



MEMORANDUM

To: Alliance for Youth Action
From: Drew Linzer, Civiqs
Date: September 12, 2020
RE: Results of Battleground State Poll of Young Democrats & Leaning Independents

Major Findings

A Civiqs poll conducted for the Alliance for Youth Action finds that, for the third consecutive month, the coronavirus pandemic is the most important issue for the 2020 presidential election among young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in ten key swing states. Affordable healthcare remains the second-most important issue, narrowly followed by ending systemic racism and discrimination.

The impact of the coronavirus on young progressives (ages 18-39) is being felt mainly through concerns about the health of their parents. However, more are now worried about losing their jobs or incomes, compared to August. For Independents, the threat of losing their job has overtaken worries about their parents' health as the top concern.

Nearly half (45%) of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in swing states say that increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy is the most important change they would make to the U.S. economy. Many are also interested in raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour and cancelling rent payments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sentiments towards Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden are becoming more positive. Nearly one in three (30%) young swing state progressives hold a very favorable view of Biden, up from 23% in August. This may be the result of Biden's selection of Senator Kamala Harris as his vice presidential nominee: 40% say that the choice makes them more likely to vote for Biden, compared to 12% saying it makes them less likely to support him.

After concerns about potential White House interference with the United States Postal Service made national headlines, young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents have shied away from mail-in voting. In August, a plurality (46%) of young swing state progressives were planning to vote by mail and 36% planned to vote in person. Now, most (48%) are planning to vote in person. Of those planning to vote in person, 64% plan to go during early voting.

Coronavirus and Affordable Healthcare Remain Most Important Issues

One quarter (23%) of young swing state progressives consider the coronavirus to be the most important issue of the 2020 election, a slight decrease since August (28%). Sixteen percent believe that affordable healthcare is the most important issue and 15% say it is ending systemic racism and discrimination. Overall, the most important issues remain unchanged from August: about half of those interviewed (48%) rank affordable healthcare as one of their top three priorities in the upcoming election. The second most shared top-three concern is coronavirus (45%), followed by ending systemic racism (44%).

For young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents, the health of their parents is the most widespread concern surrounding the impact of the coronavirus. Those aged 18-25 are the most worried about their parents, and the least worried about their own health, or losing a job or income. Compared to this summer, however, economic concerns are continuing to rise in importance. Independents are now most worried about losing their job: for 24% it is their top concern; 22% are mainly worried about their parents' health.

When thinking about addressing changes to the economy, nearly half of young swing state progressives (45%) think that increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy is the most important issue to address. This includes 47% of Democrats and 41% of Independents. Fully 82% of young swing state progressives chose increasing taxes as one of their top three priorities, followed by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour (62%) and cancelling rent during COVID-19 (32%).

The 2020 Presidential Election

Young Democrats in battleground states have an increasingly positive opinion of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. Where only two-thirds (61%) had a very or somewhat favorable view of Biden in August, that number increased to 68% in September, with 30% holding a very favorable view of Biden.

If the election were held today, 87% of young progressives in swing states would vote for Biden, a small increase from 86% in August. The number unsure has fallen from 4% in August to 2% in September.

The selection of Senator Kamala Harris as Biden's running mate has been very positively received, especially among young Democrats and Democrats of color. Overall, 24% say that the choice makes them much more likely to vote for Biden. This increases to 30% among Democrats and 35% of Black progressives.

Over two-thirds (68%) of young swing-state progressives have been contacted by the Biden campaign in the past month, an eight point increase from August. Over half (51%) were contacted by the Trump campaign, a four point increase from last month. The Trump campaign continues to rely predominantly on digital advertising, reaching 25% of young

Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in the past month—including 43% of those aged 18-25.

A Dramatic Shift Towards In-Person Voting

In August, a plurality (46%) of young swing-state progressives were planning to vote by mail and 36% planned to vote in person. Over the past month, these percentages have nearly reversed. A plurality (48%) of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents now plan to vote in person, with 43% planning to vote by mail. Black voters remain the most likely to vote in person: 57% plan to vote in person, and 34% plan to vote by mail.

Overall, 39% intend to early vote, 22% plan to vote on Election Day, and 36% expect to vote by mail. Over half (54%) of young Latinx voters and 51% of young Black voters intend to go to the polls during early voting, compared to 29% of white voters.

More than half (57%) of young swing-state progressives have been contacted by local government, candidate campaigns, or local organizations with information on how to vote. In Florida, 65% report receiving information about voting, compared to 35% in Texas.

Methodology

Civiqs interviewed 933 Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents aged 18-39 in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin from September 8-12, 2020. The survey was conducted online, among selected members of the Civiqs research panel. Sampled individuals were emailed by Civiqs and responded using a personalized link to the survey at civiqs.com. The survey results are weighted by age, race, gender, education, party identification, and state to be representative of the population of registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents aged 18-39 in the ten states. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 3.7\%$ at the 95% confidence level, accounting for the weighting design effect. More information about Civiqs can be found online at civiqs.com/methodology.