

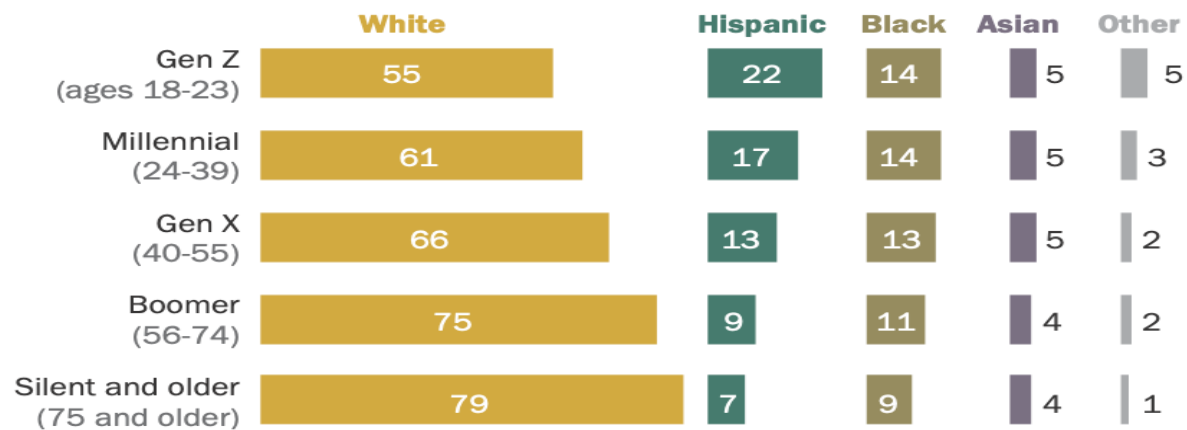
All About Voting and Why Gen Z Can Make A Change!

Gen Z has an impact that is much larger than you think, but it all depends on voter turnout. A poll by MMC's Public Affairs & Political Reporting Class surveying Gen Z students and first time voters showed that 98.65% of pollers said that they are confident in Gen Z creating change in the 2020 election, whether that be a lot, a little, or a great deal. What Gen Z fails to remember is that we have the potential to impact the entire nation just by voting on election day.

It's only a matter of time before Millennials and Gen Z become the driving force in elections as the boomer electorate decreases. This all means that young people will influence the issues that directly impact their lives. When asked to rate issues that are important to Gen Z, Marymount's survey revealed Climate Change, Social Justice/BLM, and Gun Violence to be the top three generational issues. Other issues such as LGBTQ+ rights, education reform, tuition reform, federal job programs, and housing are all issues that directly impact young people, so young people should be the ones actively trying to make a change.

About one-in-five Gen Z voters are Hispanic

% of eligible voters in each generation who are in each racial and ethnic group in 2020

