

First things first;

Gen z and Millennials CAN make a difference! Please VOTE!!

Not only can Gen Z make a difference, but there are slowly becoming more young eligible voters every year. Even though it's a lot of Gen Z voters first time being able to vote, they make up 10% of the electorate, that means 1 in 10 voters are Gen Z, which can and will make a difference. Twitter has many polls, varying ideas and threads of the issues, but this [thread](#) showing Gen Z issues gained a bit of traction and made a lot of sense to what I'm about to say below.

Now for the issues at hand that directly impact us as young people and what two national candidates (Donald Trump and Joe Biden), two state candidates (New York state; Carolyn Maloney and Carlos Santiago-Cano with a conversation about how Saraj Patel lost to Carolyn in the primaries for the democratic spot) and two local Brooklyn (Williamsburg-Greenpoint) winning candidates named Emily Gallagher and Kristina Naplatarski.

The Five Issues Young People Have Shown Matters To Them:

1. Climate Change
2. Criminal Justice
3. Social Justice
4. Education
5. Equality

National:

The issues as Donald Trump sees and supports them:



Image of Donald J. Trump.

1. [He](#) has called climate change "mythical", "nonexistent", or "an expensive hoax" - but also subsequently described it as a "serious subject" that is "very important to me". he took an opposite approach on Twitter, with more than 120 posts questioning or making light of climate change. In 2012, he famously said climate change was "created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive" - something he later claimed was a joke.
2. [Promoted](#) "tough on crime" policies not just since his run for president in 2015 and 2016, but in the decades before. In 1989, Trump ran a local ad calling for the death penalty for the "Central Park Five," who were falsely accused of attacking and raping a jogger in New York City. In 2000, Trump claimed in his book, *The America We Deserve*, "Tough crime policies are the most important form of national defense." He also stated, "Clearly we don't have too many people in prison. Quite the contrary."

3. [Trump](#) utilized countless racist tactics to galvanize support while on the campaign trail. His most prominent thoughts, of course, were against Mexicans and for the building of a wall along the Southern border. Trump played to white economic insecurity to gain the offensive on immigration, claiming that Mexicans were coming to the United States to steal jobs from hardworking Americans—a tactic that has always worked with working poor and middle-class whites and that is of course a legacy of slavery, when the capitalists turned working-class whites against their African American counterparts.
4. [To](#) reduce the role the federal government plays in education, including through proposed cuts to the department's budget and the loosening of federal guidelines. Yet in the age of COVID-19 that approach has inverted, with Trump switching from federalist devolution to top-down pressure as he spent the summer pushing schools nationwide to reopen for in-person learning — even as the pandemic's domestic death toll barreled on.
5. **January 20, 2017:** Less than two hours after Trump and his virulently anti-LGBTQ activist Vice President Mike Pence were sworn into office, all mentions of LGBTQ issues were removed from the official White House webpage. **July 26, 2017:** Trump made the dangerous and unpatriotic move to reinstate a ban on qualified transgender people serving in the military. **May 15, 2020:** Trump announced Jenna Ellis, an anti-LGBTQ extremist, would be added to his re-election campaign. Ellis is just one of the many anti-LGBTQ people Trump has surrounded himself with throughout his presidency.

The issues as Joe Biden sees and supports them:



Image of Joe Biden.

1. [Biden](#) likes to say he was among the first to introduce a climate change bill in the Senate, and fact checkers generally agree. It was the Global Climate Protection Act of 1986 that was largely put into a spending bill in 1987. In 2007, he supported higher fuel efficiency standards for motor vehicles, which passed, and in 2003, modest caps on greenhouse gas emissions, which didn't. His plan also calls for support for economically impacted communities. He was slow to agree with activists' calls for him to swear off campaign contributions from fossil fuel interests, but did sign the No Fossil Fuel Funding pledge on June 27. Biden has signaled he will embrace central concepts of the Green New Deal—that the world needs to get net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and that the environment and economy are connected.
2. [We](#) can and must reduce the number of people incarcerated in this country while also reducing crime. Our criminal

justice system cannot be just unless we root out the racial, gender, and income-based disparities in the system. Our criminal justice system must be focused on redemption and rehabilitation. No one should be profiteering off of our criminal justice system.

