden said, "The pandemic is over," a statement that elicited a variety of reactions.

Worldwide there are still over 400 thousand cases of coronavirus. With thousands more reported every day. These numbers are quite high, but not as high as the height of the pandemic, so it might be too early to express that we are beyond the clutches of the virus.

Grace Levy, a Communication Studies major at Bucks, is still feeling the pandemic every day.

When asked about how Covid-19 is still affecting her she said, "I live with someone who is severely immunocompromised, so Covid is an everyday worry. I still wear a mask practically everywhere, and although I have been vaccinated, I don't wear a mask for myself. I mask to protect others and those I live with."

For people like Grace and her family the pandemic is still very relevant and limiting.

"We still have a problem with COVID," said President Biden.

"We're still doing a lot of work on it. But the pandemic is over. If you notice, no one's wearing masks. Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape, and so I think it's changing, and I think [the Detroit auto show resuming after

three years] is a perfect example of it," continued Biden.

Where many feel Biden is jumping the gun, others who have moved on from coronavirus find Biden's comments to be a bit too late.

Even some U.S. citizens who voted for President Biden are questioning his logic behind such comments. Some students at Bucks who voted for Joe Biden in the previous election find his narrative very confused and unbacked with statistics or fact.

Doctors all over the world are still very unsure about the virus and, "... even though we know more about it now but there's still so many things that we may not know," said Dr. Richard Vu, a physician from Colorado Springs.

When asked about his stance regarding Biden's credibility from here on out, Kevin Frank, a student at Drexel University said, "As for his credibility and representation I think that this is definitely a big step in hopefully the right direction."

Frank further clarified, "My roommate is from Istanbul in Turkey, and he keeps talking about how their city is so open and how his country is very densely populated. I think that other leaders should still keep in mind their people and not base their actions solely on the actions from the U.S."

Putting other countries into con-



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

sideration in reference to Biden's comments it would make sense for the United States to be first to announce said comments because other nations are still secure with respect to their Covid guidelines.

With the United States being the global superpower it has been for decades; other countries may take Biden's interview as a go-ahead to reduce some of their regulations.

Opinions of people everywhere differ regarding the president's bold statement and may have lasting effects when it comes to the next presidential election.

While some are still encapsulated by Covid-19 like Grace Levy who found Biden's statement to be reckless there are others who are thrilled to see an official close to the pandemic.

The importance of voting in this modern world is more apparent than ever. Decisions are made every day that impact the lives of students and citizens all over the nation.

Casting a vote in the next election, whether it be state or national, will impact the future.

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EVAN ANDERSON

Centurion Staff

The top two candidates in the running for governor in the upcoming 2022 midterm elections in the state of Pennsylvania are Josh Shapiro and Doug Mastriano in a crucial swing state for an historic election.

With the election quickly approaching most students and Pennsylvanians have no idea who they are voting for or what that candidate stands for. Philadelphia resident Sean Link says, "nobody around [Philadelphia] is really paying any attention to the election, this is where candidates collect their independent voters."

Many people around the country do not outright support one side or the other, meaning they are

independent. As the election nears candidates will start portraying their ideologies as more moderate to gain the following of said independent voters.

Bucks County resident and Democrat Jordan Louie does not put her full trust into any candidate for any election because, "politicians lie." There will never be a full assurance of voters to runners because it is never guaranteed whether the candidate will fulfill their campaign promises.

Josh Shapiro graduated from Georgetown University with a JD law degree in 2002. He has been currently serving as the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 2017 and is now a candidate to become the next Governor of PA.

The Montgomery County Democrat, and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro's platform includes being pro-choice supporting black owned businesses and LGBTQ+ rights, working to curb gun violence, investing in public safety.

Shapiro is also looking to give tax refunds and tax cuts on things like gas, cell phones, and property, funding healthcare better, fully fund schools, give better education to underfunded schools and invest in clean energy and job creation.

Organizations that endorse Shapiro include The Pennsylvania Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania PAC, Pennsylvania State Education Association, and Pennsylvania Building Trades Council.

