

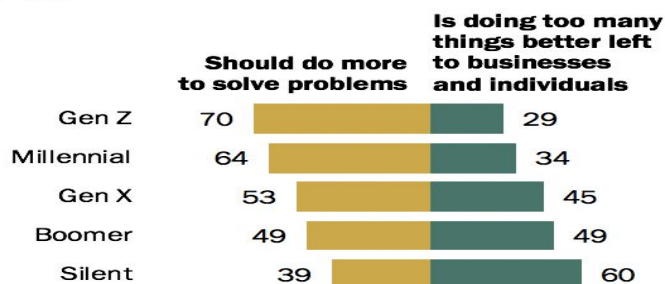
What to know when Gen Z Votes in the 2020 Election!

For the upcoming Presidential Election, on November 3rd, 2020, 16 million more people from Generation Z will be eligible to vote, making a total number of 23 million Gen Z voters. As the election date is coming up, more people are turning their heads towards Gen Z voters and if they will actually turn up to vote. According to a Pew Research Center survey, they noted that Gen Z voters make up 1 in 10 of eligible voters. This means that if Gen Z turns in their ballots and makes it to the polls, then we could make a significant impact on the outcome of this election. A survey conducted by Marymount Manhattan College's Public Affairs & Political Reporting class shows that 98.6% of those polled were confident that Gen Z can create change in this election on a scale from a little, to a lot, to a great deal.

You are the next generation of voters, which means if Gen Z solidifies their voting efforts in mass then they will be able to have a finger on the pulse of what happens in this country. From another [Pew Research Center survey](#), "seven-in-ten Gen Zers say that the government should do more to solve problems." What are the issues most important to Gen Z in the 2020 Election? Marymount survey shows that Climate Change, Social Justice/BLM, and Gun Violence are the most important generational issues to Gen Zers. Other issues, such as prison reform, immigration, education reform, LGBTQ+ rights, and women's rights are also impacting how Gen Z votes. These issues are on the line in this upcoming election, which is why it is important to feel informed and empowered when casting your vote because every vote truly matters.

Gen Z more likely than other generations to want an activist government

% saying government ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults ages 18 and older conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018, and U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted Sept. 17-Nov. 25, 2018.

"On the Cusp of Adulthood and Facing an Uncertain Future: What We Know About Generation Z So Far"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 70% of Gen Z responders want the government to do more to solve problems. This makes Gen Z more likely than other generations to want an activist government and take control of the issues they strive to have addressed. Gen Z often takes to social media to advocate their activism and social media is often where they read their news. In the Marymount survey, it shows that 63.38% of those who responded get their news from Twitter, and the other popular social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok, and Youtube. Although only 49.30% of those who took the Marymount survey responded saying they feel properly informed on the issues being discussed in this election cycle. Social media has become a hub of Gen Z teaming together to spread information. On Tiktok, Gen Zers have created platforms such as @tiktokforbiden where they urge young people to vote and get involved in helping people register to vote and get involved in other events.



*Photo via Tiktok; **Click on Photo** to see a @tiktokforbiden video*

Ultimately, with this surge of new voters, there is a lot of power in the hands of Gen Z if they act on their voting capabilities and turn up at the polls. In a focus group I conducted for the upcoming election, my peers expressed fear and mistrust in the vote-by-mail systems after they have seen stories of USPS drop boxes being picked up and stories of people never receiving their absentee ballots. However, the vote-by-mail program has been used [dating back to the Civil War](#). Absentee voting was implemented as a way of making sure the soldiers could vote even when they were on the field. Absentee voting was used again during WWII when 3.2 million soldiers cast their votes from abroad. This system is not new and it has worked in the past. Now that we

are in the middle of a pandemic, [75% of America](#) will be voting by mail. As observed from the Marymount survey, 57.58% of responders said they will be voting by mail. Many people in the survey expressed that they feel like the vote-by-mail system will be compromised. Although it will take an extended amount of time to count the ballots, it is important to remain aware of the issues and vote for a candidate who will not cause fear in the system and cause fear in the constituents. Voting for someone who is concerned about the issues that affect you and the way you live your life is crucial. This election guide will outline how candidates address the top Gen Z issues of Climate Change, Social Justice & BLM, and Gun Violence.

