

**Students for Life of America's Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement
Survey USA 2026 Poll Results**

Registered Youth Voters to the Political Class: Both Parties Need to Pivot

**The Democratic Party's Abortion Obsession Won't Win a Majority
and the GOP Needs to Act to Protect Life in Law and in Service**

OVERVIEW:

In advance of the celebration of the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, Students for Life of America's Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement has released our nationwide survey, conducted early in January 2026. The evaluation of registered youth voters (ages 18 to 45) looks at their opinions on issues dominating debates today, such as their impressions of self-described “abolitionists” or support for ongoing pro-life policy. The poll explores the crumbling facade of Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion vendor, along with a new look at how those impacted by the death of Charlie Kirk view violence when it erupts after free speech events.

With more than 1,600 groups in all 50 states and a nationwide network of more than 225,000 trained activists, Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action lead daily with this demographic, now almost HALF (48.5%) of the electorate. We are the Pro-Life Generation. And we vote.

As Gallup reported last year, pro-life identification in young adults is rising. And it's well known that voter intensity — defined as the likelihood that a person will vote — is higher among pro-life people.

As we have previously reported, in the last election, when offered the choice of the most radical pro-abortion ticket in U.S. history, this demographic did not embrace Kamala Harris. She lost ground as 46% of voters aged 18-29 voted for Donald Trump, according to the Tufts University CIRCLE analysis. Millennials also shifted toward Trump compared to 2020, noted Deseret News, as Trump “did better among Millennial voters, closing in on Harris, who was ahead by only 1 percentage point.”

Youth voters are a coveted part of the political community because they are usually believed to be less likely to vote, making them a rich pool of potential new constituents. It is in this environment that SFLAction engages with that most dedicated kind of voters — those who vote “P” for pro-life over party affiliation. And what we know, from years of campus activism and regular polling, is that the abortion views of younger voters are not locked in favor of more unregulated, dangerous, taxpayer-funded abortion, no matter what the media reports.

For both Republicans and Democrats, there are clear takeaways from this poll about how to protect life in law and where to engage in discussion if they want to build a bridge to the largest bloc of voters in the United States.

METHODOLOGY:

From January 6-10, 2025, Vinea Research worked with SurveyUSA to survey 1,107 registered voters between the ages of 18-45 (Gen-Z and Millennials) via a seven-minute online survey. Respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The margin of error for this study is $\pm 3.1\%$.

Hans Plate, President of Vinea Research, was the research liaison, working closely with Students for Life of America, the Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement, and SurveyUSA in all aspects of the research. To contact Hans for questions on methodology, survey design, and results, send an email to info@vinearesearch.com.

2026 KEY FINDINGS:

- Most registered youth voters want less abortion. Almost seven in 10 support laws limiting abortion.
- The Democratic Party's Platform is rejected by almost all registered youth voters. Fewer than one in 10 (8%) supports the Democratic Party position of abortion without limits, up to and including infanticide for a baby who has survived a botched abortion. Meanwhile, nine in 10 believe that help should be given to a baby born in those circumstances.
- The courts can't play God. ZERO percent of registered youth voters said that courts dictate when human rights begin.
- The Overton window shifted for Life, as there was a 7-point change in favor of abortion limits IF families got the help they needed. Overall, three in 10 youth voters (34%) would be more willing to accept limits on abortion if they knew that the state and federal government offered increased support for mothers, children, and families.
- The GOP must protect the environment. Almost nine in 10 (89%) youth voters support studies on the potential environmental impact of waste and drugs related to abortion, with 30% saying it is "extremely" important. Only 10% say it's not important for the government to investigate abortion water pollution.
- The FDA needs to get busy. A massive 94% of youth voters said a federal review of Chemical Abortion Pill policy was important, with 31% calling it "extremely" important. Only 6% said it is "not at all" important.