Josh Shapiro has been accused by republicans of caring more about leftist policies than innocent lives. Christopher Tremoglie, a writer for the Washington Examiner goes as far as to say, "Left-

wing criminal policies have led to crime waves throughout the country, especially in Pennsylvania... No number of bodies piling up on the street could get [Shapiro] to help the people of Philadelphia."

On the contrary Pennsylvania State Senator Doug Mastriano served in the US Army since 1986 and retired as a colonel in 2017. In 2013 he received a Ph.D. in history from the University of New Brunswick in Canada. Mastriano has served in the Pennsylvania Senate in the 33rd district since 2019 and is now in the running for the 2022 gubernatorial election.

Doug Mastriano's policies include opposing abortion, ending funding to Planned Parenthood and bolstering the Adoption system, ending vaccine and mask mandates appointing a Secretary of State and working with the legislature to oust mail in voting and drop boxes and replace them with universal voting ID.

Mastriano supports police funding, wants to increase penalties for repeat offenders and will crackdown on illegal immigrants in PA. Mastriano also wants a more transparent education system and wants eliminate property tax.

Mastriano aims place an immediate ban on biological males in girls' locker rooms and restrooms will ban biological males from competing in girls' sports.

Mastriano will encourage investments in the natural gas and coal industries, and he will lift Governor Tom Wolf's regulations on these industries. Under Mastriano, Pennsylvania will drill and mine.

Doug Mastriano is endorsed by former president Donald Trump and is planning a rally with him



soon. He is also backed by all but one member (State Representative Brian Fitzpatrick) of the Pennsylvania House GOP.

Mastriano has been accused of selfishness by democrats when it comes to his governmental actions. Vincent Difonzo of the Gettysburgian says, "Mastriano has accomplished nothing but perpetuating the spread of his hateful

beliefs on Pennsylvanians. Mastriano's record is one of self-interest, hatred towards women and minorities, and opposition to American democratic principles."

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Politics

Dr. Oz and John Fetterman Square Off In Senate Race

CHRISTIAN L. GROSSO

Centurion Staff

In a few weeks, citizens around the nation will be heading to the polls in what is expected to be a close midterm election. This is especially true in Pennsylvania, where voters will be choosing who will replace the seat of outgoing Republican Sen. Pat Toomey.

The state is considered by most to be a bellwether, meaning that whoever wins the seat is likely to do so by a very small margin. The senate is currently split at 50 senators evenly from both parties, but is controlled by Democrats because Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, holds the tie breaking vote.

If Democrats manage to flip Sen. Toomey's seat, they are likely to retain, or even expand their presence in the Senate. But if Republicans hold on to it, they would likely gain control of the Senate.

Republicans are eyeing to retain the seat by electing Dr. Mehmet Oz. He was known for his talk show, The Dr. Oz Show, where he talked about medical issues and promoted pseudoscience treatments. Oz was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but grew up in both Wilmington, Delaware and in Turkey, where he has dual citizenship.

His candidacy follows a recent trend of celebrities running for political office in the US that have not had any political experience, including the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Donald Trump. Oz was narrowly elected in the Republican Primary against Dave McCormick by less than one thousand votes, with Kathy Barnette not much farther behind.

In recent months, Dr. Oz has advertised himself as a moderate, but according to his campaign website, the reason he is running for senate is "Because America needs a conservative Republican to cure what's wrong with Washington."

WGAL Lancaster says that he has been endorsed by former president Donald Trump and the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association.

Democrats have targeted him for being, as they have labeled him, a "carpetbagger". According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, his primary residence was in New Jersey until he bought his home Bryn Athyn in December 2021, only months before he announced his candidacy.

On the Democratic side, Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman is aiming to flip the seat in a state that has become increasingly conservative over the past decade.

He has been the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania since 2019, and prior to that was the mayor of Braddock, a former industrial city just outside of Pittsburgh. He was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania and later grew up in York.

This isn't his first time running for this senate seat; he did so in 2016, but fell far short of winning the Democratic nomination behind Kate McGinty.

In the 2020 primaries however, he won the nomination by 58 percent, beating out the more moderate Conor Lamb. Fetterman has described himself as progressive, but the Philadelphia Inquirer says that he has pushed back on claims that he is a socialist.

