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GenForward/HitStrat March 2021

Young Adult Policy Agenda by Age/Generation

The first of its kind bi-monthly survey of racially and ethnically diverse young adults

GenForward is a survey associated with the University of Chicago

Interviews:
02/22 – 03/08/2021
Total N: 3,130 adults
Age Range: 18-36

NOTE: All results indicate percentages unless otherwise labeled.

MARGIN OF ERROR ESTIMATES (% pts)

Group	*Estimate*
Full Sample	+/- 2.54%
African Americans	+/- 4.65%
Asian Americans	+/- 5.37%
Latinxs	+/- 4.73%
Whites	+/- 3.97%

NOTE: All estimates are calculated at the 95% level of confidence

Q41. Which of the following approaches to expanding health care coverage to more Americans would you prefer?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Repeal the Affordable Care Act	6	10	9
Keep and build on the existing Affordable Care Act	25	23	24
Replace the Affordable Care Act with a national Medicare-for-all plan that everyone must register for	19	16	17
Establish a public option like Medicare-for-all but let people stay on their private insurance if they want to	34	36	35
None of these	15	13	14
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	1	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

Split-ballot

Q42A. Recently, lawmakers have discussed whether the federal government should cancel some portion of student loans for people who currently hold federal student loan debt [ ]. Which of the following policy options do you prefer?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
The federal government should not cancel any student loan debt	20	24	23
Cancel $10,000 in federal student loan debt	26	21	23
Cancel $50,000 in federal student loan debt	17	20	19
Cancel all federal student loan debt	36	34	34
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	1	1
N	478	1,075	1,553

Q42B. Recently, lawmakers have discussed whether the federal government should cancel some portion of student loans for people who currently hold federal student loan debt [and make less than $125,000 per year]. Which of the following policy options do you prefer?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
The federal government should not cancel any student loan debt	21	25	24
Cancel $10,000 in federal student loan debt	25	23	24
Cancel $50,000 in federal student loan debt	18	20	19
Cancel all federal student loan debt	35	31	32
SKIPPED / REFUSED	*	1	1
N	507	1,070	1,577

Split-ballot

Q43A. When thinking about how Congress should respond to the coronavirus pandemic, which statement comes closest to your view?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Congress should provide $2,000 per month to [every person] for the duration of the pandemic	54	51	52
Congress should provide one-time $2,000 checks to [every person]	20	24	22
Congress should not provide any additional money to individuals in the form of stimulus checks	9	11	10
Don't know	17	14	15
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1	1	1
N	509	1,056	1,565

Q43B. When thinking about how Congress should respond to the coronavirus pandemic, which statement comes closest to your view?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Congress should provide $2,000 per month to [those making $75,000 or less] for the duration of the pandemic	52	52	52
Congress should provide one-time $2,000 checks to [those making $75,000 or less]	25	21	22
Congress should not provide any additional money to individuals in the form of stimulus checks	9	11	10
Don't know	10	16	14
SKIPPED / REFUSED	3	1	2
N	476	1,089	1,565

Q44. Which of the following legislative proposals to address the coronavirus pandemic do you think the Biden administration and the U.S. Congress should prioritize? Please select up to two proposals.

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Infrastructure investment	8	12	11
Increase the minimum wage	18	17	17
Stimulus checks	41	48	45
Fund struggling industries	10	8	9
Universal healthcare	27	22	23
Expand social security	4	4	4
More absentee voting	2	2	2
Aid to states/cities	10	10	10
Resources for COVID-19 testing and tracing	20	15	17
Hazard pay for essential workers	11	14	13
Prioritize support for small businesses	12	18	16
Student loan reform	10	10	10
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1	1	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q45. Here are some areas of racial justice reform that might be addressed by the Biden administration and the U.S. Congress. Please select which area should be the top priority.

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Criminal justice reform, such as eliminating cash bonds, eliminating jail and prison time for non-violent offenses, and releasing everyone in jail or prison for non-violent offenses	22	31	28
Policing reforms, such as reducing funding for the police, adopting community policing, and prosecuting police officers who use excessive force	27	22	23
Reducing the racial wealth gap, such as investments in historically under-represented neighborhoods, reducing the racial income gap, investments in Black-owned small businesses and equal access to lending opportunities, and access to higher education	33	34	34
Reparations for African Americans, such as free public education, guaranteed minimum living wage, and cash payments	10	8	9
SKIPPED / REFUSED	7	5	6
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q46. In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Present level	42	44	44
Increased	31	30	30
Decreased	24	25	24
DON'T KNOW	-	*	*
SKIPPED / REFUSED	3	1	2
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q47. Next, we would like to get your opinion about immigration proposals currently being considered in Washington. Please select the policy you think should be most prioritized by the Biden administration and U.S. Congress.

