# **Students for Life Action: January 2021 Quantitative Research Memo**

# ***Breakout Report on Campus Resources[[1]](#footnote-1)***

## **Defining Millennials and Gen Z Generations**

As members of Gen Z (ages 18-24) enter adulthood, their opinions on politics, policy, and the issues they deem important are often compared to the Millennial (ages 25-34) generation. Despite the differences in age, these two generations are not as different as one may assume, and their opinions are also not as liberal.

When asked how these individuals typically vote, over one-third (35%) voted for more Republican candidates, while more than 4-in-10 (46%) voted for more Democrat candidates. Among the Gen Z population, Democrat candidates were favored by 19-points over Republicans, with 14% of these voters indicating “depends” or “neutral.” Millennials also favored Democrat candidates by 7-points over Republican candidates, with 11% saying “depends” or “neutral.” While the difference in opinion is significant, the key to unlocking these voters is to target those **without** a strong opinion.

The 2020 election for President offers another opportunity for comparison among these two populations. More than one-quarter (26%) of Gen Z respondents cast their vote for Donald Trump, compared to over 1-in-3 (37%) Millennials who did the same. Joe Biden received 61% of the Gen Z vote, and just over half (53%) of the Millennial vote. It is important to note that the political affiliation of these two populations does vary, with Gen Z identifying as 23% Republican, 41% Independent, and 35% Democrat, and Millennials identifying as 35% Republican, 29% Independent, and 36% Democrat. ***This affiliation breakdown directly combats existing narratives that Millennials and Gen Z are overwhelmingly liberal and far left.***

Additionally, Millennials and Gen Z had some differing opinions on the most important issue facing the United States. Given the current state of affairs nationwide, the Coronavirus ranked as number one among 30% of Gen Z and 32% of Millennials. From there, the generations studied differed on which issue is more important. The Black Lives Matter movement and race relations was key for 17% of Gen Z, while an additional 11% thought jobs and the economy was the top issue facing the country. In contrast, 1-in-5 (20%) Millennials thought the jobs and the economy deserved the most attention, and 13% say healthcare was the top issue. These differences highlight the **priorities** of each generation, and how lived experiences influence opinion.

## **Initial Opinions on Abortion**

Opinions on abortion ranged in intensity from the belief that abortion should be prohibited in all circumstances to abortion being allowed at any time during a woman’s pregnancy for any reason.

When respondents were asked to describe their opinion on abortion, less than 2-in-10 (19%) respondents thought “abortion should be allowed at any time during a woman’s pregnancy and for any reason.” Still, an additional **15% indicated abortion should be “prohibited in all circumstances.”** These varied opinions are critical to consider when discussing abortion policy with Millennial and Gen Z populations, as there is not a majority opinion for these policies.

***Which of the following statements best describes your own position on the issue of abortion?***

**48% PRO-CHOICE (NET)**

19% Abortion should be allowed at any time

during a woman’s pregnancy and for any reason

15% Abortion should be legal for any reason, but not after five months of pregnancy when the fetus is viable and can feel pain

14% Abortion should be legal for any reason, but not after the first three months of pregnancy

**42% PRO-LIFE (NET)**

19% Abortion should only be legal in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother

8% Abortion should be legal only to save the life of the mother

15% Abortion should be prohibited in all circumstances

9% Unsure/Depends

2% Refused

Placing these voters into larger groups, just under half (48%) of Gen Z and Millennials were “pro-choice,” and 42% were “pro-life.” Nearly 1-in-2 (49%) Gen Z respondents were “pro-choice,” and 43% held “pro-life” views. Millennials, in contrast, were 46% “pro-choice,” and 41% held “pro-life” views. **These figures further substantiate the concept that these generations are not radically pro-choice.**

## **Supporting Families**

High school and college students face a myriad of stressful situations during their educational experience. Add to this a planned or unplanned pregnancy and the burden can seem unbearable. Soon-to-be or young parents need additional support and assistance to meet their daily educational obligations, as well as their families’ needs. There are various entities available to these students, but many are not aware of them.

**Millennials and Gen Z, the generation targeted for abortions, need help in knowing where to go to take care of a baby, as little more than one-third were aware of resources for pregnant women**. When respondents were asked if they could name at least one federal, state, or local resource to help a pregnant or young parent stay in school while being a parent or continuing their pregnancy, an even number (36%) said they could or could not. An additional 26% were unsure if they could name one.

Republicans were more likely than their counterparts to be able to name a resource, while Independents were more likely to admit being unable to do so.

* Others more likely than most to say they could name a resource were those that believe abortion should be prohibited in all situations (50%), Catholics (44%), conservatives (44%), Trump voters (41%), married individuals (41%), whites (40%), and those earning $40K-$80K a year (40%).

**Where to go when you need help**

***And what resource would you recommend for them?***

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22% Planned Parenthood

5% Daycare services

5% Women’s health centers / Women’s pregnancy centers

3% Government assistance

3% Department of Human Services / Social services

3% Schools for pregnant students

3% Google / Internet

2% Healthcare / Medicare

2% Family care centers

2% Consult a counselor/therapist

2% Stop abortion

1% Financial aid

1% WIC

1% Adoption resources

1% Babysitting

1% Online school/classes

1% Consult a doctor / Go to hospital

1% Welfare services

1% Abortion clinics

6% None

33% Other

5% Don’t Know

Of the 287 respondents that could name a resource, a follow up question was asked as to what specific resource they would recommend. More than one-in-five named “Planned Parenthood.” *This top-of-mind resource named is greatly concerning, as it is the number one abortion provider in the country.* Much more outreach must be done to provide students, whether parents or not, as to what resources are available to them. This educational effort can have an overwhelming on those in educational settings.

### **High School and college tie for offering resources to students**

Respondents were split as to whether they could recall seeing resources for pregnant or parenting students when they were in high school and/or college. **Less than half (45%) had seen such resources**. Of those, 12% reported in high school only, 12% said in college only, and 21% noted both. Slightly less, 42%, did not recall seeing any resources.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Thinking back to when you were in high school and/or college, do you recall seeing resources to help pregnant or parenting students?*** | |
| **YES (45%)** | **NO (42%)** |
| Blacks (59%)  Believe abortion should be prohibited in all situations (58%)  Catholics (56%)  Those earning $80K-$125K (51%)  Those earning $40K-$80K (50%) | Hispanics (50%)  Protestants (49%) |

### **Further education needed regarding discrimination of pregnant and parenting students**

As part of the survey, respondents were asked about federal laws that protect pregnant and parenting students (detailed in the Pregnant and Parenting Bill of Rights and found in Title IX). Six options were presented, and participants could choose which they believed to be actual laws. *While all were federal regulations, only 18% correctly knew that all six were currently on the books, highlighting a lack of basic knowledge of protections in the law*.

#### Knowledge begets knowledge

Notably, respondents that earlier reported they could name at least one federal, state, or local resource to help a pregnant or young parent stay in school while being a parent or continuing their pregnancy were more likely than those than could not to know which options were federal laws.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Which of the following are federal laws that protect pregnant and parenting students from discrimination from their school administrations?*** | | | | | |
|  | **Total** | **Could name a resource** | **Could not name a resource** | **Male** | **Female** |
| Protect from harassment based on pregnancy | 20% | 25% | 18% | 19% | 20% |
| Allow students to continue to participate in classes and extracurricular activities | 19% | 16% | 20% | 20% | 14% |
| Prohibit schools from taking away scholarships and financial aid | 19% | 25% | 15% | 20% | 16% |
| Offer the opportunity to make up any missed schoolwork due to pregnancy | 18% | 26% | 19% | 20% | 20% |
| Excuse any absences due to pregnancy | 17% | 24% | 19% | 22% | 15% |
| Prohibit schools from removing student athletes from their sports programs due to pregnancy | 11% | 19% | 7% | 16% | 7% |
| All of these | 18% | 26% | 13% | 15% | 19% |

Gender difference were also seen regarding this knowledge, as men were more likely than women to correctly choose some (but not all) individual laws, while women were more likely to know that *all* the options were federal laws.

### **Adoption and Foster Care**

Adoption is an important option for pregnant women. However, the foster care and adoption system is often overwhelmed and unable to adequately care and provide for its most vulnerable clients. The pro-life movement has long been a proponent of expanding the foster care system to help alleviate the need. One of the most backlogged aspects are home studies for foster and adoptive parents, which currently must be conducted by social workers. One option suggested has been to allow career public servants (including retired teachers, police officers, and firefighters) to perform home studies. This would lessen the burden on social workers and help get children placed in safe homes more quickly.

**Nearly three-in-five (59%) respondents supported such proposals, with one quarter (25%) strongly supporting them.** One-in-five (20%) opposed such reforms, with little intensity (6% strongly oppose). Nearly the same number (19%) were unsure of their support, again offering a chance to move opinion with more education and explanation of the proposal.

* Those more likely than most to support (59%) these reforms were earning more than $125K (75%), Republicans (64%), men (63%), and married individuals (63%).
* Those more likely than most to oppose (20%) these reforms were Blacks (26%) and earn $80K-$125K a year (24%).
* Those more likely than most to be unsure (19%) about the reforms were Independents (24%), earn less than $40K a year (24%), and women (23%).

### **Paying for Paid Leave**

**Federally-funded paid leave finds favor among a decisive majority.** Nearly three-fourths (73%) of registered voters surveyed supported federally-funded paid leave policies, with strong intensity (48%). Just 15% were opposed to these policies. Additionally, when given the choice between having federally-funded paid leave paid by taxpayers, the parent’s Social Security taxes, or not have a federally-funded program, a plurality (45%) of respondents agree that the paid leave policies should be paid for **by taxpayers**, while 32% opted to have parents’ Social Security taxes used to fund the program. Only 10% of registered voters surveyed do not think there should be a federally-funded paid leave policy.

Like other policies, federally-funded paid leave has political implications. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of registered voters surveyed are more likely to support a candidate who supports federally-funded paid leave.

## **Final Thoughts**

**Millennials and Gen Z strongly support helping mothers and their children, born and preborn.** There are numerous opportunities for education surrounding the pro-life movement for registered voters ages 18 – 34. Education is also important to identifying and communicating specific resources for students and families to choose life. While just over one-third of respondents knew that resources were available, few could identify resources outside of Planned Parenthood. By pursuing opportunities to educate and inform the Gen Z and Millennial populations, the pro-life movement can be built upon and expanded.

**Methodology**

This online quantitative research was conducted between January 7 – 11, 2021 among 800 registered voters age 18 – 34. Respondents self-identified themselves as 30% Republican, 36% Democrat, and 34% Independent. Margin of error: ± 3.46%

1. This report analyzes a series of questions that were part of a larger poll conducted by Students For Life. Methodology can be found at the end of the document. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)