He has been endorsed by President Joe Biden and The Human Rights Campaign.

Republicans have accused him of a racist incident that happened in 2013 while he was Braddock's mayor. He had pulled a gun out on a black jogger thinking that he was the one who shot a bullet, when in fact the jogger didn't, according to NBC News.

In recent months, political pundits have made it known that one

of two issues will dominate this election, and depending on which issue prevails will determine which party wins the midterms.

The strongpoint for Republicans is the economy, particularly the rise of inflation. A Morning Consult poll recently found that people trust Republicans on the economy by a 14-point margin.

According to NBC-8 Lancaster, "Oz is critical of President Joe Biden's handling of the economy, blaming "reckless spending" for inflation. He also said shutdowns and failed economic policies have led to problems with supply chains."

In recent ads, he has attacked Fetterman for supporting "the Biden economy". Oz, along with most Republicans are aiming to prevent the debt ceiling from being raised, and in turn reducing spending and lowering taxes.

The Hill writes that Fetterman responded to these claims by releasing "John's Plan to Hold Washington Accountable" — proposals to address corporate greed and inflation, among other issues. Some of his proposals include banning members of Congress from trading stocks and increasing production in the United States."

Fetterman has attacked Oz for being "a wealthy, out of touch celebrity" with the middle class, according to The New York Times. During a in Bristol, Fetterman reinstated his support for raising the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour. Oz has not made public his views on raising the minimum wage.

Abortion rights is the other major issue that has been seen as a major winning point for Democrats. Around the time Roe v. Wade, which was the case that made abortion legal nationwide was overturned in June, a Reuters poll showed that 71 percent of Americans supported the right to an abortion.

Most Democrats, including Fetterman, support the right to an abortion. When asked by WGAL if he supports abortion restrictions, Fetterman said "No, I believe that is a choice between a woman and her doctor. As a man and a politician, I don't have any input on that." Fetterman's campaign website also states that if elected, he would support codifying Roe v. Wade into federal law.

During a town hall this past May, Dr. Oz said abortion is "murder at any stage," according to NBC News. Many Republicans aim to ban abortion outright or strictly to limit its availability. But the Capital-Star pointed out that Oz has made contradicting statements recently, including that he "supports exceptions for rape, incest, or if the mother's life is at risk".

