

Voting
Made
Easier

*WHY
VOTE?*

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

your **VOTE**
is your **VOICE**

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Learn why **VOTING** is a powerful way to respond to these challenging times!

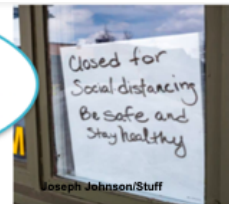
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Why Vote?

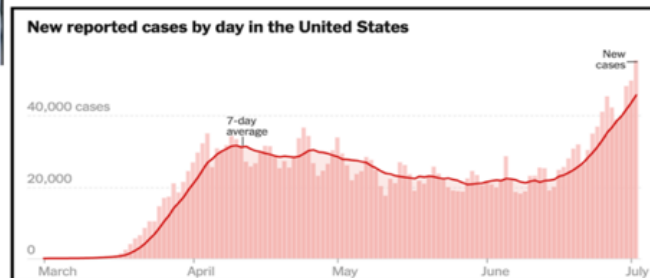
2020 Has Some Answers!



"I am asking for you to stay the course... We closed thousands of businesses...All of us are anxious to reopen ... Unfortunately, we cannot flip a switch and reopen the commonwealth."
- Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf



"...we will allow gyms, ... bowling alleys, body art studios, barbers, cosmetologists, hair designers, nail care artists,... to reopen their doors this Friday."
- Georgia Governor, Brian P. Kemp

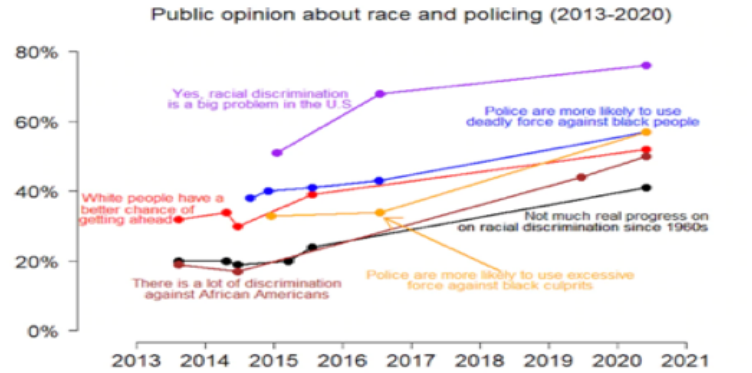


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We have seen the largest **health crisis** in 100 years, causing *massive* changes in our lives.

- Different responses from elected officials at the national, state and local levels *have led to very different ways of responding to COVID-19.*
- The pandemic has impacted communities of color up to *five times more negatively* than other racial and ethnic groups. (Source: CDC, June 2020)
- The national health crisis has put a spotlight on old disagreements about *minimum wage, healthcare, the economy, the technology gap, and many other issues.*

Even More Answers



Graph: Michael Tesler. Sources: CBS News Polls; Monmouth University Polls. CBS results accessed from the Roper Center's ipoll databank.

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We have witnessed **nationwide protests** of racial injustice and police brutality towards African Americans and people of color,

- and a *large visible shift in public opinion* in the US and even worldwide about the Black Lives Matter movement.

Elected Officials Have a Huge Impact on Your Community



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Our ELECTED officials have a huge role in leading us through these challenges and reacting to these enormous shifts. The way they govern *directly* impacts our communities (and our country).
Citizens WHO VOTE elect:

- **Mayors** who hire *Chiefs of Police* and oversee a city's departments including police, fire, education, housing and transportation.
- **Council Members** who make the laws to help govern a city and/or a county.
- **District Attorneys** at the state and county level who decide whether to bring criminal charges or prosecute criminal cases in court.
- **Sheriffs** who in many counties are elected while others are appointed by the District Attorney.
- **Judges and Magistrates** who apply the law and oversee the legal process in court.
- **School Board Directors** who oversee and manage public school districts' policies, personnel and properties.

Americans
Have *Different*
Views About
the Pandemic,
the Protests—

and even about
DEMOCRACY



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Many people in our country feel passionately about these issues...
...and we do not always agree!

But we can work together to solve these problems *if we protect the founding principles of our democracy:*

- Ensuring free and fair elections
- Active participation of informed citizens
- Protecting the human rights of all citizens
- Applying the Rule of Law equally to all citizens

Do you see the promise of democracy realized in America today?

- Where do you find **reliable information** you can trust?
- Who do **you** trust?

What can you DO?

**WHO
Will Win
These Debates
About the
DIRECTION of
our Country?**



It will depend on WHO VOTES!



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There are MORE eligible voters in the younger age group, but people 55 and older are much more likely to register and to vote in every election.

Guess who elected officials are listening to!

How do YOU Feel About Voting?



CHRIS ROCK ON VOTING:
"They don't want you to vote. If they did, we
wouldn't vote on a Tuesday. In November.
You ever throw a party on a Tuesday? No.
Because nobody would come." *New York*

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Are you *skeptical* (unsure, questioning, open)?

Are you *cynical* (negative, no interest, closed)?

Some young people say, "Voting is not for me".