- Planned Parenthood will fall if there is a thorough review and discussion. With a little education, Gen Z and Millennials' support for Planned Parenthood dropped by 13 percentage points.
- Less than one in four (22%) registered youth voters found Planned Parenthood vital. In fact, 50% of registered youth voters believe Planned Parenthood can be replaced with the massive number of real health care providers that offer all the health care that Planned Parenthood claims to sell — except abortions.
- The loss of Charlie Kirk has not resulted in a loss of support for free speech, but young voters are worried for those who speak up. More than nine in 10 (92%) are concerned about violence directed at those exercising their free speech rights.
- Schools should invest in protecting free speech. When asked about whether colleges and universities should prioritize and financially support free speech, more than nine in 10 (93%) registered youth voters said yes.

THE FINE PRINT: The Youth Vote Weighs in with Some Surprises

The Democratic Party's extremism doesn't represent most, and the GOP needs to engage on Chemical Abortion Pills and a Planned Parenthood review

THE BIG PICTURE ON ABORTION VIEWS:

Youth voters don't want what the Democratic Party is selling.

Almost seven in 10 registered youth voters support laws limiting abortion (20% in all circumstances with 46% in some circumstances). Only 34% want no limits. This has remained essentially the same for several years running and comes after an election cycle in which abortion was issue No. 1 in the daily headlines.

More than 50% said that abortion was one of their top 3 issues in deciding how to vote, with 12% saying it was the most important issue.

In looking at a political candidate, 42% want a candidate favoring abortion limits, compared to 57% who want some support for "abortion access" (Question 6).

About two in 10 youth voters are abortion extremists in many categories, but fewer than one in 10 (8%) support the Democratic Party position of abortion up to and including infanticide. The Democratic Party has consistently voted against the "Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" when it has come up for a vote (Question 2).

Nine in 10 registered youth voters reject infanticide and believe efforts should be made to save a baby born during a botched abortion (66% say all reasonable efforts should be made to save the baby by the staff present and that 911 should be called, while 24% support staff measures without calling 911.) In Question 4, only 9% said nothing should be done to help a struggling newborn since the mother was trying to have an abortion. (For more on this reality, visit [Abortion Survivors Network](#).)

About two in 10 (17%) registered youth voters believe abortion should never be legal.

In terms of almost absolute support for abortion or total protections for preborn life, the results are pretty equal (though you won't hear that in most media reports.) About two in 10 registered youth voters said they support protecting life in all circumstances, and about two in 10 said they were all in for abortion, leaving six in 10 in middle. Many detailed questions provided similar results.

DIVING DEEPER ON AREAS OF CONFLICT:

ON THE “EXCEPTIONS”: Minds have been changed in favor of pro-life laws. Broad support exists for limiting abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or when a mother's life is in danger. When they understand that all 50 states already require that the life of the mother be protected, one in four (26%) youth voters would limit abortion to cases of rape and incest (Question 2).

However, nearly twice as many would support limiting abortion if those criteria were spelled out in legislation. When asked later about support for a law that “restricts most abortions while allowing exceptions in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother,” 53% said that they could support such a law, with 30% strongly supportive, and only 27% would oppose (Question 12).

ON THOSE WHO WANT TO PROSECUTE MOTHERS AFTER ABORTION: Most disagree.

In recent online conversations, the question of whether mothers should be prosecuted for obtaining abortions has gained significant attention. The majority of youth voters, 54%, say women should not face penalties, while 39% say in some (33%) or all (6%) cases, penalties should be on the table.

We believe this represents a shift in the conversation as the model of abortion has moved from majority in-facility surgeries to at-home pills. We believe this is a conversation that the pro-life movement will continue to have as more states move to heavily limit abortion in coming years.

ON PAINFUL ABORTIONS AS A MOTIVATION FOR MORE PRO-LIFE LAWS: Minds were changed when youth voters considered the pain a preborn baby experiences in abortion. In fact, we saw an 18% change in perspective — in favor of protections for the preborn baby — in a series of questions.

Specifically, registered youth voters changed their minds on limiting abortion at the point at which a baby has developed the capacity to feel pain, which is [at three months of pregnancy or about 12.5 weeks](#). The pivot came after considering a number of biological realities of abortion.