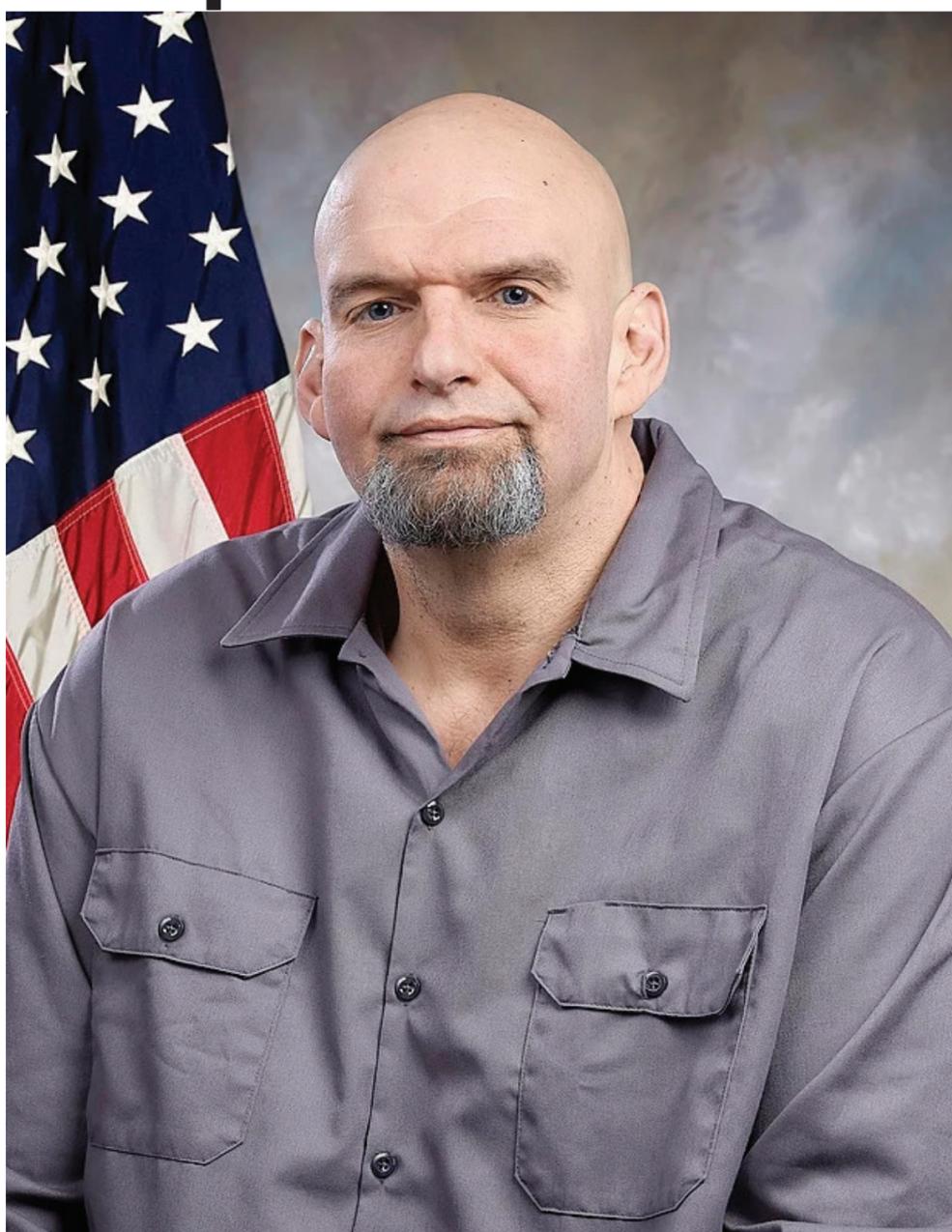
Though Abortion and the Economy are the top ranked issues, there are other issues that are on voters' minds this year, such as criminal policy.

Newsweek reports that Dr. Oz supports second amendment gun rights, and is against cashless bail. He has accused certain district attorneys like Larry Krasner of Philadelphia for being "soft on crime", and has called Fetterman "The most pro-murderer candidate in America."

Fetterman, on the other hand, views criminal policy as something that needs reform.

A quote from his website says that he "Will make sure law enforcement has the resources necessary to do their job, but I will also prioritize oversight, accountability, and violence prevention." He told WHYY that "It's time for Dr. Oz to answer if he believes that the wrongfully convicted should die in prison."

Another issue that is particularly affecting Bucks students is the student debt crisis. In August, President Biden announced his



John Fetterman, Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Dr. Mehmet Oz, Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

plan to cancel student debt of up to \$20,000 for some people.

After his announcement, Dr. Oz tweeted "Canceling student loans costs billions and is unfair to those who rightly paid off their debt."

Fetterman, though, supports forgiveness. His campaign site states, "I'll support efforts to make community colleges tuition-free and reduce the burden of student loan debt that too many borrowers are

experiencing right now."

Oz and Fetterman are expected to take part in a debate on Tuesday, Oct. 25, the only one planned between the two. Oz has criticized Fetterman for being not fit enough, and is criticizing him for his plan to use a teleprompter at the debate, as Fetterman had a stroke just days before the primaries.

But Fetterman has insisted that he is ok, and recently released a

medical report on Oct. 19 stating that he was doing well, according to Business Insider.

The midterms are only a few days away, so students and faculty should make a plan to vote, as your vote can make a huge difference. Especially in a state like Pennsylvania.

Bucks

The Open-Door Club Opens Its Doors To Bucks Students

PARKER DEStEFANO

Centurion Staff

Bucks' very own Open-Door Club met for the first time this semester on Tuesday Sept. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Rollins 115. The doors were indeed open to all who wanted to attend, and attendees were met with free pizza, cookies, and cupcakes to welcome all newcomers and returning members.

