



MEMORANDUM

To: Alliance for Youth Action
From: Drew Linzer, Civiqs
Date: October 13, 2020
RE: Results of Battleground State Poll of Young Democrats & Leaning Independents

Major Findings

With two weeks remaining until the 2020 presidential election, a Civiqs poll conducted for the Alliance for Youth Action finds that one in five (20%) young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in ten key battleground states have already voted.

These young progressives have an increasingly positive view of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. Three-quarters (74%) of young swing state progressives have either a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Biden, compared to 68% in September and 61% in August.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to be the most important 2020 election issue for young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents. The second highest priority is affordable healthcare, followed by climate change. On issues of elections and democracy, young progressives are prioritizing fair redistricting, an end to partisan gerrymandering, and campaign finance reform to limit contributions from wealthy corporations and individuals.

Young swing state progressives oppose another Trump nominee on the Supreme Court before the election: 44% say if this happens, it will motivate them to be more likely to vote for Joe Biden. If Biden becomes president, 64% support Democrats adding four additional justices to the Supreme Court, with 42% strongly supporting this action.

Coronavirus is Still the Top Issue of the 2020 Election

The coronavirus pandemic remains the most important issue in the upcoming election for young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents, with 27% choosing it as their top priority. Among Black voters, ending systemic racism and discrimination is close behind in importance. For young white and Latinx voters, the second-most important issue is access to affordable healthcare. Younger Democrats are more concerned about climate change: 21%

of those age 18-25 chose it as their top issue, compared to 13% of younger millennials (age 26-32) and 10% of older millennials (age 33-39).

Over half of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents (53%) chose affordable healthcare as one of their top three priorities for the 2020 election, a five percent increase from September. Nearly half (48%) rank the coronavirus and 44% rank climate change as one of their top three issues in the upcoming election. Systemic racism and discrimination was fourth at 37%.

Young swing state progressives' concerns about the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic remain high. While a plurality are mainly concerned about the threat to their parents' health (29%), for another 22%, the greatest worry is that they will lose their job, hours, or income, or get furloughed.

Thinking about addressing changes to elections and democracy, a plurality of young swing state progressives (29%) select fair redistricting and ending partisan gerrymandering as the most important issue. This is followed by implementing campaign finance reform (19%) and restoring voting rights to people convicted of felonies (11%).

Opinions Toward Joe Biden Improving Rapidly

In September, 30% of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents had a very favorable opinion of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. In October, that proportion has shot up to 38%. Overall, three-quarters (74%) of young swing state progressives have a favorable opinion of Biden, an increase from 68% in September. Three quarters (75%) of young Black Democrats have a favorable opinion of Biden, as do 74% of whites and 72% of Latinx voters.

Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris is more divisive than her running mate. While more young swing state progressives have a very favorable opinion of Harris—45% to Biden's 38%—there are also a larger number with an unfavorable view of her; 14%, versus 9% with a very unfavorable opinion of Biden. Older millennials are more likely to support Harris: 55% of those age 33-39 have a very favorable view of her, compared to only 30% of those age 18-25. While a majority (53%) of young swing state progressives say that Harris's selection has no impact on their decision to vote for Biden, over one third (37%) say it makes them more likely to vote for the Democratic ticket, including 55% of Black voters and 37% of Latinx voters.

Young swing state progressives continue to overwhelmingly dislike President Trump, with 91% viewing the president very unfavorably. This result is consistent across all racial, gender, and age categories. Nine in ten young swing state Democrats (90%) would vote for Biden today, virtually unchanged from September.

Three-quarters (75%) of young swing-state progressives have been contacted by the Biden campaign in the past month, a 7% increase from September. Half (50%) were contacted by the Trump campaign, two percentage points lower than last month.

Biden's campaign is reaching these potential voters through a variety of methods: 30% have received multiple forms of communication, 26% have been contacted through text message, and 12% have received digital ads. While Trump's campaign is still largely utilizing digital ads, their reach has decreased. Where 25% of young swing-state progressives saw a digital ad from the Trump campaign in September, only 20% saw one in October.

No to Trump Supreme Court Nominee, Yes to Larger Supreme Court

Young swing state progressives oppose the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court before the election. While 47% say Judge Barrett's confirmation will not impact their vote, 44% of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents say that if a Trump nominee is confirmed to the Supreme Court, it will make them more likely to vote for Joe Biden.

Young swing state progressives overwhelmingly approve of Democrats adding four additional justices to the Supreme Court if Joe Biden becomes president. A plurality (42%) strongly support this idea, including 47% of Democrats and 33% of Independents; an additional 22% somewhat support expanding the Supreme Court.

The Senate: Present and Future

A plurality of young swing state progressives (46%) think that Mitch McConnell and Republicans in Congress are responsible for a lack of an additional COVID federal relief bill. An additional 28% blame Donald Trump and the White House; 17% blame all of Congress, with only 6% holding Nancy Pelosi and Democrats in Congress primarily responsible.

If Democrats gain control of the Senate in 2020, 36% of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independent voters would like them to prioritize raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations. About a quarter (23%) want Medicare for All enacted; and 15% want the Green New Deal to be passed.

One in Five Young Swing-State Progressives Have Already Voted

As of mid-October, one in five (20%) young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in the ten states polled have already voted. Of those who haven't, nearly half (48%) are planning to vote early in-person, including 58% of Latinx voters and 51% of Black voters. Another one in five (22%) will be sending in their mail or absentee ballot by Election Day. Only 18% say that they are planning to vote on Election Day. The youngest voters, age

18-25, are most likely to be waiting to vote in person. Of those voting absentee or by mail, two-thirds (67%) have already received their ballots.

Methodology

Civiqs interviewed 1,047 Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents aged 18-39 in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin from October 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.