

YWWomenVote 2022 – Midterm Elections Spotlight on Pennsylvania

This spotlight on Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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

Federal elections: In Pennsylvania, women **47 percent** of women expressed high enthusiasm to vote in federal elections, slightly lower (**51 percent**), ranked as an eight, nine, or 10 (on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the most enthusiasm) compared 49 percent of women nationally. **Nearly one-third** (32 percent) of Pennsylvania women ranked their enthusiasm as a “10”.

State and local elections: **Close to half** (48 percent) of women in Pennsylvania reported that they are enthusiastic to vote in their state and local elections, slightly less (51 percent) than what women reported nationally. Pennsylvania women also reported slightly higher (**48 percent** versus **47 percent**, respectively) enthusiasm for state and local contests compared to federal elections. Women in Pennsylvania were also more likely (**74 percent**) to believe state and local elections would have “a big impact” or “somewhat of an impact” on their and their families’ lives compared to federal elections (**68 percent**).

Policy Solutions: Women in Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, **82 percent** of women reported the highest intensity for support around policies to prevent gun violence and mass shootings should be the top priority for Congress. Other top policies centered around access to contraception, at **76 percent**, economic security, and preventing gender-based violence

Top Policies: Pennsylvania Women				
% One of the most important/very important; Sorted by net				
Policy Category	Policy Issue	Overall	PA	Net
Economic security	Equal pay	76%	81%	+5
Health & well-being	Improve maternal health care	73%	76%	+3
Health & well-being	Access to contraception	74%	76%	+2
Economic security	Paid family & medical leave	73%	75%	+2
Health & well-being	Prevent gun violence & mass shootings	82%	83%	+1
Health & well-being	Comprehensive health coverage (incl. contraception)	78%	79%	+1
Health & well-being	Federal funding for nonprofit community services	75%	76%	+1
Economic security	End workplace harassment, discrimination, sexual violence	79%	79%	+0
Gender-based violence	Domestic violence prevention & services	76%	76%	+0
Health & well-being	Expand mental health services for trauma survivors	77%	76%	-1

Top Concerns: Women in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania women’s top concerns are heavily centered around economic security and health – namely, comprehensive reproductive health care and gun violence. In Pennsylvania, on par with other states surveyed and nationally, is the top concern (**90 percent**), with Pennsylvania women more likely (by four percentage points) to be concerned compared to women overall. Other top concerns, ranked by how they compare to the overall survey responses, are below.

Top Concerns: Pennsylvania Women				
% Very/somewhat worried; Sorted by net from overall women				
Concern Category	Concern	Overall	PA	Net
Health & well-being	Reproductive health services	51%	58%	+7
Health & well-being	Access to contraception	31%	38%	+7
Economic security	High quality, affordable, accessible, dependable childcare	36%	42%	+6
Economic security	Paid sick days	42%	47%	+5
Economic security	High cost of living	86%	90%	+4
Economic security	Paid family and medical leave	41%	45%	+4
Economic security	Family income not enough to pay bills	68%	71%	+3
Economic security	Earning equal pay (gender pay gap)	50%	53%	+3
Economic security	Afford rent or mortgage	62%	64%	+2
Health & well-being	Affordable mental health services	51%	53%	+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), all of 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.