In the first question, if a baby would experience pain during an abortion, nearly half of voters (44%) supported limits — but 56% did not support limits even if a preborn baby would suffer pain

during an abortion. Support for limits in this scenario was down from 2025, when 50% supported limits if the baby would experience pain in an abortion (Question 3).

However, when that issue was raised again in Question 8, only 38% said pain did not matter, while 62% said that they would be "definitely" to "slightly" willing to support limits if it were demonstrated [that a baby could experience pain](#).

That's a change of 18 percentage points in favor of limiting abortion because it would cause the preborn baby great pain.

BIOLOGICAL STATUS HAS AN IMPACT: When asked to consider specific reasons for abortion, most say no.

Registered youth voters broadly supported limits on abortion by biological status:

- **AT VIABILITY:** 65% support limits when a baby can live outside the womb, usually at 22 weeks (five-and-a-half months into pregnancy), with 26% "definitely" supporting such a limit. Only 34% would not support laws limiting abortion at viability.
- **AT THE SIGN OF A CONFIRMED HEARTBEAT:** 59% would support limits after a preborn baby has a confirmed heartbeat, at about a month and a half after conception (around six weeks), with 20% "definitely" supporting such a limit.
- **AT CONCEPTION:** More than half (53%) support limits at the point of conception, when egg and sperm unite to form a unique life, with 19% "definitely" supporting such a limit. Despite much media spin to the contrary, less than half (47%) said they would not support protection at conception.
- **AFTER FINDING OUT THE SEX OF THE BABY:** Almost six in 10 (57%) said they would support legislation to prevent sex selection abortion, with 27% "definitely" supporting. Meanwhile, 42% would allow little girls or little boys to be aborted merely because of their sex.
- **AFTER A SURVIVABLE FETAL DIAGNOSIS SUCH AS DOWN SYNDROME:** 60% expressed support for limiting abortions that target preborn babies for a fetal diagnosis, such as Down Syndrome, with 39% supporting such abortions.

COURTS ARE NOT GOD: Human rights don't come from judges.

Courts don't create human rights, say Gen Z and Gen Y. ZERO percent of registered youth voters said that human rights begin in court. But after that, there were mixed views on when a baby had legal protection.

For one in four, human rights begin after birth. For the rest: 21% said such rights begin at conception, 19% said rights are conferred after a confirmed heartbeat, 11% said rights begin when the baby can feel pain, and 11% said rights begin at viability, when a baby can live outside the womb.

THE BIG PICTURE ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD:

The GOP needs to get busy investigating the nation's largest abortion vendor. With a little education, youth voters' support for Planned Parenthood dropped by 13 percentage points.

SUPPORT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD TOOK A NOSEDIVE, DROPPING 13 POINTS:
At the beginning of the survey, 57% of registered youth voters said they viewed PP favorably, with 37% saying very favorably. Only 16% viewed Planned Parenthood unfavorably, and 27% were in the middle. But youth voters changed their minds during the survey. Ultimately, 44% said they still supported Planned Parenthood, 24% said they viewed them very favorably, and 34% put themselves in the middle by the end of the survey.

After a discussion of allegations of misconduct by Planned Parenthood's — such as failure to report sex crimes, quality of care lapses, financial mismanagement, and other investigations — 46% said they would support a federal investigation of the abortion mega provider. Only 27% said they would oppose a review, with 14% strongly opposing.

Less than one in four (22%) registered youth voters found Planned Parenthood vital. In fact, 50% of youth voters believe Planned Parenthood can be replaced with the massive number of real health care providers that offer all the health care Planned Parenthood claims to sell — except abortions.

For context from the survey: "Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) number nearly 1,400 nationwide and operate [more than 19,000 service sites](#) that provide general medical care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. By comparison, [Planned Parenthood reports operating fewer than 600 health centers](#). [National workforce data](#) also show a large number of primary-care clinicians practicing in the United States, including approximately 268,000 primary care physicians, 271,000 nurse practitioners, and 26,000 physician assistants."

