



MEMORANDUM

To: Alliance for Youth Action
From: Drew Linzer, Civiqs
Date: November 30, 2020
RE: Results of Post-Election Poll of Young Democrats & Leaning Independents

Major Findings

On January 20, Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States. A Civiqs poll conducted for the Alliance for Youth Action finds that nearly two-thirds (59%) of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents in ten key battleground states want the Biden administration and Democrats to push through a big, bold policy agenda.

Over half (51%) say that the coronavirus pandemic is the most important issue for the Biden administration to address. Healthcare and the economy are the next-most important issues.

Looking ahead to the first hundred days of the Biden presidency, there is deep and broad support for a range of Democratic policy initiatives, most prominently:

- Ending the border separation policy and reuniting children separated from their families (49% say this is a top priority)
- Increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy (36% say this is a top priority)
- Cancelling rent payments during the COVID-19 pandemic (35% say this is a top priority)
- Ending partisan gerrymandering and implementing fair redistricting processes (35% say this is a top priority)

Young voters are most interested in economic, healthcare, and immigration policies that can have an immediate impact. When asked which policy would be most important to them, 20% select cancelling rent payments during the pandemic, followed by implementing Medicare for All (14%) and ending the border separation policy (12%).

There is energy among young voters that the Biden administration could harness. Over half (51%) of young swing-state progressives say they are extremely motivated to be involved in civic engagement and politics in 2021.

The 2020 Election

In the weeks leading up to the November 2020 general election, fully 78% of young progressive voters in swing states received some form of contact from the Biden presidential campaign. Over a third (38%) were contacted in more than one way: text message, digital ads, mail, or on the phone. A smaller number, 56%, had some contact from the Trump campaign during the final weeks of the election.

Over two-thirds (69%) of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents felt some concern that their vote in the 2020 election might not be counted. Nine out of ten of these individuals changed their voting habits accordingly, either by tracking their ballot or voting in person to ensure their vote was counted.

Nearly half (48%) of young swing-state progressives were involved in the general election in some manner. Many donated to a campaign or nonprofit (28%), volunteered or canvassed for a campaign (7%), or participated in more than one way (14%).

The Pandemic is the Most Important Issue for the Biden Administration

Addressing the coronavirus pandemic is the most important issue to 51% of young swing-state progressives for the upcoming Biden administration. Affordable healthcare (11%), the economy (10%), and climate change (10%) are also selected as top issues by significant numbers of young voters. The economy and healthcare are many voters' second-most important issues as well. Overall, 60% of young voters say that addressing the pandemic is one of their top two priorities; 30% say that affordable healthcare is one of their two top priorities, and 30% mention the economy as either a first or second priority.

Democratic-leaning Independents have different priorities than voters who identify primarily as Democrats. Overwhelmingly, Democrats see the coronavirus pandemic (59%) as the most important issue for the Biden administration to address. In contrast, while 40% of Independents say that the pandemic is the most important issue, many are instead focused on the economy (15%) or affordable healthcare (14%).

The Biden Administration's First 100 Days

Looking ahead to the first hundred days of the Biden administration, young swing-state progressives are supportive of a wide-ranging set of Democratic policy ideas.

The initiatives receiving the highest levels of support are policies that can go into effect immediately. Ending Trump's border separation policy is extremely popular, driven by Latinx swing-state progressives; nearly two-thirds of whom (58%) say it is a top priority, in addition to 48% of white and 44% of Black swing-state progressives.

Policies that would increase financial security for young swing-state progressives are also slated as top priorities. There is tremendous support for cancelling rent payments during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 35% saying that this is a top priority.

Education policies are seen as vital. Cancelling student loan debt is a top priority for 30% of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents. This policy is most supported by those with college degrees: 31% of college graduates and 39% of postgraduates. Young Black voters are especially supportive of this proposal, with 42% calling it a top priority. Similarly, free tuition to public colleges and universities is a top priority for 20% of young swing-state progressives—and 23% of those currently without college degrees.

Economic fairness is sought by many young swing-state progressive voters. Increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy is a top priority for 36% of young Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent voters. Nearly half (45%) of Latinx voters in this group say that it is a top priority, compared to 36% of white progressives and 29% of Black progressives.

Governance issues are a final area where the Biden administration can take important steps that would be popular among young progressive voters—Latinx voters in particular. One in three (35%) young swing-state progressives support ending partisan gerrymandering as a top priority, along with 40% of Latinx voters. Likewise, 28% of young swing-state progressives say that implementing campaign finance reform is a top priority for the Biden administration. This includes 34% of Latinx voters, 29% of Black progressives and 25% of white progressives.

Methodology

Civiqs interviewed 947 Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents aged 18-39 in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin from November 23-26, 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 $\pm 3.8\%$ at the 95% confidence level, accounting for the weighting design effect. More information about Civiqs can be found online at civiqs.com/methodology.