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Create a path to citizenship in which law-abiding immigrants currently living in this country illegally are allowed to eventually apply for citizenship.	51	52	52
Increase government spending on security measures and enforcement at U.S. borders.	8	8	8
Allow undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain citizenship if they have received a high school degree, the equivalent of a high school degree, or are currently in school.	20	18	19
Expand 'guest worker' programs that would give a temporary visa to non-citizens who want to work legally in the United States.	8	10	9
Identify and deport all immigrants currently living in this country illegally.	5	6	6
Build a wall along the Mexican border to help stop illegal immigration.	5	5	5
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	1	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q48. Please select the policy you think should be most prioritized by the Biden administration and U.S. Congress.

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
It should be eliminated	3	4	4
States should decide the minimum wage, not the federal government	17	21	20
Kept where it is	14	9	11
Raise to $12.00	23	24	23
Raise to $15.00	25	27	26
Raise to $20.00	17	15	15
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	*	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q49. Which of the following policies to address income and wealth inequality in the U.S. do you think should be a priority for the Biden administration and U.S. Congress?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Universal basic income, or a guaranteed monthly payment to every individual in the United States	14	17	16
Government guarantee of a job to all who want one	12	10	10
Forgiving student loan debt	14	14	14
Free access to college	19	15	16
Ending predatory lending practices	9	9	9
Invest in affordable housing	11	10	11
Increasing taxes for rich people	13	14	14
Cash payments to families with children to alleviate child poverty	6	8	7
SKIPPED / REFUSED	3	3	3
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q50. Some in Congress have offered up a plan called the Green New Deal meant to address climate change and income inequality by focusing on creating clean energy jobs and ending our use of fossil fuel in the United States. How much do you support or oppose the idea?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly support	40	36	38
Somewhat support	30	39	36
Somewhat oppose	19	12	14
Strongly oppose	9	11	11
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	1	2
N	985	2,145	3,130

Q51. What do you think are the three most important legislative or policy priorities for Joe Biden to achieve?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Send $2000 COVID-19 relief checks to Americans	44	48	46
End family separation at the U.S.-Mexico border and reunite separated families	25	23	24
Create a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children	23	19	20
Raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour	25	27	26
Give all Americans the option of buying Medicare-like public health insurance	19	25	23
Cancel $10,000 of student loan debt for each borrower	17	19	19
Repeal the Trump tax cuts for Americans making more than $400,000	13	18	16
Eliminate tuition at public colleges and universities for families making up to $125,000	13	10	11
Enact comprehensive criminal justice reform	10	15	13
Cut carbon emissions to zero by the year 2050	16	17	17
Implement a domestic policy task force to reduce structural racism across all federal agencies	9	10	10
Other	2	4	3
None of the above	10	7	8
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	1	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

DEMOGRAPHICS

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or what?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Democrat	30	37	35
Republican	22	21	21
Independent	34	29	30
Something else	15	12	13
SKIPPED / REFUSED	*	*	*
N	985	2,145	3,130

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Closer to the Republican Party	13	20	17
Closer to the Democratic Party	40	39	39
Neither	46	42	43
SKIPPED / REFUSED	*	*	*
N	393	753	1,146

Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strong Democrat	43	45	45
Not very strong Democrat	57	54	55
SKIPPED / REFUSED	-	*	*
N	419	1,013	1,432

Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strong Republican	38	37	38
Not very strong Republican	60	63	62
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	*	1
N	173	379	552

Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Strong Dem	13	17	16
Not Strong Dem	17	20	19
Close to Dem	20	16	17
Independent	23	17	19
Close to Rep	7	8	8
Not Strong Rep	13	13	13
Strong Rep	8	8	8
N	976	2,141	3,117

AGE

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
18-24	100	-	34
25-30	-	50	33
31-36	-	50	33
N	985	2,145	3,130

GENDER

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Male	52	49	50
Female	48	51	50
N	985	2,145	3,130