The National Election: The Presidential Candidates



<u>Donald Trump/ Mike Pence</u>	<u>Joe Biden/ Kamala Harris</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Donald Trump is the incumbent and 45th President of the United States of America ● Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Finance ● Real Estate development in New York City ● American businessman ● “Make America Great Again” <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mike Pence is the 48th VP of the U.S. ● Went to Law School and started the Indiana Policy Review Foundation and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joe Biden served as the Vice President to former President Barack Obama for 2 terms (2008-2016) ● Graduated from University of Delaware double majoring in History and Political Science then graduated from Syracuse University with a Law degree ● Served on the U.S. Senate from 1973-2009 ● “Our Best Days Still Lie Ahead” <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kamala Harris is the first Black and Indian American woman to represent

<p>a talk radio show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He served on the United States House of Representatives for 12 years 	<p>California in the U.S. Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● She graduated from Howard University and then earned a law degree from University of California, Hastings College of Law ● She worked as the District Attorney's Office in Alameda County and worked as the District Attorney of San Francisco ● Harris was the first Black woman to be elected California's District Attorney General
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Who are the other Candidates?

- *American Independent Party of California:* [Roque De La Fuente/ Kanye West](#)
- *Green Party:* [Howie Hawkins/ Angela Nicole Walker](#)
- *Libertarian Party:* [Jo Jorgensen/ Spike Cohen](#)
- *Peace and Freedom Party:* [Gloria La Riva/ Sunil Freeman](#)

I conducted a focus group to get a sense of Gen Zer's true issues with the help of some of my peers. In response to my question of "If the election were today, who would you vote for?" everyone begrudgingly responded that they would settle for Biden. When I asked if anyone had considered a third-party candidate, a few people in my group responded that they would be voting for a third-party candidate or consider one if this election had not been so important. One of my peers, in particular, expressed worry about how the issues they held most important would be handled by the current administration because "Trump is ruining everything forever." In the Marymount survey, it shows that 95.52% of those surveyed will be voting for the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris ticket.

Here are some charts to show where the Presidential candidates stand on Gen Z issues.

The Environment

	Donald Trump's Take	Joe Biden's Take
Does this candidate have a climate plan?	Trump does not believe in the science behind climate change and has spent his administration rolling back on Obama-era regulations	Biden is planning a Clean Energy Revolution by achieving 100% clean energy economy and zero-emissions by 2050.

Does this candidate want tougher auto emissions rules?	Trump has rolled back Obama's auto emissions standards.	Biden is going to strengthen auto emissions standards, which were started in Obama's administration.
Will this candidate ban fracking?	Trump will not ban fracking.	Biden receives a push from his party to ban fracking, but he has remained firm to not ban fracking.
Will this candidate achieve climate diplomacy?	Trump stepped out of the Paris Climate Agreement.	Biden will re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement to unite the nations on environmental policies.

Social Justice/ BLM

Donald Trump's Take

Joe Biden's Take

Is this candidate for policing?	Trump runs on "Law and Order" and has used a militaristic response to Black Lives Matter protests in response to the murder of George Floyd.	Biden wants to reform qualified immunity and invest \$300 million into grants for diversifying police forces and train them to have relationships with the communities.
Is this candidate for criminal justice reform?	Trump signed the First Step Act to reform sentencing and off mental healthcare to incarcerated people.	Biden wants to eliminate the death penalty, solitary confinement, and the jailing of those accused of a crime before they pay their cash bail.
Does this candidate address racial economic disparities?	Trump does not address this sufficiently.	Biden wants laws that make it easier to sue over wage discrimination.
Does this candidate support HBCUs?	Trump made \$255 million in funding for HBCUs and applied more money towards	Biden wants all public universities and colleges to be tuition-free for students.

	the Federal Pell Grant program.	
Has this candidate made efforts towards diversity and inclusion?	Trump does not have many Black Americans as his advisors or in his cabinet.	Biden strives to reflect diversity in his cabinet, his nominations, and his running mate.

Gun Violence

Donald Trump's Take

Joe Biden's Take

Does this candidate support the NRA?	The NRA financially supports the campaign on Trump, and Trump openly supports the NRA and the 2nd amendment.	Joe Biden has stood up to the NRA multiple times, with the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, and he plans to defeat the NRA in the future.
Does this candidate support background checks?	Somewhat ... Donald Trump has said that he is open to better background checks.	Joe Biden does support background checks and wants to require background checks for all firearm sales.
Will this candidate take firearms away from those who are prohibited?	Donald Trump has said that he believes that weapons should be taken away from dangerous people, however the Trump administration has frozen rules that would achieve this.	Joe Biden plans on creating a method to effectively relinquish firearms from those who are prohibited.
Does this candidate want to arm teachers with firearms?	Donald Trump has supported this and is backed by the NRA , which would pay teachers to carry firearms in schools.	Joe Biden wants to prohibit the use of federal funds to arm educators or train educators to carry firearms.

Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for more information on where these candidates stand on different issues.

Ballot Information for your State

- [What is going to be on my ballot?](#)
- [Where is my ballot?](#)
- **Learning about all the issues, candidates, and propositions on your ballot can be stressful, click [here](#) for some soothing music to listen to while you cast your vote!**

State Issues in California: Which Races to Pay Attention to?

Taking a look at California's State Senate races, you may be wondering why this matters to you. The California State Senate is the upper chamber of the California State Legislature and works alongside the California State Assembly, making up the legislative branch. They play an important role working with the Governor to create laws and create the state budget. There are a total of 40 Senators, and for this election there are 20 seats in the senate up for grabs. The Senators are elected for 4-year terms and they represent approximately 931,349 Californians each. Democrats are trying to expand their supermajority, as they already occupy three-quarters of the seats in the Senate. In this election, it is coming down to a few competitive races where there are intra party Democrats going head to head and also a few Republican incumbents running against Democrats. For the major issues of Climate Change, Social Justice/BLM, and Gun Violence, it is crucial to look at the state races because the State Senate makes the legislature that will directly affect your community and district. These are the changes we see within our communities and to the people we care most about.

Which of these State Senate Races are game changers?

District 23

This district is located in San Bernardino County, which typically runs more conservatively. However, there has been a decline in GOP registration numbers which means there is a tougher race than usual in this inland area. The candidate in this race are two daughters of immigrants, who both hold positions on the local school board.

Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh



- Increase Public Safety
- Lower the Cost of Housing
- Improve Air Quality without Harming Economic Opportunity
- Economic Freedom
- School Funding
- Reduce Homelessness
- Lower Taxes
- Improve the Inland Empire's Quality of Live

Abigail Medina



- Environmental Justice
- Affordable Housing
- Expand Education and Mental Health Services in Schools
- Universal Health Care Coverage
- Violence Prevention
- Criminal & Racial Justice
- Economic Justice & Labor
- Digital Access & Security

District 37

This district extends from the Anaheim Hills through Irvine down to Huntington and Newport Beaches. Why is this race important? This is one of the last GOP dominated areas on the coast of California with a member of the Senate GOP Caucus running against a Democratic law professor with no elected experience.

