

YWomenVote 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The stage is set for women to be a driving force in 2020.

New data from **YWomenVote2020**—YWCA’s 3rd national survey of women in the United States—explores their economic, health, gender-based violence, workplace equity, and racial justice concerns and priorities.

YWomenVote2020 provides the most comprehensive examination of women’s concerns, experiences, and priorities—including in-depth examination of Black, Latina, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Millennial (age 23-38), and white rural women and a first-of-its-kind look at Gen Z women (age 18-22).

YWomenVote2020 frames clear expectations among women for Congress and the next presidential administration, and gives new energy to the diverse voices of women who demand that our nation’s leaders listen and take action to meet their needs.

FINDING #1:

Women are highly motivated to raise their voices to advance shared personal and economic security interests in 2020, and overwhelmingly call on policy makers to enact solutions that address their priorities.

Women are enthusiastic to vote in 2020, with more than three-quarters of women (78%) believing the results of the 2020 election will have an impact on themselves and their families. A year out from the 2020 election, 81% of women are enthusiastic to vote.

Women are aligned on priority legislation and policy solutions that support their:

- **Health and well-being** with comprehensive healthcare coverage for preexisting conditions and increased access to mental health services in schools and communities
- **Fair workplaces** with anti-harassment and discrimination protections
- **Economic security** with equal pay laws
- **Families** with a national paid family and medical leave program and child care
- **Safety**, with renewal of the Violence Against Women Act and responses to gun violence and mass shootings

Agreement among women is so high on a set of top tier priorities that they operate like core values: ending sexual violence in the workplace, equal pay laws, safeguarding health care coverage, expanding mental health services, renewing the Violence Against Women Act, and creating a national paid family and medical leave program.

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FINDING #2:

Despite national political discourse that highlights the country's divisions, women possess deep alignment and shared interests across demographic groups.

Women, across race, ethnicity, and other demographic groups, share concerns around:

- Keeping themselves and their families safe from **mass shootings** and **gun violence**
- Having **affordable and secure health insurance**, or a **medical expense** that they cannot afford
- **Caring for family members** as they age and having **paid leave** from work to care for themselves or a family member who is seriously ill
- Having sufficient family **income** to meet **family expenses** and **pay bills**
- **Climate change**, which is impacting the security of their families and communities

Notably, **women of color** are intensely concerned about key issues facing women overall, and express very high levels of support for legislative priorities. **Gen Z women (age 18-22)** register higher levels of concern for their personal and economic security than older generations, and have substantially unique concerns that distinguish them from older women. Alignment among women across **political party affiliation** and community setting (**urban, suburban, rural**) defies conventional wisdom.

YWWomenVote2020's rich data points to deep alignment, shared interests, and clear legislative priorities.

FINDING #3:

Women expect leaders to take action to protect against sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and domestic and sexual violence.

Discrimination and prejudice remain significant experiences for women that drive and inform their concerns and priorities.

- Gender discrimination has increased by 13% since 2012 for women overall.
- Rates of gender discrimination are higher for most women of color groups, and the prevalence of racial discrimination is even higher than gender discrimination for Black, Latina, and Asian/Pacific Islander women.
- Half of Gen Z women (50%) say they have experienced age-based discrimination, and older Millennial women (age 30-38) are the most likely age group to experience pregnancy discrimination.

Women's concerns about sexual harassment and domestic and sexual violence remain prevalent.

- Notably, 1-in-10 women experienced sexual harassment in the workplace over the last year. The prevalence was even higher for women under 30 (22%) and unmarried women with a partner (21%).

The trauma of gender-based violence—a spectrum of violence that overwhelmingly impacts women and includes intimate partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and harassment—can lead to cascading negative impacts on all aspects of women's lives. This is confirmed by the increased worries on all economic, health, safety, and caregiving concerns reported by women who expressed concerns about sexual or domestic violence, or reported that they were sexually harassed within the last year.

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