A plurality of youth voters said they supported redirecting funds from Planned Parenthood to invest in real health care. Another 36% said they would support political leaders who reallocate funds from Planned Parenthood to health care providers, while only 27% said they would not support such leaders and 36% were in the moveable middle.

Planned Parenthood's sterilizing drug protocols for kids isn't a winner for the left. When asked about Planned Parenthood's new business — distributing sterilizing, wrong-sex hormones — 38% opposed their pivot, with 24% strongly opposing. Fewer youth voters (33%) were "somewhat" to "strongly" supportive of the experimental protocols, with 30% undeclared.

THE BIG PICTURE ON CHEMICAL ABORTION PILLS:

The GOP needs to get busy to save lives and the environment.

WHEN IT COMES TO CHEMICAL ABORTION PILLS: Youth voters want health and safety standards back in place & a review of Chemical Abortion Pills, which is still being delayed by the Trump Administration's FDA.

SFLA/SFLAction [has been the leader in identifying the new frontier](#) of anti-abortion activism — confronting the deadly realities of Chemical Abortion Pills, which are now the number one method of death by intentional abortion.

In the U.S., [the Food and Drug Administration](#) approved a [two-pill protocol](#) of mifepristone and misoprostol to end life in the womb and even recently [approved a new generic version of mifepristone](#). [The first deadly drug](#) was created to block progesterone, starving a baby in the womb, while the second triggers contractions. [Chemical Abortion Pills don't always work](#) and have been shown to have deadly high complication rates. They don't address ectopic pregnancies, which take place outside of the womb and are life-threatening. They don't work well later in pregnancy. And today, in light of the Biden Administration's weakened health and safety standards — known as Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies, or REMS — they are distributed online and by mail despite the dangers to women and preborn babies.

To protect women, an ultrasound associated with an abortion procedure was at one point the standard of care to determine the location of the pregnancy and how far along it was, as well as whether the abortion even took place. But that requirement has been dropped in the case of chemical abortion. Abortion vendors also once checked for Rh negative blood types to administer a shot of Rhogam to Rh-negative women, who can become infertile if there is an exchange of blood between mother and child during birth, miscarriage, or abortion. [That's also been done away with](#).

New risks from online distribution include the rise of abusers — who have used Chemical Abortion Pills against mothers without their knowledge or consent — as well as abortion water pollution. Because pathological medical waste is now flushed into waterways throughout the country as a result of the change in policy, we [know more than 50 tons](#) of chemically tainted blood and placental tissue, along with human remains, are flushed away each year rather than handled carefully as hospitals are required to do. [To add to the problem](#), the federal government [has not bothered to check](#) whether tons of medical waste is contaminating our drinking water.

On SFLAction/SFLA's website, you can learn more. But in light of the significant threat, which exposes [women to injury, infertility, and death](#), as well as empowering abusers and allowing abortion water pollution, SFLA inquired of the generation most targeted with the pills what they think about current policy.

ONCE AGAIN, REGISTERED YOUTH VOTERS DON'T SUPPORT THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF RECKLESS DISTRIBUTION AND WANT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES.

WE FOUND:

PROVIDING HEALTH AND SAFETY SCREENING A WINNER: Just like last year, 92% believe it is “somewhat” to “extremely” important to have ultrasound screening to protect

women's lives when they are exposed to deadly Chemical Abortion Pills. Only 8% did not want women protected with pre-screening.

PROTECTING FUTURE FERTILITY MATTERED: 94% support requiring providers to give women Rh blood tests to know about risks to future pregnancies, with 41% calling it "extremely" important. Only 6%, down from 8% last year, said it was "not at all" important to protect women from infertility.

PROTECTING WOMEN FROM ABUSERS IMPORTANT: Half of registered youth voters (50%) said that they would support in-person dispensing requirements (rather than anonymous, online distribution) to protect women from abusers using the drugs against them without their knowledge or consent. Only 27% opposed in-person dispensing, with 15% strongly opposing.

TESTING FOR ABORTION WATER POLLUTION POPULAR: Almost 9 in 10 (89%) support studies on the potential environmental impact of waste and drugs related to abortion, with 30% saying it is "extremely" important. Only 10% don't want the government to investigate abortion water pollution.