John Moorlach

Dave Min



- Fiscal Challenges to Properly Fund State's Transportation System
- Fiscal Assessment of State Costs
- Addressing Pension Crisis
- [Climate Change and The Economic Impacts](#)
- Improving Mental Healthcare System
- [Future of Crime in California](#)
- Voter Integrity

- [Education Reform & Quality of Education during COVID](#)
- Medicare for All & Healthcare Access
- Women's Rights: Reproductive Rights and Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Economy Reform
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Green New Deal and Climate Change
- Long-term solutions to Homelessness Crisis

District 15

This district includes the Santa Clara Valley, One Infinite Loop in Cupertino, East San Jose, Downtown San Jose, and Little Saigon. The Incumbent, Senator Jim Beall, has held office since his late 20s and is now termed out, meaning that this district has an important choice to make between two Democrats. One of the candidates, Dave Cortese, has been the county supervisor since 2008 and knows San Jose very well. The other candidate, Ann Ravel, worked as a U.S. Justice Department lawyer and was on the FEC but resigned when Trump was inaugurated; she is endorsed by Barack Obama.

[Dave Cortese](#)



- Solutions to Homelessness
- Housing Crisis in Santa Clara County
- Public Safety: Fully Funded Sheriff's Office, Probation and Rehabilitation Systems
- Combating Climate Change
- Ensuring Healthcare Access to everyone
- Advocacy for Education and Teachers
- Safety for Women: Preventing gender-based violent crime
- Improving Transportation
- A Transparent and Open Government

[Ann Ravel](#)



- Affordable Housing and Renter Protections
- Combating Homeless: "Right to Shelter" and long-term housing
- Lowering cost of Prescription Drugs
- Women's Rights: Gender Equity
- Environmental Justice
- Investing in early childhood education
- Economic Disparity
- Preventing Gun Violence: Standing up to the NRA
- Protecting Immigrant Families
- Social Justice
- [& MORE](#)

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- **How do I find my California State Senate and State Assembly Ballot? Click [HERE](#).**
 - **Want to know more race to watch for the California State Senate? Click [HERE](#).**
 - **Want to know more about the California State Assembly? Click [HERE](#).**
 - **Are you not from California? Don't worry, click [HERE](#) for your state's legislature information.**
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California State Propositions:

Propositions: Click on the proposition to learn what voting YES and NO means

Prop. 14	Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative
Prop. 15	Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative
Prop. 16	Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment
Prop. 17	Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment
Prop. 18	Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment
Prop. 19	Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment
Prop. 20	Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative
Prop. 21	Local Rent Control Initiative
Prop. 22	App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative
Prop. 23	Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative
Prop. 24	Consumer Personal Information Law and Agency Initiative
Prop. 25	Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum

If you would like to learn more about the different propositions and watch 1-minute videos explaining what each proposition means, click [here](#).



Looking Locally: What issues are on the ballot in Oceanside, California?

Looking locally to Oceanside, California, located in North San Diego County, there are a few different elections currently underway. Local elections are important because they have an immediate effect on the place you call home. A survey conducted by the [Knight Foundation](#) found that in late 2019 and early 2020, 21% of 18-29 year old Americans said that they follow the news about local issues that are affecting their communities. However, 7 in 10 Americans say the news media plays an important role in making them feel connected to their local communities. The peers from my focus group explained that they do not tend to follow their local news channels unless their parents have the local news channel on the television. This lack of focus on the local news in your community causes a distinct difference in the way local elections play out. If you are wondering to yourself why you never see any difference being made on climate change in your community, it starts with the people holding positions in your

local government. For Oceanside, it is a tricky area because there is the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base which tends to have a more conservative voter pool, but there is also a growing number of people in the area becoming concerned with the environment.

Out of 12 candidates running for the position of mayor in Oceanside, there are only a few that target the Gen Z issues of Climate Change, Social Justice & BLM, and Gun Violence. After the death of George Floyd, there were countless protests all over Oceanside to raise awareness of police brutality and racism. There are also many environmental concerns and initiatives with Oceanside’s beaches and waterways. It comes down to the question of who will represent Gen Z’s issues in this community.