The meeting began with students introducing themselves by giving their name, pronouns, sexuality, and gender identity. Club president Abigayle, 28, a Photography student at Bucks, introduced herself and told the group the story of how she learned who she was and why she was the president of the club. After the informational portion of the meeting, the floor was open to members to share a bit about themselves, what they wanted to see for the future of the club and any ideas they may have had to make the club better.

The club will be meeting every Tuesday this semester from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Rollins 115. The Open-Door club is set to be a fun place to join friends and classmates that are either part of the LGBTQ+ community or allies. The club is as inclusive as the name suggests and students should be sure to feel welcome and accepted when they step through the classroom doors.

Abigayle has big plans for this year, hoping to have many events including a Halloween party, a bowling outing, and a prom later in the spring semester. Fund-raisers are also being discussed for later down the road to raise money for said outings.

Abigayle is "excited for this



year" and the same can be said for the rest of the members. With her big dreams for the Open-Door club to be an inclusive and safe space for all students no matter their age, gender, race, or sexuality, it is easy to see that there is a lot to be excited about. More information on upcoming events and fundraisers will come as plans are made, but it is sure to say that things are already in motion for a

big year for the Open-Door club.

The Open-Door club's goals are to discuss global, national, and local issues pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity which is open to anyone. Another goal of the club is to raise awareness to oppression that is harmful and offensive to the LGBTQ+ community such as homophobic slurs that is seen on a day-to-day basis.

Students who have worries about being supported will be supported by the club to help them transition or come out to their parents.

Centers of education are places where younger minds are cultivated to form an open mind with diverse populations on a regular college campus. However, the fear of oppression from fellow classmates can make it hard to be

open about their sexuality.

The Open-Door club will serve as a safe place for students suffering from oppression and will freely discuss issues that affect them at home or in the community.

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

The Importance of Counseling for Students

JENNA LOWENTHAL

Centurion Staff

In educational settings, the link between academic performance and mental health is known to be important, difficult, and fragile. Sometimes, something as simple as being in a good mood can make all the difference. And sometimes, talking to someone can be the very thing that puts you in that good mood.

Vicki Mansure has been a counselor at Bucks for 25 years. She prides herself on guiding students to their best lives. "I help students learn coping mechanisms, relieve stress, teach problem-solving and promote positivity overall," she said.

There are numerous factors when it comes to keeping up with academic performance, mental health can certainly influence how we manage this aspect of our life. Many people believe this concept is not discussed adequately.

Mansure also claimed, "When someone has a difficult event occurring in life, it's hard to perform academically & keep motivated."

She expressed how she helps students get through these difficult times. People experience a lot in their personal life & these events can harm us more than we think, especially in how we socialize, think about, and perform daily activities.

Having a rough time outside of school and poor mental health can lead to us being distracted, depressed, unmotivated, and anti-social. We may not be able to perform our normal daily tasks & be our true selves when we have other things going on inside our minds, so it is important we talk about them and promote awareness about it.

Issues could have also risen among students due to the Covid 19 pandemic. "People staying home could have awakened more problems," Mansure said. Most classes went virtual, and people became more closed off from



isolation. We are all still trying to adjust to these changes.

Mansure hosts a therapy group every Tuesday called "Talk about it Tuesdays." These meetings feature information tables in which she discusses specific issues that students could be facing. The hope is these meetings will aid students in solving issues and healing themselves. This way students can engage with their studies and their life while being happy and healthy.

Mansure said, "The group

recently spoke about perfectionism, stress & positivity." She expressed how students can doubt and look down on themselves for not being able to reach the ideal of the stereotypical perfect person and student.

This can be damaging because no one is perfect, and it is difficult to give yourself credit when you are picking at every little flaw and comparing yourself to other people's successes and achievements.

Just because you are not there yet does not mean you will never

get there. Everybody has a different journey in life, and we are all different. While education and success are what everyone dreams of, you must have the right mindset to do it.

Solving and dealing with the issues within you will help you improve your life will help you move forward from being stuck in your thoughts.

If you are struggling with something outside of school or simply just your mental health, a counselor at bucks can help and

guide you on the right path. Do not be afraid to reach out & seek guidance. Come join her talk about it Tuesdays.

To find more information about counseling at bucks visit <https://www.bucks.edu/resources/counseling/events/>

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash