

considered a conflict of interest. Around the country each states' Secretary of State is responsible for holding fair and equal elections.

After the 2016 presidential election, there was nationwide panic that the Russian Federation was meddling in the election. This fear of foreign governments having influence in American elections was very present this last election cycle around the country. The truth is, nations have been meddling in the United States elections for a lot longer than just the last two election cycles. Meddling is something that goes on in every election around the world and the United States does it to some extent as well. Attempting to influence an election so that a person or party's "more favorable" candidate will be in power is absolutely nothing new. It has been going on for decades and is something that people should be more conscious of, as opposed to being simply scared. If the ballot box is kept safe, there should be confidence in the American people that our elections are safe and secure.

Now looking closer at the 2018 election and the reason there is still races yet to be decided. In Florida, Georgia, and Arizona there are currently recounts underway, as several of the races were under the 0.5 percent which triggered an automatic recount.

In Minnesota, the first congressional district race was decided by just 1,311 votes with Republican Jim Hagedorn defeating Democrat Dan Feehan. The Margin of victory was 0.4 percent, which in any of these other states would have triggered and automatic recount, However, Minnesota State law on triggers an auto recount when the margin is within 0.25 percent.

When recounts are concluded, and we as Americans are presented our elected officials at the beginning of 2019, election security will continue to be an important issue going forward. It will be incredibly interesting to watch what measures will be implemented across the country in the 2020 presidential election. †

## Why Turkey is the Worst Food at Thanksgiving

BY ZACK MOELLER

THANKSGIVING IS ONE OF THE BEST HOLIDAYS OF THE YEAR, a staple of America, it rises to the top along with Easter, The Fourth of July, and Christmas. Realizing the little things we have in life, while eating great food in the company of family, friends, and other loved ones is enough to put even the grumpiest of people in a good mood. That being said, I still have an unpopular opinion in regard to the holiday.

Turkey, the main staple of our beloved Thanksgiving feast, is the worst food served every year. Now before you start arguing with me, hear me out. I am not saying turkey is the worst tasting food. If that were the case, I can think of several other foods that would beat out turkey for this award. I am making this case based on which food fails the most to live up to its expectations, to clarify that, turkey is the most overrated food of the meal.

The first problem with turkey is the preparation. A frozen turkey takes about 24 hours, one complete day of your life, to thaw. The result is a house that smells like cold, wet turkey, a smell that leaves little to be desired. Following this, the turkey takes hours and hours to cook, leaving the house with a much more pleasant aroma.

When the time finally comes to carve the turkey and enjoy, so much time and effort has been put into the preparation that expectations can sometimes fly a little too high. Every once in a while, a turkey turns out, or a new recipe is tried and it's actually really good. But more often than not, the turkey turns out drier than the Sahara Desert. Nothing makes me thirstier than a slab of white turkey meat. Turkey is naturally dry, but is also the food most likely to be cooked poorly of this meal.

After the meal is over, the second problem follows; Turkey makes you tired. Turkey contains high amounts of tryptophan, a precursor to melatonin, a hormone associated with drowsiness and sleep. Now believe

me a good nap is no bad thing, but nobody wants to fall asleep at family gathering in front of your weird cousin or a prankster uncle, who might mess with you while you sleep. In my opinion, I would rather stay awake and talk with my family, participate in board and card games, or watch a football game than take cat naps.

There is a reason we only make a turkey one day out of the year, but there are simply better meats than turkey. A nice sweet ham or chicken served any way is almost always the more desirable meal. Tradition is great, but turkey's time has run out. †

## Voting for the First Time: It's easier than you think!

BY KYLEE BALDWIN

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO VOTE since the 2016 presidential election.

Unfortunately, I never grew up with voting in my life and I didn't understand its importance. Because of this, I lost my chance to express my right in 2016. Voting is something many of us take for granted, despite it being our chance to change the country, and even the world we live in. People are fighting for our right to vote every single day, but I understand how intimidating voting can be.

To be a successful voter, you have to understand what your voting for. There's senate members, house of representatives, judicial members, mayors, and many more. It's difficult to track all of these races, and how they play out. You have to decide what party you want to vote for. The major parties are Democratic and Republican, but there are many other third parties to choose from as well. You also need to decide if you want to send your vote via the mail, or go to the polls. Do you want to vote early or on voting day? There's so many questions to answer!

Don't worry though, voting can be made simple. To learn about who's running in the upcoming elections, there are many wonderful local news sites that list all of the major candidates. These sites often do a good job of laying out all of the major issues that each candidate stands behind. Keep in mind though, these sites may be biased, so it is a good idea to check multiple sites. Next, you want to decide what method you want to use to vote. You can choose to be an absentee, which means you are voting from a different city, but you're voting in the city of your current home address.

Being a Concordia Student, you actually get the chance to vote in the St. Paul elections because you are a college student at the university! This is a unique feature for college students that benefits all! If you decide you want vote at the polls, and you live on campus, the polls are only one city block away (which is very convenient if you don't have a vehicle on campus).

CSP is awesome in aiding students in voting registration. Concordia does most of the registration work for you ahead of time, so all you have to do is fill out a form with your name, school address, and contact information.

You then present the volunteers with your school ID card to confirm you're a student. Once you receive your registration slip, you can present this slip to another volunteer and receive your ballot. Once your ballot is completed, you load it into the computer system and you've voted!

But wait, you're not done yet! Don't forget your "I Voted" sticker! I hope you were able to vote in this past election. If you didn't, I hope this inspires you to vote in 2020! †