A message from the Dean
FERNANDO A. KHALISI-MILHAGA

What are we learning from the election results?
by Dean Fernando A. Khalisi-Milhaga

A few minutes have passed since the polls closed, and the night is just beginning. More and more states are beginning to report their results, and the networks are already calling the race. Our country is at a crossroads, and we are all in the middle of this historic election.

(1) We are living in one of the most polarized times in our history. Our candidates are running as far apart as they can, and only coming to the middle when people can agree on things. This is not a healthy way to manage our differences. As our democracy is based on the middle, we all need to respect this approach for the current time.

(2) We all are taking a dose of patience and waiting for all votes to be counted. I know this is a lot to ask; however, it is a requirement to be a democracy. It is not the system to create anxiety. Yet, it is our democracy at work.

(3) The USA is a union of states. Each state has their own rules and they are being followed and respected following the basic premise, “If you voted, your vote should be counted,” (regardless of who you voted for). It is up to the states to count the votes. We cannot prevent states from counting votes.

(4) Let me say this again: this is a very close race. This means we all have friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers, who voted differently than we did. We all need to do our best to respect that difference, be tolerant and constructive, build on it to become more agreeable going forward.

A few reflections on the morning after Election Day…and the path forward.
by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

What are we learning from the election results?

(1) It is a much closer race than any side expected or wanted. We are a deeply polarized country; some of us could soon be bringing our urine-based test to the entire state.

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More on their research nomination process should be addressed to facaward@gmu.edu. The letter should describe the nominee’s accomplishments specific to the relevant criteria. Questions about the nomination process should be addressed to facaward@gmu.edu.

To recommend a faculty member, please submit a letter of nomination to facaward@gmu.edu through January 8, 2021. Nominations are invited from across the entire Mason community to recommend an outstanding faculty member for the Mason’s Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence. These awards are designed to honor the recipient faculty for their excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, social impact, and diversity and inclusion. Nominations are open for Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence.