

Marist Poll™

GenNext: Spring 2024 Survey

On two important issues, Gen Z has attitudes quite different from their elders. America's youngest voters say the debate over abortion rights has animated them more than other generations. They're also the most likely generation to donate time to non-profits and money to political campaigns.

These are the latest findings from the Marist Poll's latest *GenNext* survey. *GenNext* is an innovative research project that focuses on the opinions of America's next generation of leaders and how they compare with older Americans.

Here's the twist – working in tandem with the professionals at the Marist Poll, **student researchers** conduct each survey from start to finish. This time around, Marist student researchers Krystyna Lubrano and Neel Viswanathan developed questions in two areas: abortion and charitable giving of both time and money. Their results follow:

Abortion Rights

Members of Gen Z are **more motivated to vote** by their views on the Supreme Court **overturning *Roe v. Wade*** than other Americans in other generations.

- 24% of Gen Z say they *oppose* the Court's decision overturning abortion rights, and it is a *main* factor motivating their vote. This compares with 18% of Millennials, 15% of Gen X, 15% of Baby Boomers, and 8% of the Silent/Greatest generation.
- 12% of Gen Z say their support for overturning *Roe* is a main factor motivating their vote, compared with 11% of Millennials, 5% of Gen X, 3% of Boomers, and 12% of the Silent/Greatest.

When asked if they would support a candidate that **shares their views on most issues but differs on abortion**, there was relatively little difference between Gen Z and other generations in saying they would “definitely” or “probably” NOT vote for that candidate: Gen Z (46%), Millennials (43%), Gen X (50%), Boomers (45%), Silent/Greatest (40%).

Similarly, Gen Z is consistent with every age group. A plurality views the Democratic Party as the one that would “**do a better job**” on abortion: Gen Z (43%), Millennials (47%), Gen X (41%), Boomers (48%), Silent/Greatest (36%).

In terms of **abortion laws**, Gen Z is most likely to hold views at the extremes.

- Members of Gen Z are the most likely to say abortion should be allowed “**at any time during a pregnancy**”: Gen Z (27%), Millennials (20%), Gen X (20%), Boomers (25%), Silent/Greatest (19%).

- They are also the most likely generation to say if there were laws limiting abortion, those laws should have **no exceptions** for things like rape or incest: Gen Z (19%), Millennials (13%), Gen X (8%), Boomers (6%), Silent/Greatest (11%).

Gen Z is more likely than their older counterparts to consider themselves “**pro-choice**.” Gen Z (67%), Millennials (57%), Gen X (65%), Boomers (61%), Silent/Greatest (50%).

Viswanathan reacted to the findings: “I learned that Gen Z is more strongly opinionated than any other generation regarding abortion policy and its effect on candidate choice on either side of the spectrum.”

Charity

Whether volunteering for charity or political party, Gen Z is **much more likely to give their time** than members of older generations.

- 72% of Gen Z say they have volunteered for an organization or association at least once or twice a year in the past two years. This compares with 55% of Millennials, 48% of Gen X, 40% of Boomers, and 26% of the Silent/Greatest.
- While majorities of each age group say they have not volunteered for a political candidate or party, Gen Z is more likely to say they have lent their time in the past two years than are their older counterparts: Gen Z (36%), Millennials (30%), Gen X (14%), Boomers (8%), Silent/Greatest (4%).

When it comes to **donating money** as opposed to time, there is somewhat less difference between Gen Z and other generations.

- Although the differences are small, Gen Z is the *least likely* to report having donated money to charitable or non-profit organizations in the prior two years: Gen Z (77%), Millennials (82%), Gen X (78%), Boomers (86%), Silent/Greatest (85%).
- Conversely, Gen Z is the *most likely* to say they’ve given money to a candidate or party in the past two years: Gen Z (39%), Millennials (35%), Gen X (26%), Boomers (22%), Silent/Greatest (33%).

There is relatively little difference among the generations on how much Americans do **research on organizations** prior to donating money. Majorities in every generation say they do “a lot” or “some” research: Gen Z (79%), Millennials (72%), Gen X (69%), Boomers (75%), Silent/Greatest (80%).

As for **the impact of donating** time or money, Gen Z is the most likely to say it makes a “great deal” or “good amount” of difference: Gen Z (84%), Millennials (81%), Gen X (76%), Boomers (78%), Silent/Greatest (69%).

“What I find most interesting about the survey results is the difference in American engagement between political campaigns and humanitarian organizations,” says researcher Lubrano. “Political conversations tend to dominate American culture,

especially on a college campus. According to the data, though, Americans are investing in charity through volunteer work or donations far more than they are to political campaigns.”

Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho, Director of the Marist Poll notes, “I think it’s so important to let our student researchers lead the way on the topics and questions we’re asking in *GenNext*. Their findings on abortion and how Americans give their time and money have given us a new way to look at two important issues.”

GenNext provides Marist students with an opportunity to explore what interests them while applying what they’ve learned in the classroom. Student researchers learn the entire process of polling from the experienced team at the Marist Poll, working side-by-side with experts in topic research, questionnaire development, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion adds, “This is the kind of opportunity that only the Marist Poll can provide since we’ve spent the last 46 years working with students on our surveys. Now, select Marist students can take all they’ve learned and apply it by conducting real-world, high-quality public opinion research as undergraduates.”