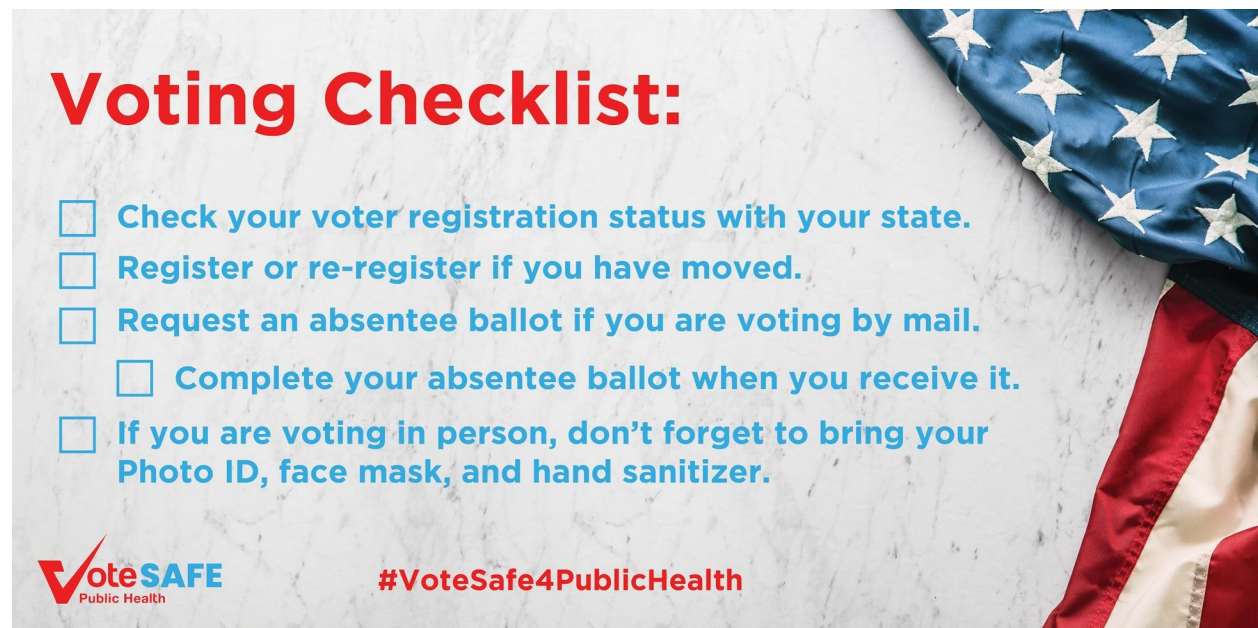


Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Other includes those who identify as more than one race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).

Gen Z eligible voters, who range in age from 18 to 23, are a more racially and ethnically diverse group than older generations. A notable 22% are Hispanic, 14% of Gen Z eligible voters are Black, 5% are Asian, and 5% are some other race or multiracial according to a Pew Research Center analysis based on Census Bureau data. This makes Gen Z voters the most racially and ethnically diverse group when compared to older generations. These younger voters have the biggest potential for impact because they are the underrepresented and unheard voices. Social media has helped elevate voices like never before concerning Gen Z. In fact, Marymount found that 63.385% of pollers get their political news and information from Twitter and other social media sites such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok. With a quick retweet about a political issue, the whole world can be educated and form their own opinions. Gen Z has the power of social media on their side and they can use it as a tool.

Your Own Voting Checklist



Voting Checklist:

- Check your voter registration status with your state.
- Register or re-register if you have moved.
- Request an absentee ballot if you are voting by mail.
- Complete your absentee ballot when you receive it.
- If you are voting in person, don't forget to bring your Photo ID, face mask, and hand sanitizer.

VoteSAFE
Public Health

#VoteSafe4PublicHealth

To find a polling station near you, register to vote online, and check to see if you need an ID to vote, click [here](#).

*Students who are studying abroad or travelling during the election and thus, not in their home state or even in the U.S., must request an absentee ballot through the [Federal Post Card Application](#) (FPCA) form.

Who's Running In The National Election?



<p>Donald Trump and Mike Pence (<u>Republican</u>)</p> <p>Entered race: Jan. 20, 2017 (filed with FEC)</p> <p>Age: 74</p> <p>Education: B.S., University of Pennsylvania Wharton School</p> <p>Trump is running for reelection after his 2016 victory.</p>	<p>Joe Biden and Kamala Harris (<u>Democrat</u>)</p> <p>Entered race: April 25, 2019</p> <p>Age: 77</p> <p>Education: B.A., University of Delaware; J.D., Syracuse University College of Law</p> <p>Biden is running on the legacy of the eight years he served alongside President Barack Obama.</p>
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Where Do They Stand On Issues That Are Important To Me?

Crime and Justice:

Issue:	Trump's Stance	Biden's Stance
Defunding the Police	Con	Con
US Ban of Assault Rifles	Pro	Con
Continuing Use of Private Prisons	Pro	Con

Abolishing the Death Penalty	Con	Pro
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Education:

Issue:	Trump's Stance	Biden's Stance
Increasing Minimum Wage	Con	Pro
Making Schools Gun-Free Zones	Con	Pro
Title IX Protection of Students Accused of Sexual Misconduct	Pro	Con
More Funding for HBCU's	Pro	Pro

Climate Change and Environment:

Issue:	Trump's Stance	Biden's Stance
Right to Clean Water	Con	Pro
Fracking	Pro	Pro
Expanding Use of Nuclear Power	Pro	Pro
Adopting a Climate Change Plan	Con	Pro

State Senate: What Races to Pay Attention To:

District 5



Susan Eggman (Democrat)

- Repeatedly authored legislation to set up supervised injection sites for intravenous drug users
- Was the only state legislator from the Central Valley to support a bill that would have locked California's stringent environmental legislation in place, over the objections of agricultural interests.

