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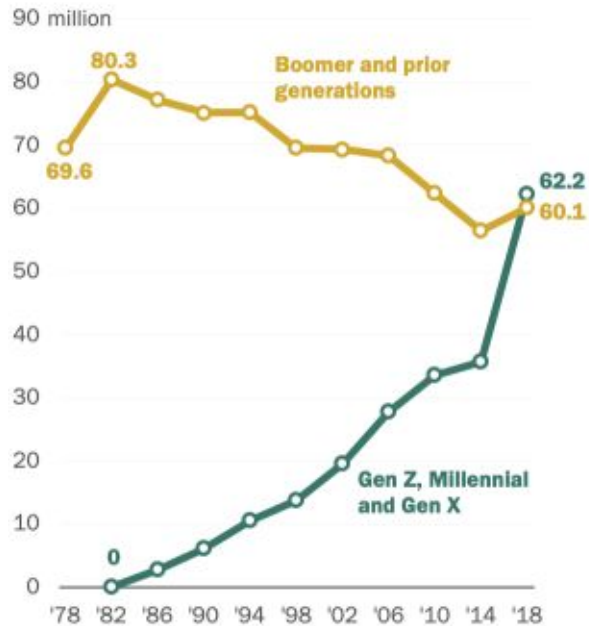
Citizens Agenda

The amount of Gen Z voters who are eligible to vote will have increased this coming election season. This generation of voters can have a big impact on the turnout of the election. It has actually been reported that around 80% of Gen Z voters will be predicted to vote in 2020 (Wise, 2020). According to the Pew Research Center members of Gen Z are “more [racially and ethnically diverse](#) than any previous generation, and they are on track to be the most well-educated generation yet” (Wise, 2020). This means that if our generation turns up to vote we can get the issues that are really important for us to light. This also means that our generation will be able to bring a diverse opinion to the election and show that our issues matter. We will be able to represent our needs especially if we greatly impact the turnout of the election. However, in order to do so, we can be politically ignorant. According to Pew Research, we are on track to being one of the most well-educated generations. That means that we have to keep it this way by also staying on track of what issues the candidates are concerned about so that we can make a proper and informed vote. I know that some of Genz feel like their vote doesn't matter due to things such as the [electoral college](#) and that is not true. The electoral college consists of 538 electors who cast votes to decide the President and Vice President of the United States. The number comes from “the sum of the nation’s 435 Representatives, 100 Senators, and 3 electors given to the District of Columbia” (Reeves law group). The electors then vote based on the

popular vote of your state which emphasizes the importance of voting. The candidate with the most popular vote then takes the state's electoral votes. When you vote for president you are also voting for your state's electors. This means “For example, if Donald Trump won the popular vote in Alaska, his slate of potential Electors are appointed as Alaska’s Electors. Those Electors would then cast their votes for Trump as President” (Reeves law group). The electors of NY consist of a diverse group of 29 members from all over NY. Some of the electors are Hazel L. Ingram is a 93-year-old resident of Brooklyn NY. The working family party asked her to be an elector for Hilary Clinton and she is also the granddaughter of a former slave (Weiner, 2019). Another candidate is Anastasia M. Somoza from NYC and is a disability rights activist. Stuart H. Appelbaum is also a resident of NYC (Weiner, 2019). He is the President of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union and was also with Gov. Cuomo at a conference about raising the state’s minimum wage (Weiner, 2019). This is just some of the many different state electors.

Younger generations outvoted Boomer and prior generations in 2018

Reported votes cast in midterm elections, in millions



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1978-2018 Current Population Survey November Supplements (IPUMS and U.S. Census Bureau).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In 2018 The younger generations actually outvoted Boomer and prior generations. Now that GenZ has more eligible voters we will have more of an impact on this year's election.

Candidate issues

The 2 main candidates of the 2020 election are Joe Biden running for the Democratic Party and Donald Trump running for the Republican Party. After looking at surveys and my focus group I was able to see some of the issues that are important to Gen Z voters. Gen Z voters seem to be concerned on issues pertaining to racism/police brutality, BLM, gun laws, climate change, immigration, and LGBTQ/equal rights. I will be looking at the candidates stance on some of these issues.

Joe Biden	Donal Trump
<p>Environmental issues: Biden Wants to build a Modern Sustainable Infrastructure that will also create millions of good paying jobs. These jobs will create pathways for young and older workers shifting to new professions, as well as people from all backgrounds and all communities. Their work will improve air quality for children, increase the comfort of our homes, and make businesses more competitive. He will also invest \$2 trillion into this plan. He will also place investments in things such as agriculture and environmental justice. He also wants Establish an Environmental and Climate Justice Division within the U.S. Department of Justice. This will hold corporations responsible for their pollution that is negatively affecting their workers and surrounding communities. Here is a Link to read up more on his plan for the infrastructure https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/ along with a link on his environmental justice plans https://joebiden.com/environmental-justice-plan/</p>	<p>Environmental issues: Acted to increase exports of energy and resources to the global market resulting in financing for coal and fossil fuel energy projects. Trump has rescinded President Obama’s costly Clean Power Plan and instead has proposed the Affordable Clean Energy Rule as well as the methane emissions rule that were costly. Trump created a Superfund task force designed to streamline the Superfund cleanup program. Here is the link to read more of Trump’s achievements while in office related to environmental issues: https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/energy-and-environment/</p>
<p>Gun Violence: Biden is responsible for putting the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act through Congress which established the background check system. He has also helped to place 10 year bans on assault weapons. Biden will repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act which is responsible for protecting manufacturers from being held liable for their products. Biden will extend the passage of the ban on assault weapons. Biden will also buy back assault weapons that are already on the streets. This will give people two options: either sell the weapons to the government, or register them under the National Firearms Act. Here is a link to further read into Biden's plan to end gun violence</p>	<p>Gun Violence: Prosecutors were directed by the Department of Justice to focus on taking illegal guns off our streets resulting in a 23% increase of criminals charged with unlawful possession.</p> <p>Link to his achievements on law and justice: https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/law-and-justice/</p>

