

YWOMENVOTE 2022: Summary

Women have been a driving force in recent elections and – once again – are setting the stage in 2022.

This **YWomenVote 2022** summary draws from [YWCA USA’s fourth national survey of women in the United States](#) and provides a comprehensive examination of women’s concerns while setting clear expectations heading into the 2nd session of the 117th Congress and national midterm election. YWomenVote 2022, confirms what YWCA sees every day in our work with women, families, and communities—that women across the spectrum are united in their support for economic, caregiving, gender-based violence, health, and racial justice policy solutions that address their concerns.

The data from **YWomenVote2022** centers women of color – including an examination of Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) - whose voices are critical yet frequently overlooked in policy discussions, and frames clear expectations for legislative action to address their concerns and priorities. YWomenVote 2022 also provides in-depth analysis of the concerns and priorities of Millennial and Gen Z women, and women across party lines.

WOMEN’S POLICY PREFERENCES

When it comes to specific policy solutions, women have high expectations for Congress to take action by passing legislation that responds to their concerns. Policies that would **increase women’s economic advancement, protect voting rights, or protect against potential outcomes from the rise of white nationalism**, tend to be most intensely supported.

Top Policies Ranked by % One of the Most Important Things							
Policy Category	Policy	Most important / Very important combined	One of the most important	Very important	Somewhat important	Only a little/ Not at all	Don’t know
Women’s economic advancement	<i>Paycheck Fairness Act</i>	73%	35%	38%	16%	9%	2%
Women’s economic advancement	<i>Family & Medical Leave, Paid Sick Leave and Paid Safe Leave</i>	72%	35%	37%	15%	10%	3%
Racial justice	<i>John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act</i>	68%	34%	34%	15%	12%	4%
Women’s economic advancement	<i>End Discrimination Against Women</i>	72%	33%	39%	17%	9%	2%
Racial justice	<i>End Racial/Religious Profiling</i>	69%	32%	37%	13%	14%	4%
Racial justice	<i>George Floyd Justice in Policing Act</i>	61%	32%	29%	17%	18%	4%
Women’s economic advancement	<i>End workplace harassment and sexual violence</i>	71%	30%	41%	16%	10%	2%

Bipartisan Support for Policy Solutions

Every single policy tested garnered a majority of women who said that it is either “very important” or “one of the most important things Congress can do.” When examined by party identification, with only one exception, broad support exists across party identification for policies related to economic advancement, gender-based violence, racial justice, mental health, and nonprofit community services.

Top Policy Solutions of Democrats, Independents and Republicans <i>% One of the Most Important / Very Important Combined</i>			
<i>A Top Policy for All 3 Party ID Categories</i>			
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Paycheck Fairness Act	84%	70%	59%
Paid Family & Medical Leave, Paid Sick Leave, and Paid Safe Leave	83%	67%	60%
End Workplace Harassment and Sexual Violence	82%	69%	58%
End Discrimination against Women	81%	68%	60%

<i>A Top Policy for 2 Party ID Categories</i>			
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)	(78%)	70%	60%
Reauthorize Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)	(79%)	68%	61%
John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act	84%	68%	(47%)
End Racial/Religious Profiling	83%	64%	(51%)
Living Wages & Skills-Based Training for Childcare Sector	80%	68%	(53%)
<i>A Top Policy for 1 Party ID Category</i>			
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Impact of Stress and Trauma During COVID-19	(75%)	(63%)	55%
Funding for Nonprofit Community Services	80%	(67%)	(49%)
George Floyd Justice in Policing Act	80%	(56%)	(34%)

(#%) Denotes a policy that is not on the list of top priorities for that party identification, but the % is included for comparison purposes.

Top priorities were determined by ranking concerns by the % who described themselves as “very worried”, however, this table reports % very worried + somewhat worried combined.

WOMEN'S TOP CONCERNS IN 2022

In the midst of health, economic, and social challenges for our nation, women overall share anxieties around the economy, threats to personal rights, and mental health, which dominate women's top concerns heading into this midterm election year.

