

YWWomenVote 2022 – Midterm Elections

Spotlight on North Carolina

This spotlight on North Carolina 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 the women of North Carolina whose voice are critical yet frequently overlooked in policy discussions, and frames clear expectations for legislative actions to address their concerns and priorities.

Election Enthusiasm and Impact

Women in North Carolina prioritize federal elections and state and local elections equally; **46 percent** of respondents reported high enthusiasm (ranked as an eight, nine, or 10 on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest intensity of enthusiasm) for both the top-of-the-ballot and down-ticket.

North Carolina women also rated the impact of federal and state elections equally, with **69 percent** reporting that they believe the upcoming federal elections will have “a big impact” or “somewhat of an impact” on their and their families’ lives in each category.

Policy Solutions: Women in North Carolina

The solutions women in North Carolina believe Congress should prioritize include policies aimed at ending workplace harassment, discrimination, and sexual violence (**80 percent**), preventing mass shootings and gun violence (**79 percent**), and comprehensive healthcare coverage that includes pre-existing conditions). Top priorities ranked and compared to national findings are below.

| Top Policies: North Carolina Women | | | | |
|---|---|---------|-----|-----------|
| % One of the most important/very important; Sorted by net | | | | |
| Policy Category | Policy Issue | Overall | NC | Net |
| Economic Security | End Workplace Harassment, Discrimination, Sexual Violence | 79% | 80% | +1 |
| Health & Well-Being | Comprehensive Health Coverage | 78% | 78% | +0 |
| Economic Security | Paid Family & Medical Leave | 73% | 72% | -1 |
| Health & Well-Being | Improve Maternal Health Care | 73% | 72% | -1 |
| Economic Security | Equal Pay | 76% | 74% | -2 |
| Health & Well-Being | Prevent Gun Violence & Mass Shootings | 82% | 79% | -3 |
| Gender-Based Violence | Domestic Violence Prevention & Services | 76% | 73% | -3 |
| Health & Well-Being | Access to Contraception | 74% | 71% | -3 |
| Health & Well-Being | Expand Mental Health Services for Survivors of Trauma | 77% | 73% | -4 |
| Health & Well-Being | Federal Funding for Nonprofit Community Services | 75% | 71% | -4 |

Top Concerns: Women in North Carolina

The top concern among women in North Carolina is the high cost of living (**87 percent**). This is 17 percentage points higher than the concerns that follow; mass shootings and gun violence (**70 percent**) and concerns that family income is not enough to pay the bills (**70 percent**). Other top concerns – ranked by how they compare to national results – can be found below.

| Top Concerns: North Carolina Women | | | | |
|---|--|---------|-----|-----------|
| % Very/somewhat worried; Sorted by net from overall women | | | | |
| Policy Category | Policy Issue | Overall | NC | Net |
| Racial justice | Safety from police violence | 40% | 44% | +4 |
| Economic security | Family income not enough to pay bills | 68% | 70% | +2 |
| Racial justice/Democracy | Ability to cast vote without interference | 44% | 46% | +2 |
| Health & Well-Being | Access to contraception | 31% | 33% | +2 |
| Economic security | High cost of living / inflation | 86% | 87% | +1 |
| Economic security | Quality, affordable, accessible, dependable child care | 36% | 37% | +1 |
| Economic security | Access to paid family and medical leave | 41% | 41% | +0 |
| Gender-based violence | Discrimination or harassment at work | 31% | 30% | -1 |
| Health & Well-being | Affordable mental health services | 51% | 49% | -2 |
| Health & Well-being | Stress, anxiety, trauma from COVID 19 | 47% | 45% | -2 |

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), which were weighted down to the appropriate size nationwide.

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.