3. [The](#) housing plan includes an up-to-\$15,000 refundable tax credit for first-time homebuyers to combat racial inequality in housing markets, along with an investment to construct 1.5 million homes and public housing units, and the elimination of housing regulations thought to perpetuate discrimination. The plan also focuses on providing relief from student debt and would make public colleges and universities — and private historically Black schools — tuition-free for families with incomes under \$125,000, something the campaign estimates would apply to about 90% of Black, Latino and Native American households.
4. [Biden](#) has called for reopening decisions to be made based on science rather than political pressure and on a place-by-place basis rather than nationwide. A plan he proposed in mid-July would create federal guidelines for safe reopenings, charging agencies like the CDC with establishing “basic, objective criteria” such as reducing class sizes or making plans to accommodate at-risk teachers and students — although the proposal left final decisions to state and local officials.
5. Joe Biden believes that every human being should be treated with respect and dignity and be able to live without fear no matter who they are or who they [love](#). As President, Biden will pursue an aggressive and comprehensive plan to further [women’s](#) economic and physical security and ensure that women can fully exercise their civil rights. Including: Improve economic security. Expand access to health care and tackle health inequities. Help women navigate work and

families. End violence against women. Protect and empower women around the world. "[Black](#) and [Brown](#) families -- and especially Black and Brown women -- face disadvantages at every turn, from access to workplace retirement accounts to access to generational wealth," Biden's plan said. "These disadvantages have resulted in large and persistent gaps in financial wealth." To help bridge the generational wealth gap, Biden said in the plan that he would help families buy their first homes and build wealth by creating a new tax credit of up to \$15,000. He also said that he would invest in affordable housing, and call for more accurate, non-discriminatory credit scoring.

State:

The issues as Carolyn Maloney sees and supports them:



Image of Carolyn Maloney.

1. ["If](#) we keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius over the next 50 years, the benefits would be tremendous," **said** **Congresswoman Maloney**. "Just in our state of New York, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and premature deaths could be avoided. And the economic value of these health benefits would exceed \$3.5 trillion. The United States could take action today to get us closer to that and the other targets of the Paris Agreement. This week, I announced the COR Climate Change Agenda, a set of six bills, including my Federal Agency Climate PREP Act, that draws on the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Congress and the Administration have a duty to lead and a responsibility to act without delay."
2. [A](#) controversial and outspoken advocate of practices such as stop-and-frisk. In 1997, Maloney voted to strengthen criminal penalties for juveniles who commit violent crimes. In 2000, she voted to give \$100 million in block grants to states that imposed five-year mandatory minimums for violent crimes involving guns.
3. [Fought](#) to uplift underserved and marginalized communities through advocacy, legislation, and leadership. As a member of the Congressional LGBT Caucus, she has pushed to pass legislation that ensures that the LGBT community is treated equally under the law and protected from [discrimination](#).
4. **Early childhood education programs:** Congresswoman Maloney has introduced the Prepare All Kids Act to promote the development of early-childhood education programs to make sure that all children arrive at Kindergarten prepared to learn.
Affordable higher education: Congresswoman Maloney understands that one of the most effective ways we can ensure a strong future and address inequality is by making higher education widely accessible.

5. [Congresswoman](#) Maloney is the leader in Congress of the effort to pass an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. Among these rights is the right to equal pay for equal work, an issue which Congresswoman Maloney has lead the fight on during her time in Congress.

The issues as Carlos Santiago-Cano sees and supports them:



Image of Carlos Santiago-Cano.

1. [Should](#) the government increase environmental regulations to prevent climate change? Yes, and provide more incentives for alternative energy production.
2. [Agree's](#) with wearing body cam's in high-crome areas only, criminal's should be allowed to vote unless convicted for murder or violent crimes, Drug traffickers should get life in prison, but not the death [penalty](#).
3. Nothing Found.
4. [A](#) big issue for him.
5. Nothing Found.

The campaign between Saraj Patel and Carolyn Maloney and how she won, does she accurately represent the young people?

Long-time Rep. Carolyn Maloney won her tight race for re-election against primary challenger Suraj Patel in New York's 12th congressional district.