<p>https://joebiden.com/gunsafety/</p>	
<p>Plans for Black America: Biden wants to close the income and wealth gaps of African Americans. He will do this by Investing in African American Businesses and Entrepreneurs, Ensuring equal access to credit and capital by Double funding for the State Small Business Credit Initiative, double funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, which supports local, mission-driven financial institutions in low-income areas around the U.S, etc. Biden will also Tackle racial bias that leads to homes in communities of color being assessed by appraisers below their fair value. Here is a link to research more on Biden’s plans for Black America https://joebiden.com/blackamerica/</p>	<p>Plans for Black America: Not found on his website</p>
<p>Immigration: In the first 100 days in office Biden will reunite families who have been separated at the border. He will end the restricted access for asylum seekers and restore the asylum laws so that they protect people. Biden will direct the necessary resources to ensure asylum applications are processed fairly and efficiently. He will also end prolonged detention. Here is link to see what else Biden plans on doing in regards to immigration: https://joebiden.com/immigration/</p>	<p>Immigration: The building of the wall to stop illegal immigration. The Trump Administration rescinded the unlawful Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) made 269,419 arrests of illegal immigrants. Trump provide funding to support the National Human Trafficking hotline. Here is the link to read more of his achievements on immigration. https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/immigration/</p>

State Races:

While the national elections are extremely important we can't forget about the state elections going on. These elections also impact us and it's important to know what's going on. The state race that I will be looking at is the NY State Senate elections. State senators represent the will of the people and bring their issues to light. The Senate works with the Assembly and Governor to enact, mend, or repeal statutes that make up bodies of laws. The district that I will be concentrating on is district 41. The candidates of this district are [Karen Smythe](#) of the Democratic Party, and [Susan Serino](#) of the Republic Party. Karen Smythe wants to uproot institutional racism and create a more just, equitable, and welcoming society for residents regardless of race, creed, or national origin. Sue Serino is an advocate for hard working taxpayers and resists raising taxes at a local level.

Local race:

The local race that we will be looking at is the NY State Assembly. This is important for Gen Z and the underrepresented groups in the community to vote in because it helps to create laws and establish a state budget. The responsibilities of the Assembly also include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes. The people running for the Assembly represent your area and can help create policies that are important to the Gen Z and or underrepresented people in your area. Depending who is elected you can help issues in your community become visible. We will continue to look at district 41 for this race as well. The candidates running include Helen Weinstein of the democratic party, and Romano Johnson of the Republican party. Helen Weinstein is the first woman to chair the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is an advocate for

children and families. She also sponsors funding for domestic violence shelters making discrimination in private clubs illegal, protecting crime victims with a rape shield extension law, and mandating seatbelts on school buses. Romano Johnson is a member of the Republican Club of Sheepshead Bay and The Brooklyn Tea Party.

Conclusion:

It is important to vote in these elections because the candidates who win are going to be representing you and your communities. You want to make sure to pick someone who will voice your issues and strive to make a positive change. Remember to keep in mind that each candidate has different priorities on certain issues as well as opinions on it. As you can see from the chart above of Donald Trump and Joe Biden, each candidate has different ideas of handling issues such as climate change and immigration. It is important to read about what issues are important to you to see which candidate is handling them in the way that you want. Besides voting, there are also other ways of getting involved in campaigns. For instance, one way of getting involved in becoming a poll worker. There is currently a shortage of Poll workers. Poll workers are important because they keep things organized to prevent confusion at the polling booths. Poll workers also help to make people feel more comfortable, especially for people of color and younger people (Vasilogambros, 2018). Going to the polling booth for the first time can feel overwhelming at first but, a poll worker can help alleviate some of this anxiety. It is reported that a good poll worker can help increase voter confidence. It is also beneficial to have poll workers from Gen Z since we are younger and more experienced/comfortable with technology than the older generations. This will be helpful when working with things such as electronic poll books and optical ballot scanners (Vasilogambros, 2018). Getting involved can also be as simple as

staying informed with what is going on in the country or your state. This can be done by tuning into the news channel every now and then or even checking social media (as long as you make sure to fact check). If you don't like something that is happening in your community or feel like your voice isn't heard you can even write to your local senate. You can voice your beliefs in order to get the issues important to you heard. It is important to remember that your vote is important. If Gen Z bands together and shows up at the voting booths on Election Day we can make a real difference in the outcome of the election. It was already shown that during the last election we outvoted the older election. This year even more of Gen Z are eligible to vote so we can really turn the election around. Remember to check to make sure you are registered to vote. Also make sure to check what your state requires for you to present in order to vote. Don't forget to check where the near polling stations are in your area.

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