SUPPORT FOR REQUIRING BIOHAZARD WASTE DISPOSAL AFTER ABORTION VERY HIGH: Only 10% said they don't want the abortion industry to be held to the same standards as other businesses that produce pathological medical waste. Ninety percent said it was important for those who distribute abortion pills to provide medical waste bags to collect the pathological medical waste and return it to the abortion vendor for legal disposal, with 33% saying it was extremely important.

SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATORS FIGHTING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM DEADLY CHEMICAL ABORTION PILLS: 48% said that they would favorably view legislators addressing environmental concerns related to Chemical Abortion Pills. Only 20% said they would view such work unfavorably, with 32% in the middle.

SUPPORT FOR A REVIEW OF CHEMICAL ABORTION PILLS, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT NO-TEST, ONLINE DISTRIBUTION: The GOP should take note that 94% said such a federal review of Chemical Abortion Pill policy was important, with 31% calling it extremely important. Only 6% said it is not at all important.

THE BIG PICTURE ON HELPING FAMILIES:

Pro-life legislators need to get loud about how to support families. More help for babies, mothers, and families equals more support for abortion limits.

More help equals more support for limits on abortion — and moves more voters. More than three in 10 youth voters (34%) would accept limits on abortion if they knew that the state and federal government offered increased support for mothers, children, and families. Twenty-four percent said they would not accept more limits, even if there was more help.

But there is more to the story. At the beginning of the survey, two-thirds (66%) said that they supported laws limiting abortion. But in the context of considering their support for real, substantial help for families, of the 34% who initially did not want to see limits on abortion, 21% of those 34% -- or roughly 7% of all those surveyed -- indicated that with increased help, greater limits became acceptable. This represents a 7-point increase in support for abortion limits when combined with support for families, demonstrating another Overton window shift in favor of Life.

Looking at how best to help mothers, newborns, and families, the vast majority of youth voters want to see practical help.

They support:

- Keeping health care costs for pregnancy and birth affordable: 70%
- Paid family leave for new parents that gives them time with their newborn child without sacrificing income: 65%
- Education and support services focusing on educating new parents about child care, health, and child development: 64%
- Child health and development programs that provide resources for early childhood development, such as home visitation programs, parenting classes, and early intervention services for developmental delays: 63%
- Child care subsidies to make child care more affordable for single mothers and low-income families: 62%
- Financial assistance for eligible families in the form of reduced tax liability for each qualifying child under a certain age (also known as child tax credits): 60%
- Support for parents who want to place a child for adoption or adopt a child: 59%
- Workplace support programs (e.g., parking, nursing spaces, child care, etc.): 57%
- Programs to support parents who are in college (e.g., parking, nursing spaces, child care, etc.): 54%
- Child support from the father to the mother that begins during pregnancy: 48%

THE BIG PICTURE ON FREE SPEECH:

The generation that has witnessed heroes like Charlie Kirk murdered believes schools need to do more to support free speech, and they worry about the dangers of speaking out.

Almost half (49%) of youth voters think violence on college campuses and in public spaces has increased, with 34% thinking it's about the same, and surprisingly, 8% saying it has decreased.

More than nine in 10 (92%) are concerned about violence directed at those using their free speech rights, with 24% "extremely" concerned. Only 8% had no concern for those expressing their views on college campuses or public spaces.

Asked about whether colleges and universities should prioritize and financially support free speech, more than nine in 10 (93%) said yes, with 33% saying it's "extremely" important. Only 6% thought that kind of investment was not at all important.

CONCLUSION:

Legislators and leaders who want to connect with youth voters must reach past talking points to practical and even detailed statements about how to protect life in law and in service. This large demographic won't be won over by an agenda that ignores what we know to be true about how abortion harms people, but leadership is needed to advance an agenda providing solutions. Neither the Democratic Party's lazy endorsement of all things abortion nor the GOP's too frequent neglect of the issue will move a group of voters who can be won.