

YWOMENVOTE 2022 - MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Spotlight on Black Women

This spotlight on Black women provides a brief overview of their concerns and priorities heading into the 2022 midterm elections. Drawn from [YWCA USA's fifth national survey of women in the United States](#), this data centers women of color whose voices are critical yet frequently overlooked in policy discussions, and frames clear expectations for legislative action to address their concerns and priorities. While women overall are remarkably consistent in their concerns and priorities, the nuanced experiences of women of color shape their specific expectations for action to meet their most pressing concerns.

Black women are one of the largest voting constituencies in the U.S. electorate. Not only do Black women show up, some research suggests that – despite voter suppression efforts targeted at voters of color across the nation – they are also the most determined to cast their vote. And, current findings suggest that Black women will continue to be key influencers in the 2022 elections.

Enthusiasm and Impact: Black Women

More than two-thirds of Black women (67%) surveyed believe the midterm federal election results in 2022 will have at least somewhat of an impact on their lives and their families' lives. This matches women overall at (67%). And when asked about the 2022 election, 39% of Black women surveyed reported high enthusiasm to vote in the upcoming federal elections (scoring importance as an “8”, “9”, or “10” on a scale of 0 - 10, with ten being most important). Notably, however, Black women's enthusiasm for the 2022 election is significantly lower than the enthusiasm of women overall (49%)(-10 percentage points). Black women are more intensely concerned about being able to cast their vote without interference or obstacles (51% somewhat or very worried) than women overall (44%).

Policy Solutions: Black Women

Intensity of support for racial justice, childcare, economic, and community service issues is notably higher among Black women. **Black women's support for racial justice legislation is between 12 percentage points and 23 percentage points higher than women overall.** Their highest ranked policy solutions are:

Top Policies: Black Women	
<i>Ranked by One of the Most Important/Very Important Combined</i>	
Health and Community Well-Being	Federal Funding for Nonprofit Community Services (87%) (+12 compared to women overall)
Health and Community Well-Being	Prevent gun violence and mass shootings (85%) (+3)
Economic Security	End Workplace Harassment & Discrimination (84%) (+5)
Racial Justice & Civil Rights	Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis (84%) (+23)
Economic Security	Strengthen equal pay laws for women (84%) (+8)
Racial Justice & Civil Rights	Protect People of Color from Police Violence (84%) (+18)
Racial Justice & Civil Rights	Pass legislation to end racial and religious profiling. (83%) (+15)
Economic Security	Workforce Training for Nontraditional Jobs (83%) (+16)
Racial Justice & Civil Rights	Voting Rights: End Voter Suppression and Discriminatory Practices (83%) (+12)

Top Concerns: Black Women

Black women share core concerns with all women across a range of racial justice, economic, and health issues, but at higher levels of intensity. **Black women express acute concerns regarding racial justice issues related to police violence (+29), acts of racially motivated hate (+30), and white nationalism (+30) in comparison to women overall.** The concerns that rank highest for Black women are:

Top Concerns: Black Women <i>Ranked by Very/Somewhat Worried Combined</i>	
Economic	Cost of Living (82%) (-4 compared to women overall)
Gun Violence	Mass Shootings and Gun Violence (81%) (+5)
Economic	Family Income and Expenses (71%) (+3)
Racial Justice	Safety from Police Violence (69%) (+29)
Economic	Afford Rent or Mortgage (67%) (+5)
Racial Justice	Acts of Hate / Racial violence (67%) (+30)
Racial Justice	Rise in White Nationalism (66%) (+30)
Racial Justice	Ability to cast vote without interference (51%) (+7)
Economic	Earning Equal Pay (60%) (+10)
Mental Health	Affordable Mental Health Services (60%) (+9)

FULL SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE AT YWOMENVOTE.ORG

Survey Methodology

This online survey was designed and conducted by Finn Partners. It reached a total of N=3,354 women nationwide between June 21, 2022 and August 2, 2022. This sample is inclusive of oversamples of women in six states (N=400 in each of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas), younger women of color (N=200 Gen Z, N=200 millennial), and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women (N=81), all of which were weighted down to the appropriate size nationwide. The combined reach of this survey and additional oversamples enabled examination of demographic subgroups by race and ethnicity (Black women, Hispanic women/Latinas, Asian American and Pacific Islander women, and American Indian/Alaska Native women), and by generation.

About YWCA USA

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. Learn more at www.ywca.org.