Do you feel that your vote doesn't matter or won't count?

You are not alone!

**But don't let elected officials count on young people to be so cynical
that they do not exercise their *right to vote!***

What Are the Issues YOU Care About?

NATIONAL

- Climate Change
- Systemic Racism
- Healthcare
- Gender Equality
- Immigration
- Judicial Appointments
- Taxes
- Student Loans
- Freedom of Speech
- Social Security

LOCAL & STATE

- Minimum Wage
- Community Police Relations
- Criminal Justice
- Animal Rights
- LGBTQ+ Issues
- Systemic Racism
- Gun Safety
- Pollution & Health
- Fair Housing
- Voting Rights

SCHOOL

- School Safety
- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Over-testing
- Curriculum Choice
- Police in Schools
- Social Media
- Bathrooms
- Access to Tech
- Suspension Policy
- People with Disabilities

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What issues do you care about the most?

- *Take a minute to message a friend—does your friend care about the same issues you do?*

If you could ask the older people in your life (*parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, neighbors*) what would they say they care most about?

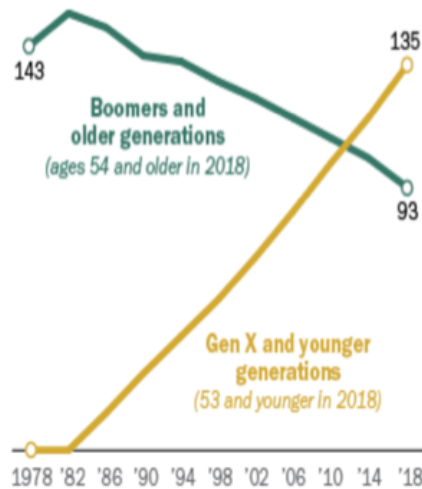
- *Take the time to ask them.*

Are your issues the same as the issues the older people in your life care about?

Power in Numbers!
Young people have the power to impact elections!

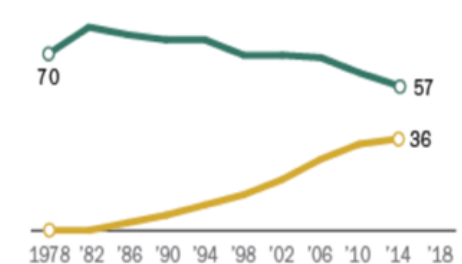
Gen Xers and younger generations are the clear majority of eligible voters ...

Eligible voters, in millions



... but cast 21 million fewer votes than older generations in 2014

Reported votes cast in midterm elections, in millions



Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older.
 Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the 1978-2014 Current Population Survey November Supplement (IPUMS) and April 2018 Current Population Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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Graph on the LEFT: Shows that while there are more *eligible young* citizens, they don't turn out to vote.

- **So who votes more? (Hint: Older people)**

Picture this in your mind:

Six (6) of your classmates are standing in front of you. They represent the young people who are eligible to vote in the US.

- How many of these young people *registered* to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election? (If you said, "Half of them, 3 in 6" or 50%, you would be correct.)
- How many *did* vote in 2016? (If you said, "1 in 6" or 16%, you would be correct.) **Only 1 in 6 of eligible young people voted in 2016!**
- However, that number *doubled* in 2018 when 2 in 6 or 30% of eligible young people voted.

That was better, but still not good enough if young people are to be fairly represented in our country!

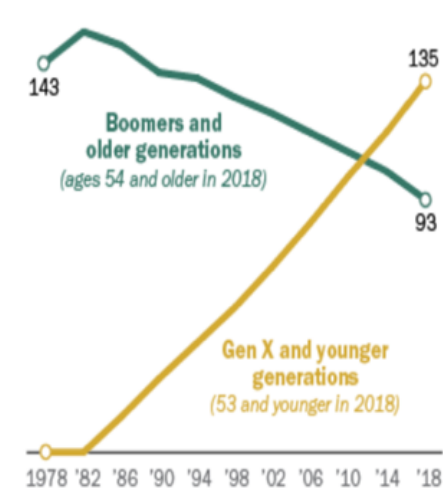
Power in Numbers!

Young people have the power to impact elections!

(Continued)

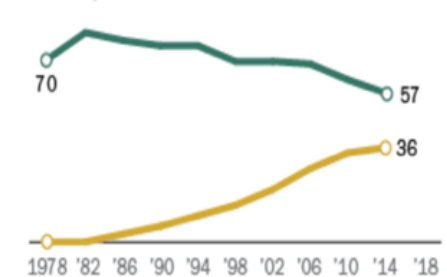
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Now, picture this in your mind;

Six (6) of the oldest people you know are lined up in front of you.

- All of them are registered voters and almost all of them (5 out of 6 or 84%) *vote in every election!* That is why older voters are called “Super Voters”.

The most important thing to remember:

- If mostly older people are voting, which issues will elected officials care about? (**Older peoples’ issues.**)

But wait! The **left-hand chart** highlights the **POWER IN NUMBERS:**
By the 2020 election, Gen Z and Millennials (18-38-year-olds), IF THEY VOTE, will continue to OUTNUMBER older voters!