Here are a few candidates that align with the Gen Z issues:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rob Howard</u></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Esther Sanchez</u></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President of San Diego North County NAACP (1999-2006) ● Tax incentives for businesses and residents to build in an environmentally friendly manner ● Explore Agritourism ● Further develop the city’s Climate Action Plan ● Investing in a public safety policy that funds preventative measures such as requiring non-violence training, having a mental health professional respond from a 911 call, de-escalation training, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Esther Sanches has been on Oceanside’s city council since 2000 ● She has lobbied on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community ● She wants to strengthen and implement the city’s Climate Action Plan ● She wants to develop smart growth policies and create a more walkable community ● Update the Local Coastal Plan to address the rising sea levels and to preserve the sand on beaches ● Served as President of the Noche

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing on investments in communities of concern 	<p>Mexicana Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked to transition the Oceanside Police Department into a community policing model to reflect the community's diversity
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This is a Mayoral Candidate Scorecard that outlines the concerns of some other candidates, created by the [Oceanside Justice Coalition](#).

2020 Oceanside Mayoral Candidate Scorecard



A community led network mobilized to strategically counteract systemic racism. Constructed to educate and empower Oceanside's marginalized communities to obtain racial equity as well as influence local policies and practices.



Jack Feller



Rob Howard



Ruben Major



Christopher Rodriguez



Esther Sanchez

	Jack Feller	Rob Howard	Ruben Major	Christopher Rodriguez	Esther Sanchez
Knowledge of Oceanside's communities of color & marginalized neighborhoods	Good	Very Good	insufficient	Bad	Very Good
Cultural competency & inclusiveness of Oceanside Communities (attitude, understanding, support, & value towards cultural differences)	insufficient	Excellent	Good	Bad	Very Good
Practical knowledge & competency of position	Very Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Very Good
Likely to support police reform in Oceanside	Definitely Not	Definitely	Definitely	Definitely Not	Possibly
Likely to bring forth racial equity & social justice to Oceanside	Definitely Not	Definitely	Possibly	Definitely Not	Possibly
Supports an open and transparent process for hiring a new Oceanside Chief of Police with community input?	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Supports establishing an independent, transparent, & funded Citizens Review Board to oversee incidents of police misconduct, complaints, & excessive use of force?	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Oceanside Resident Since	Since 1980's	Since 1980's	Since 2015	Since 2006	Since 1950's

All candidates listed above were individually interviewed by an OJC panel and asked the same questions

Why Does this Matter?

At the end of the day, after you have researched all of the information about the candidates that care about the issues you are concerned about, the power is ultimately in your hands to make a change. Right now it might feel like you aren't in control of what happens in the government, but

your vote can truly make a difference. This moment in history is not the time to take your foot off of the gas, it is the time to go full force and advocate for the issues that affect you personally. It is a privilege to vote, as many people in our country cannot vote and are still being affected by the laws in place. If it is your first time voting, it is your first time participating in democracy and voicing your opinion in a way that impacts your community, state, and the nation.

It is a privilege to have so many resources and communities to get involved with. There are many inclusive groups to bring power to the people, such as the Tiktok communities created to spread information to young people and encourage them to vote. There are 23 million eligible Gen Z voters, which means if they come together in mass to vote, there could be a huge impact. It is just a matter of researching the issues that affect you, filling out your ballot, voting early, or showing up at the polls on November 3rd, 2020. The power is in your hands and your vote cannot be taken away.

If you cannot vote yet but you still want to get involved there are many resources out there. You can sign up to become a poll worker, by clicking [here](#). If you are 16 and a United States citizen, then you can sign up to make a difference in your community as a poll worker. Another way of getting involved is by signing up at a phone bank to call voters in key states to talk to them about how they are going to vote on election day. The most important way of making a difference is by researching the topics you are interested in and advocating them. Many times, just the simple action of discussing topics that matter to you with friends or family can make a huge difference and it could change some people's point of view.

Voting is a great power to have and it is a privilege. Voting is the answer to any of your qualms with the government, locally, state-wide, and nationally. The decision making power is in your hands. If Gen Z gathers their voting power in mass, we can make a huge difference in the outcome of how politics will be moving forward in America. This is our future at stake, it is about time we vote to have America reflect our vision for the future. Once again, I cannot stress this enough, GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