Women's Top Concerns Ranked by % Very/Somewhat Worried Combined							
Concern Category	Concern	Very/Somewhat Combined	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too Worried	Not worried at all	Don't know
Economic	<i>That your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and pay your bills</i>	54%	31%	23%	21%	23%	2%
Mental Health	<i>Stress, anxiety or trauma from COVID-19</i>	49%	24%	25%	28%	21%	2%
Economic	<i>Being able to afford your rent or mortgage</i>	48%	30%	18%	19%	31%	2%
Rights	<i>Whether your vote will count in elections</i>	45%	25%	20%	19%	33%	4%
Rights	<i>The rise in white nationalism in the U.S.</i>	44%	28%	16%	16%	30%	9%
Rights	<i>That reproductive health services for women, including the right to have an abortion, remain legal where I live</i>	44%	26%	18%	15%	34%	6%
Mental Health	<i>Having access to affordable mental health services</i>	41%	20%	21%	20%	36%	3%

Concerns Among Women of Color

The intensity and breadth of economic concerns among Hispanic/Latinx and AI/AN women is particularly notable (+11 and +19 higher than other women). They were also at least 10 percent points more likely to report being worried about 4 separate areas of concern. Also notable is the intensity of concern across racial/ethnic subgroups regarding the rise in white nationalism and having access to affordable mental health services.

Top Concerns Among Women of Color % Somewhat or Very Worried							
Concern Category	Concern	Overall	White	Black	Hispanic / Latinx	AAPI	AI/AN
Economic	<i>That your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and pay your bills</i>	54%	51%	59%	65%	51%	83%
Mental Health	<i>Stress, anxiety or trauma from COVID-19</i>	49%	48%	53%	61%	58%	53%

Economic	<i>Being able to afford your rent or mortgage</i>	48%	45%	56%	60%	48%	65%
Rights	<i>Whether your vote will count in elections</i>	44%	45%	45%	49%	43%	41%
Rights	<i>The rise in white nationalism in the U.S.</i>	44%	41%	59%	50%	54%	58%
Rights	<i>That reproductive health services for women, including the right to have an abortion, remain legal where I live</i>	44%	43%	48%	49%	53%	52%
Mental Health	<i>Having access to affordable mental health services</i>	41%	40%	45%	56%	53%	51%

Numbers in **bold in the tables are at least 5 percentage points above the overall total. Numbers that are **bold and underlined** are at least 10 percentage points above the overall total.*

Generational Concerns

Across the top concerns of women overall, younger women tend to feel these worries more acutely. Gen Z and Millennials are particularly likely to be concerned about affording their rent or mortgage or making ends meet overall, followed narrowly by Gen X. The two youngest generations are also those most concerned about having access to affordable mental health services.

Top Concerns by Generation % Somewhat or Very Worried							
Concern Category	Concern	Overall	Gen Z	Millennial	Gen X	Baby Boomers	75+
Economic	<i>That your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and pay your bills</i>	54%	59%	66%	59%	44%	32%
Mental Health	<i>Stress, anxiety or trauma from COVID-19</i>	49%	57%	58%	48%	48%	32%
Economic	<i>Being able to afford your rent or mortgage</i>	48%	58%	64%	55%	34%	13%
Rights	<i>Whether your vote will count in elections</i>	44%	42%	45%	47%	44%	41%
Rights	<i>The rise in white nationalism in the U.S.</i>	44%	54%	44%	46%	44%	39%
Rights	<i>That reproductive health services for women, including the right to have an abortion, remain legal where I live</i>	44%	50%	47%	44%	42%	40%
Mental Health	<i>Having access to affordable mental health services</i>	41%	51%	54%	49%	25%	24%

Numbers in **bold in the tables are at least 5 percentage points above the overall total. Numbers that are **bold and underlined** are at least 10 percentage points above the overall total.*

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

This online survey was designed and conducted by Finn Partners and reached a total of N=1,438 women nationwide between December 22, 2021 and January 5, 2022. The overall sample includes oversamples to ensure at least N=200 were interviewed in the following categories: Black women, Hispanic/Latinx women, Asian American and Pacific Islander women, and American Indian and Alaska Native women. These oversamples were weighted down to their proper size in the final dataset to ensure that the findings are

representative by race and ethnicity. Additionally, slight weighting was applied to the data set by age, region, and education level, to ensure the overall representativeness of the sample as well.

ABOUT YWCA

For over 160 years, YWCA has been on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements – from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we combine programming and advocacy in order to generate institutional change in three key areas: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls.

Full survey results are available at www.ywomenvote.org