RACE/ETHNICITY

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Black	15	14	14
Asian	7	8	8
Latinx	23	21	22
White	52	56	55
Other	2	1	1
N	985	2,145	3,130

MARITAL STATUS

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Married	9	38	28
Widowed	1	1	1
Divorced	1	3	2
Separated	1	2	2
Never married	75	43	54
Living with partner	13	14	14
N	985	2,145	3,130

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Employed	50	73	65
Not employed	50	27	35
N	985	2,145	3,130

EDUCATION

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
No HS diploma	17	6	10
HS graduate or equivalent	37	21	27
Some college	36	30	32
BA or above	10	43	32
N	985	2,145	3,130

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Under $10,000	16	8	11
$10,000 to under $20,000	12	7	9
$20,000 to under $30,000	16	13	14
$30,000 to under $40,000	13	12	12
$40,000 to under $50,000	5	9	8
$50,000 to under $75,000	14	19	17
$75,000 to under $100,000	9	13	12
$100,000 to under $150,000	8	12	11
$150,000 or more	7	6	6
N	985	2,145	3,130

What is your present religion, if any?

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Protestant	19	21	21
Roman Catholic	11	16	15
Mormon	3	2	2
Orthodox	1	*	*
Jewish	2	1	1
Muslim	2	1	1
Buddhist	1	1	1
Hindu	1	1	1
Atheist	10	6	6
Agnostic	7	8	8
Nothing in particular	24	23	23
Just Christian	14	18	17
Unitarian	2	*	1
Something else	4	2	3
N	303	1,293	1,596

Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Yes	32	35	34
No	68	65	66
N	171	777	948

How often do you attend religious services?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Never	33	30	31
Less than once per year	10	14	13
About once or twice a year	14	15	15
Several times a year	10	13	12
About once a month	7	4	5
2-3 times a month	6	5	5
Nearly every week	4	5	5
Every week	13	10	10
Several times a week	4	5	5
N	297	1,282	1,579

UNWEIGHTED DEMOGRAPHICS

UNWEIGHTED Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or what?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Democrat	43	47	46
Republican	18	18	18
Independent	28	25	26
Something else	11	10	11
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1	*	*
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Closer to the Republican Party	14	17	16
Closer to the Democratic Party	39	37	38
Neither	45	46	46
SKIPPED / REFUSED	2	*	1
N	393	753	1,146

UNWEIGHTED Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strong Democrat	58	59	59
Not very strong Democrat	42	40	41
SKIPPED / REFUSED	-	*	*
N	419	1,013	1,432

UNWEIGHTED Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strong Republican	54	50	51
Not very strong Republican	45	50	48
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1	*	1
N	173	379	552

UNWEIGHTED Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Strong Dem	25	28	27
Not Strong Dem	18	19	19
Close to Dem	16	13	14
Independent	18	16	17
Close to Rep	6	6	6
Not Strong Rep	8	9	9
Strong Rep	10	9	9
N	976	2,141	3,117

UNWEIGHTED AGE

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
18-24	100	-	31
25-30	-	48	33
31-36	-	52	35
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED GENDER

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Male	48	46	47
Female	52	54	53
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED RACE/ETHNICITY

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Black	28	25	26
Asian	18	15	16
Latinx	27	25	26
White	24	34	31
Other	3	1	2
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED MARITAL STATUS

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Married	8	37	28
Widowed	1	*	1
Divorced	2	3	2
Separated	1	2	2
Never married	76	45	55
Living with partner	12	13	13
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Employed	52	74	67
Not employed	48	26	33
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED EDUCATION

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
No HS diploma	15	5	8
HS graduate or equivalent	29	15	19
Some college	41	31	34
BA or above	16	49	38
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Under $10,000	18	9	12
$10,000 to under $20,000	13	9	10
$20,000 to under $30,000	15	12	13
$30,000 to under $40,000	10	11	11
$40,000 to under $50,000	6	8	8
$50,000 to under $75,000	14	18	17
$75,000 to under $100,000	9	13	12
$100,000 to under $150,000	8	13	11
$150,000 or more	7	7	7
N	985	2,145	3,130

UNWEIGHTED What is your present religion, if any?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Protestant	18	22	22
Roman Catholic	15	16	16
Mormon	2	1	2
Orthodox	*	*	*
Jewish	1	1	1
Muslim	2	1	2
Buddhist	2	1	1
Hindu	2	1	2
Atheist	6	4	4
Agnostic	5	7	6
Nothing in particular	26	23	24
Just Christian	16	18	17
Unitarian	1	*	*
Something else	4	3	3
N	303	1,293	1,596

UNWEIGHTED Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?