Image of Suraj Patel.

Maloney: the chairwoman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, has represented New York City in Congress since 1993. The 12th district includes most of the East Side of Manhattan and some parts of Midtown, Roosevelt Island, and parts of Western

Queens and Brooklyn, including the neighborhoods of Astoria, Long Island City, and Greenpoint. New York's 12th district is also one of the wealthiest in the nation with a median household income of over \$110,000, according to the US Census Bureau and had relatively high levels of residents temporarily relocating away from the city due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Patel: an attorney and activist who worked for former President Barack Obama's campaign and administration and now teaches at New York University, also challenged Maloney in 2018, winning 40% of the vote to Maloney's 60%. He ran a grassroots campaign on a platform of enacting progressive policy priorities and expanding economic mobility and the social safety net for New Yorkers and on a broader message of bringing new voices and a change to the status-quo to Congress.

She does not seem to best represent young people and Gen. Z of now, while Patel would have better represented.

Local:

[Emily Gallagher](#): Assembly 50th District (representing younger voice, inspire young people to vote, beat out man who's been in for a while [Lentol](#), difference of 900 votes)



Image of Emily Gallagher.

A [longtime community activist](#) in North Brooklyn who has been organizing with her Greenpoint neighbors for more than a decade. A member of Community Board 1 and a former co-chair of Neighbors Allied for Good Growth (now North Brooklyn Neighbors), Emily has worked for tenant protections, safe and reliable transportation, and environmental justice. A survivor of sexual violence, she cofounded Greenpoint Sexual Assault Task Force which organized for a trauma-centered approach to reforming the NYPD's handling of rape and assault. She's also a former representative to the Mobilization Against Displacement. Emily has worked in museum education and as a Community Affairs Director for a major nonprofit.

Her Issues:

Housing, criminal justice, environment, transportation, democracy, education.

North Brooklyn deserves a healthy, stable, truly affordable housing. We need to pass universal rent control, bring

massive new state investments in NYCHA, and stop incentivizing luxury development.

The science is clear: we have a decade to transform our energy system or face catastrophe. We must expand and enforce the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, fully fund the Department of Environmental Conservation, stop building new pipelines and dumping sewage in Newtown Creek, and bring a real Green New Deal to New York.

Transportation is a basic right. But years of neglect, financial mismanagement, poor oversight, and distorted priorities have created a slow-building disaster. We need green, safe and reliable transit options for every neighborhood and we must end the dominance of cars on our streets.

What she wants to do:

Standing up for the vulnerable and marginalized, organizing to challenge undemocratic concentrations of wealth and influence, believing in the power of ordinary people to improve their lives and their communities through collective action-this is what it means to be a progressive. And I've been one my whole life. From blowing the whistle on an abusive teacher in high school to protesting the War in Iraq and holding space with Occupy Wall Street to organizing tenants and small businesses owners to protect their homes and livelihoods to helping progressives get elected across the city, it's not just about what you believe-it's about what you do.

Kristina Naplatarski: District Leader



Image of Kristina Naplatarski.

Poster Child for voting as she is 25 and a leader

Why she ran:

“As a lifelong Greenpoint resident, I want to give back to the community and borough that I love by working alongside residents of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, and Clinton Hill to meet the challenges that face our communities while fighting for an engaging, accountable Democratic Party in Brooklyn.”

What she wants to accomplish:

“District Leader’s priorities should be what the community see as most important. My three issues and areas of concern right now would be environmental remediation, that’s been a constant threat, housing affordability and more responsible development practices. I’d also want to look at what The King’s County Democratic Party should look like. I’m running as a reform candidate for sure to bring more transparency and accountability to the Brooklyn Democratic Party and make it more engaging.”

How is Gen Z being seen/heard during this election season?

Gen Z is being seen and heard by having the issues that matter most seen by many candidates. The issues spoken about above are being seen and spoken about by every candidate, it just depends on how they see it and who you will support in how they empower you and focus on your issues. You have power to make a change, but you must vote and be heard. You can make a difference if you go vote, mail-in your ballot early or even work a polling place if you’re not of voting age, but if you are, please **VOTE!**