Mani Grewal (Democrat)

- Supports capital punishment
- Has the backing of agricultural and law enforcement groups, and Cathleen Galgiani, the incumbent

District 11



Scott Wiener (Democrat), The Incumbent

- Authored bills that would force President Trump to release his tax returns in order to appear on the ballot
- Set up a state net neutrality law
- Create a non-binary gender category on state IDs

Jackie Fielder (Democrat)

- Critique of Wiener's approach to housing — that facilitating more private housing construction in order to increase the housing supply will only benefit real estate developers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Institute a California estate tax ● Created housing bills that would make it harder for developers to build 	
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District 21



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Scott Wilk (Republican)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wilk represented the Assembly before the Senate. ● He has occasionally broken with his party on gun control and business regulations. ● Earlier this year, he was the only Republican to support putting Proposition 16 — which would allow the state to reintroduce affirmative action programs — on the ballot. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kipp Mueller (Democrat)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● His career as a labor lawyer earned him the endorsement of the Los Angeles County Labor Federation, the Service Employees International Union and the Democratic Party early on in the primary. ● The 33-year-old was an active volunteer on former Rep. Katie Hill’s campaign.
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To find out who’s running in your district click [here](#).

Why Should This Be Important To Me?:

Whether Donald Trump or Joe Biden gets sworn in as president in January, the responsibility of the Senate is to shape what the president can accomplish within each state. The California State Senate is the upper chamber of the California State Legislature. Every four years one-third of the Senate, and the entire House are up for election. The California State Senate is one of 86 state legislative chambers holding elections in 2020. A total of 20 seats out of the California State

Senate's 40 seats are up for election in 2020. The Senate works alongside the governor of California to create laws, establish a state budget, pass bills on public policy matters, set levels for state spending, and raise and lower taxes.

What Are The California Propositions?:

- [Prop 14](#): State funding for medical research that uses stem cells
- [Prop 15](#): Raising taxes on commercial properties worth more than \$3 million
- [Prop 16](#): The return of affirmative action in public hiring, contracts and college admissions
- [Prop 17](#): Restoring the voting rights of people on parole
- [Prop 18](#): Letting some 17-year-olds vote in primary and special elections
- [Prop 19](#): Letting senior homeowners pay lower property taxes if they move while raising taxes for some people with inherited property
- [Prop 20](#): Rolling back reforms in criminal sentencing, parole and DNA collection
- [Prop 21](#): Letting cities implement stricter rent control
- [Prop 22](#): Classifying Uber and Lyft drivers as contractors, not employees
- [Prop 23](#): Establishing new care standards at kidney dialysis clinics
- [Prop 24](#): Expanding data privacy laws
- [Prop 25](#): Getting rid of cash bail

The LA Times released a Youtube video going more in-depth into each proposition. For more information, click [here](#).

If that YouTube video isn't enough information, [this link](#) will show you more about who is supporting each proposition and how much money is going into the campaign.

Start Small: The Importance of Paying Attention to Local Elections

Marymount's poll found that 81.69% says the state and local leaders have not been effective in addressing gen z issues, but of the people interviewed, a large majority also expressed that they don't keep up with local elections and they mostly focus on national elections. Local elections are equally as important because local electorates create the changes that happen within your own community and they can set an example that influences state-wide changes.

Taking a look at my own community of Hercules, California, I found that the city of Hercules will conduct an election on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of electing three Council Members.



