

## US Elections Reflection

The 2012 presidential elections have been the topic of news for a while now. Being in the “MIT bubble,” however, prevents many of us from taking an active role in or even being properly informed of the issues in this election. For this reason, I was interested in discussing the elections but for the same reasons, I wasn’t sure if the discussion was going to be a particularly lively one. However, I was happy to find that we were able to have a heated discussion about the subject.

We were first asked whom of the candidates we would be voting for. The results of this polling did not surprise me in the least. After having been at MIT for almost two semesters, I have noticed that MIT is a relatively liberal campus so I had expected a majority of the class to choose the reelection of Obama.

As the discussion progressed, the facilitators asked what issue was most important to us in this election and why. This made the topic a lot easier to discuss because we were able to personalize it a bit. The results of this polling were relatively surprising. I had expected a good majority of the class to express that the economy or creation of jobs was the most important issue to them and I was partially correct. Though many people did say that the economy/jobs was the most important issue to them, a number of people also expressed that education was the issue they felt was most important. I had not expected this. Given the nature of the students that choose to attend a school like MIT, however, it makes sense that many students find it a pressing issue. Those who choose to attend MIT clearly place high value in education and thus it makes sense that MIT students would be concerned about the state of our nation’s education system.

Though I agree that education is one of the most important issues the presidential candidates (and the nation as a whole) face, foreign policy was the most important issue for me in the upcoming election. In my eleven years in the US, I have noticed that as much as this nation talks about the importance of freedom and the evils of terrorism, it engages in an immense amount of oppression and terrorism. Having been born in a nation where the government actively oppresses its people, I have a vested interest in this matter. I have noticed that the US provides billions of dollars in “aid” and support to oppressive governments that actively engage in terrorism. Engaging in these types of actions has made the US a less-than-likable nation in the eyes of many foreigners and unless this nation stops engaging in these indirect forms of oppression and terrorism, terrorism against the US will continue to grow.

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