If you exercise your right to vote, you will have the power to affect the 2020 election and potentially the *direction of the country* with the issues that are most important to you.

- You just need to register and then VOTE in every election.
And bring along your friends to register and vote, too!

Because
When
Young People
Get Involved-

*Things
Change!*



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Young people are *committed*.

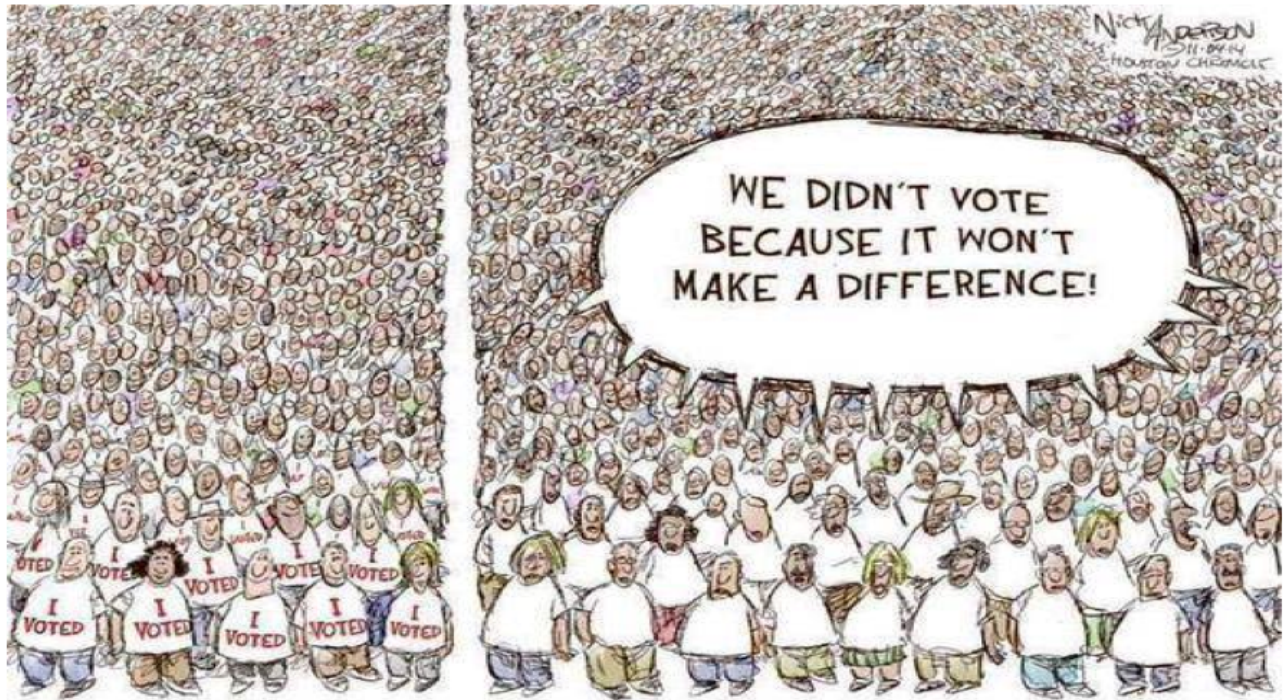
- Protesting to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years old in 1971
- Advocating for new gun safety laws in 2018
- In the last election, helping to elect the youngest and most diverse House of Representatives in history

Young people *lead*.

- Raising awareness of the climate crisis with people around the world
- Continuing to protest the killing of unarmed African-Americans by police
- *Young people shine a spotlight on the institutional racism still evident in many areas of American life: education, housing, healthcare, jobs, and the criminal justice system.*

Young people are calling for *CHANGE, now!*

- ***“Tomorrow starts today!”***



Steven Colbert on Voting:

"Cynicism masquerades as wisdom, but it is the furthest thing from it. Because cynics don't learn anything. Because it is a self-imposed blindness: a rejection of the world because we are afraid it will hurt us or disappoint us. Cynics always say 'no'. But saying 'yes' begins things. Saying 'yes' is how things grow."

Cynical? No!

Instead, say 'yes'.

- Continue to learn about your right and responsibility to vote.

It's time to be a part of the change;

- **VOTE.**

Register to Vote [here](#).

Put November 3, 2020, the Presidential General Election in your phone calendar NOW!

**LAST Day to
REGISTER
to VOTE**

October 19, 2020



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Think about where your get your information—how do you verify information?

VotesPA.com [here](#):

- Where you can register to vote, change your address and your party affiliation, or find your registration status and your polling place, and more.

Vote411.org [here](#):

- At this *League of Women Voters* website, a few weeks before every election, type in your address and view the candidates who will be on your ballot, and more. If candidates have answered three questions, you will be able to compare their answers side-by-side.
- ***Ask yourself if they care about the issues you care about.***

For Even More Voter Information via the LWVGP Website Homepage:

- ***See “Voter Registration” [here](#).***
- ***See “Understanding Elections” [here](#).***
- ***See “Mail-in and Absentee Voting” [here](#).***