Dan Romero	Gerard Boulanger	Mayor Roland Esquivias
<p>Dan Romero’s title is important to Gen Z issues because of his visions to complete the construction of Safeway on Market Hall, completion of Sycamore Crossings, and a train station at the Intermodal Transit Center in our Bayfront community and well as being a part of the Integrated Waste Management Agency. These are all issues that will affect predominantly low-income areas of the Contra Costa District.</p>	<p>Gerard Boulanger’s campaign is important because of his work concerning school districts in the area and economic development that affects transportation in the area. He is a liaison for the Council to the Finance and to the Community & Library Commissions and Member of the Economic Development Committee. Some of his previous assignments during his first City Council term were Director of WestCAT, City Representative to the League of California Cities, City Representative to the Citizen Bonds Oversight Committee of the West Contra Costa County Unified School District.</p>	<p>Most importantly, Mayor Roland Esquivias’s role is important to pay attention to because his role will include signing off on a majority of the changes that these other council members will be fighting for. Esquivias has previously worked with local, state, and federal agencies and diverse business organizations. As a community advocate, he has worked with local governments, neighborhood associations, community-based organizations, senior citizens, and veterans. His experience working with the State of California has given him a strong grasp on a wide range of issues from governance, consumer protection, education, health, energy efficiency, and public safety.</p>

The current council consists of Mayor Roland Esquivias whose term expires in November of 2020, Vice Mayor Chris Kelley whose term expires in November 2022, Council Member Dan Romero whose term expires November of 2020, Council Member Dion Bailey whose term expires November 2022, and Council Member Gerard Boulanger whose term expires November 2020.

Elections are held in November while Mayor and Vice Mayor appointments are made annually at the Council's first meeting in December. Council Members also serve as Agency Members of the Successor Agency to the Hercules Redevelopment Agency. All Council Members enjoy the same power and privileges; however, the Mayor presides over Council meetings, signs official documents, and officiates at ceremonies and events.

A great example of the importance of voting locally comes from a [Forbes statistic](#) about the Bay Area. Back in 2018, Regional Measure 3 (RM3) was on the ballot for the nine bay area counties. Passing this measure would increase the tolls on all Bay Area toll bridges to fund transportation capital projects, such as increasing bus and train routes, BART extension, development of safe routes to transit, and more. While the tolls were originally \$5 that year, their price would increase a dollar in 2019, another dollar in 2022, and a third dollar by 2025. The measure passed 55 percent to 45 percent. A total 1,612,554 voters voted on this measure, out of 3,896,267 registered voters in the 9 Bay Area counties, returning a voter participation rate of 40.9 percent.

Our local elections are important to our schools, parks, roads, libraries, and everything else that affects our day-to-day lives. Our votes decided the local leaders and where all of the tax dollars that are poured back into our community actually go.

The Big Takeaway

So many people are privileged enough to not have to worry about choosing a president. Maybe it feels like something that won't affect your life right now, but it does affect the lives of others. Millennials and Gen Z are struggling to go to college, afford housing, pay for health insurance, find a job, and so much more. Voting is only the first step in seeing the change in the world that you help create. Your voice does matter and your vote does count, but only if you educate yourself and go out and vote on election day.

If you are not yet 18, or are not a U.S. citizen, you can still participate in the election process. While you may not be able to walk into a voting booth, there are still plenty of things you can do to get involved in politics:

Start Conversations: Even if you can't vote, you can still voice opinions on social media, in your school or local newspaper, or other public forums. Social media can be your biggest tool if you use it correctly. Share political news, engage in conversation with people who don't share the same opinion as you, and put yourself out there because you never know what you'll learn from the people around you.

Keep Yourself Informed: Read up on political issues at both a local and national level. Find out what political news is happening within your area and how you can engage with it. Follow news at a national level by reading from both left, center, and right leaning publications. For more information about media bias and what news publication to tune into for more diverse learning, click [here](#).

Volunteer: If you support a particular candidate within your area or at a national level, you can work on their campaign by participating in phone banks, doing door-to-door outreach, writing postcards, or volunteering at campaign headquarters. Your work can help get candidates elected, educate people on a candidate that you believe supports your values, and expand your political outreach even if you are not able to vote yourself. To find public service and volunteer opportunities near you, click [here](#).

At the end of the day, elections are decided by the people who go out and vote and if you don't vote, someone else will make those decisions for you. Support the candidates and ballot measures that can help your community, state, and even the nation for the greater good. Make your voice heard in these elections. Take some time and learn about the measures and the candidates and use your vote to make a change within the government. If you don't like the way America is run, vote. If you don't like the way your community looks, vote. If you want to make a change, Vote, Vote, Vote. Speak up, make a choice, and take part in the election to protect the interests of your generation and create the world that you want to see for the next generation.

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