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are farther away compared to the schools in the Mid-State,” Mr. Mike Campbell, athletic director, said. “The change to the HLC will make our conference games farther away, but this also allows us to schedule schools from the Mid-State that are nearby for our non-conference schedule.”

Another concern was leaving the history of the Mid-State behind.

“GHS was one of the founding schools of the Mid-State conference back in 1942. When talking with alumni from the 60s and 70s, even they agreed that it was a good time to move on from the conference,” Mr. Campbell said.

Although the Woodmen are changing conferences, scheduling should be relatively the same.

“When it comes to most sports, we will still have similar schedules. All of the schools we originally had on our schedules still want to play us. But for football, conference play will obviously look a little different,” Mr. Gasaway said.

Outside of athletics, the change to the HLC will not affect Greenwood students significantly.

“Outside of athletics, there won’t be many changes. We will still be around all of the same schools, like schools in Johnson County, when it comes to non-athletic things,” Mr. Gasaway said.



# 2024 election Republicans claim top spots

Kate Boyce  
opinion editor

Running for office can be a tumultuous task. Mrs. Sandy James, psychology teacher, ran for District 58 state representative this year. This was her first campaign for a major office, and she shared some insights on the process of getting on the ballot for the primary and general elections. She simply responded to a call to action by Democrats in the county.

“I was approached by the Johnson County Democrats, and they asked me to run. They thought that people would recognize my name, especially since I’ve been in the public school system for 34 years,” she said.

She utilized social media during her campaign to spread awareness to certain issues.

“I spent a lot of time on TikTok talking about what I believed in, and I showed it when I was endorsed by a group and made posts about my beliefs,” Mrs. James said.

She ran this campaign with the help of many volunteers; they went out on the weekends and knocked on doors, helped with literature and spread the word.

“Mostly social media, former students, former students’ parents, Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, and people also approached me and offered to help,” Mrs. James said.

She ran an organized and spirited campaign but ultimately fell short to Michelle Davis.

Not just people running for office make elections happen. There were many people behind the scenes of campaigns and county parties who helped the machine run. Johnson County Republican Chairwoman Beth Boyce was one of the cogs in the machine.

“We knocked on around 9,000 doors, sent around 30,000 pieces of direct mail, and 45,000 text messages, and we also hosted all kinds of different events. We held rallies to engage voters all around the county. Individual candidates also hosted events to raise money and spread word about their campaigns,” Mrs. Boyce said.

Social media can have a big influence on many voters’ decisions and candidates, and county parties utilized social media in different ways to reach voters.

“We utilize Facebook and Instagram to announce events, showcase the work we do and encourage others to join us. We also encourage people to join our email list. We can invite, share and spread the word about the party,” Mrs. Boyce said.

Even small counties across the country make change, and when voters came to polls, they expressed their desire for change.

“The voters across the country spoke clearly about their ideas and made change. We are also looking forward to new leadership across our state,” Mrs. Boyce said.

Mrs. Boyce gave one piece of advice for voters, new and old.

“Vote! They can research their candidates and engage with candidates, attend local events, meet candidates, and overall call for change by voting,” she said.

District 58 State Representative Michelle Davis ran in the general election this year and shared the importance of being engaged with the community.

“It is keeping the constituents active and engaged during the entire year; it keeps the importance of voting in the minds of people that I interact with. Staying and being engaged in the community is key,” she said.

Mrs. Davis could not have won without the help of volunteers, friends and family.

“For volunteers, I usually ask friends and family members. But also, this time since I have been in office a couple of years and know more people, some people offer to help if I ever need anything. Since it was a presidential year, there are a lot of Republicans that offer to help other Republicans running for office,” she said.

Spreading info about your campaign was important, and she used many different outlets but also relied on this election being so important to so many people.

“With this being a presidential election again, more people were engaged and interested in the direction of the nation, state and local elections. I just stayed true to what I stand for and who I am, staying active on social media and door knocking and remaining open to discussions,” Mrs. Davis said.



Senior Carter Swain enters the Greenwood Public Library to vote. This was Swain’s first time voting. Max Flowers photo



Volunteers man the voter registration tent at the State Fair. Seniors born before Nov. 5, 2006 were eligible to vote in this year’s election as long as they were registered. Elliette Hockersmith photo

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