	Gen Z	Millennial	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	30	36	35
No	70	64	65
N	171	777	948

UNWEIGHTED How often do you attend religious services?

	Gen Z %	Millennial %	Total %
Never	31	27	28
Less than once per year	11	15	14
About once or twice a year	14	15	15
Several times a year	12	13	13
About once a month	7	5	5
2-3 times a month	5	5	5
Nearly every week	5	5	5
Every week	11	10	10
Several times a week	3	5	4
N	297	1,282	1,579

STUDY METHODOLOGY

The GenForward March survey is a project of Professor Cathy J. Cohen at the University of Chicago. Interviews were conducted with a representative sample from GenForward[SM], a nationally representative survey panel of adults ages 18-36 recruited and administered by NORC at the University of Chicago.

A total of 3,130 interviews were conducted between February 22nd and March 8th, 2021 with adults ages 18-36, including completed interviews with 815 African American young adults, 490 Asian American young adults, 803 Latinx young adults, 969 White young adults, and 53 young adults with other racial and ethnic backgrounds. The survey was offered in English and Spanish and via telephone and web modes.

The GenForward survey was built from two sample sources:

- Fifty-four percent of the completed interviews are sourced from NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panel and from the Black Youth Project (BYP) panel of young adults recruited by NORC. AmeriSpeak is a probability-based panel that also uses address-based sample but sourced from the NORC National Frame with enhanced sample coverage. During the initial recruitment phase of the AmeriSpeak panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The BYP sample is from a probability-based household panel that uses an address-based sample from a registered voter database of the entire U.S. Households were selected using stratified random sampling to support over-sampling of households with African Americans, Latinxs, and Asian Americans ages 18-36. NORC contacted sampled households by U.S. mail and by telephone, inviting them to register and participate in public opinion surveys twice a month.
- The AmeriSpeak panel sample was supplemented with respondents from the Dynata nonprobability online opt-in panel. Forty-six percent of the completed interviews are sourced from the Dynata panel. To help to reduce potential bias in the nonprobability sample, Dynata attempted to balance the nonprobability respondent sample by age, race and ethnicity, gender, and partisanship. In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample, NORC used TrueNorth calibration services, an innovative hybrid calibration approach developed at NORC based on small area estimation methods in order to explicitly account for potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample. The purpose of TrueNorth calibration is to adjust the weights for the nonprobability sample so as to bring weighted distributions of the nonprobability sample in line with the population distribution for characteristics correlated with the survey variables. Such calibration adjustments help to reduce potential bias, yielding more accurate population estimates.

Panelists on both the BYP and AmeriSpeak panels are invited to register for the panel via the web or by telephone to participate in public opinion surveys.

Of the 3,130 completed interviews in the GenForward August survey, 99 percent were completed by web and 1 percent by telephone. The survey completion rate is 16.4 percent. The weighted AAPOR RR3 panel recruitment rate is 11.1 percent and the weighted household panel retention rate is 81.1 percent, for a cumulative AAPOR Response Rate 3 of 1.5 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 2.54 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. Among subgroups, the

margin of sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is +/- 4.65 percentage points for African Americans, +/- 5.37 percentage points for Asian Americans, +/- 4.73 percentage points for Latinxs, and +/- 3.97 percentage points for Whites. The margin of sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is +/- 3.25 percentage points for Democrats, +/- 5.60 percentage points for Republicans, +/- 5.93 percentage points for Independents.

To encourage cooperation, respondents were offered incentives for completing the survey that ranged from the cash-equivalent of $3 to the cash-equivalent of $10.

The interviews from the two probability-based sample sources were combined for statistical weighting and analysis. The combined panel samples provide sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings. The statistical weights incorporate the appropriate probability of selection for the BYP and AmeriSpeak samples, nonresponse adjustments, and also, raking ratio adjustments to population benchmarks for 18-64-year-old adults. A poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and over-sampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. The poststratification process was done separately for each racial/ethnic group and involved the following variables: age, gender, education, and census region. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults ages 18-36, and the 18-36-year-old populations for African Americans, Latinxs, Asian Americans, and non-Latinx whites, were used for all analyses.