

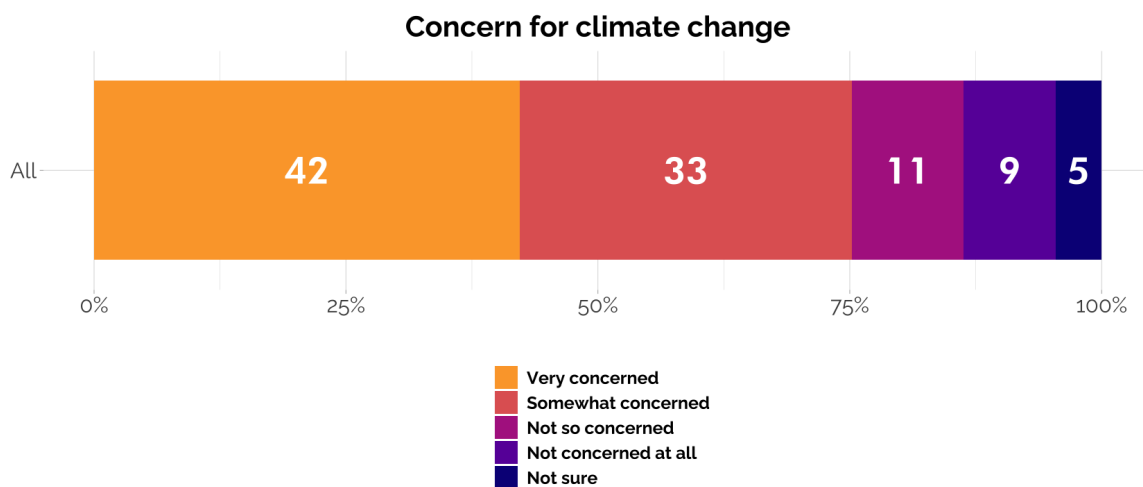
## Young Americans, the 2022 Midterms, & Policy Preferences

*Young Americans believe change happens BOTH by their own actions AND by the ballot box. They believe that voting in elections will help achieve change, though enthusiasm for the upcoming midterm elections is mixed.*

Overall, young people are split on whether to be excited about voting this fall. On a scale of 1 (not at all enthusiastic) to 10 (very enthusiastic), just as many said 1 as said 10 (about 16 percent at each end). Notably, this engagement in the upcoming midterm elections is not equally shared among all young Americans and appears to be especially connected to their feelings about their prospects for the future. On policy, young Americans find agreement even where older Americans find division - most young people, including large majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, want to restore the right to abortion access, to forgive at least some student loan debt, and to better regulate large companies and social media platforms and support more gun safety protections.

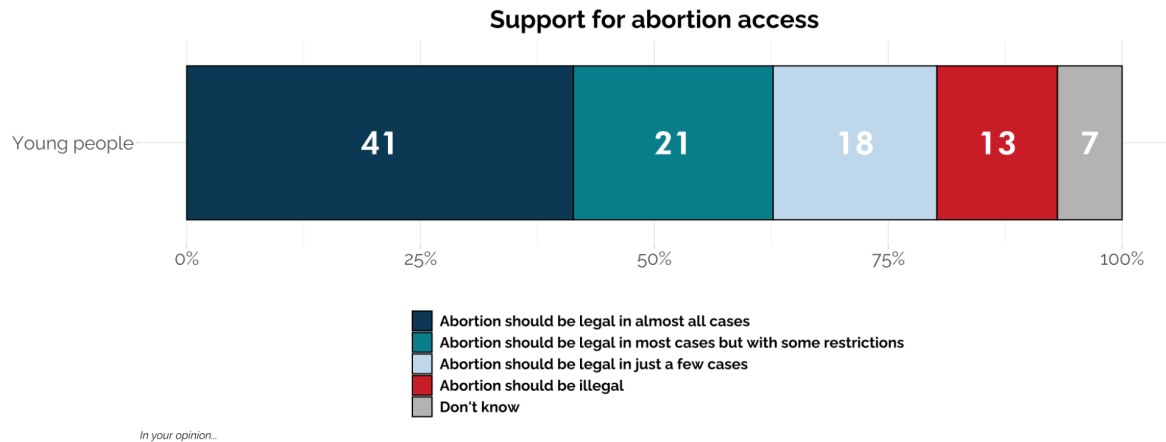
Young Americans feel clear disconnects from the current state of politics when it comes to how things are going on issues like debt relief, climate change, abortion, and gun control, and it is clear these issues motivate them at the ballot box.

Concern about climate change is a galvanizing issue for young Americans: in fact, fully three in four (75 percent) say they are concerned about it, including 42 percent who say they're very concerned. Across the partisan divide, most young people express at least some level of concern for climate change, with fully 42 percent saying they are "very concerned" about it. This includes 90 percent of Democrats saying they are somewhat or very concerned, along with 69 percent of Independents and 53 percent of Republicans.<sup>1</sup>



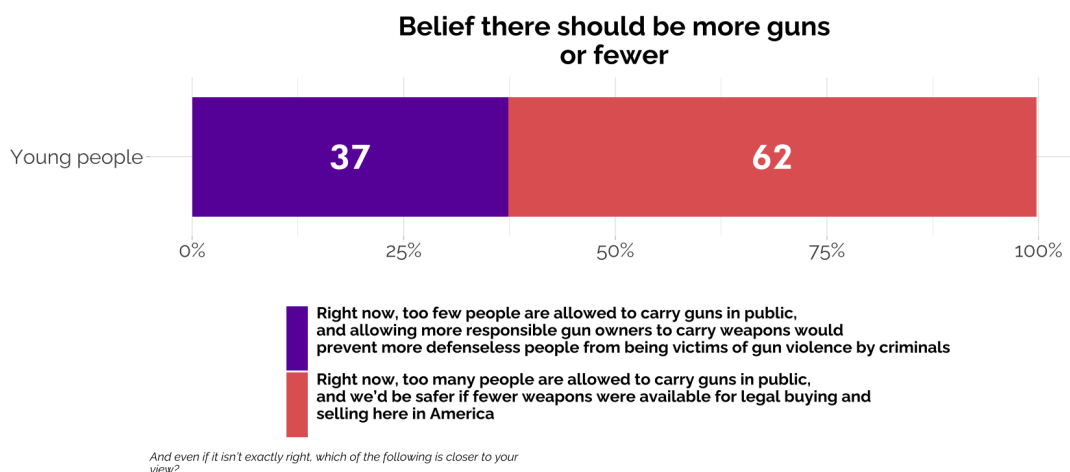
<sup>1</sup> For more, refer to question 48 of the survey documentation.

Notably, overwhelming majorities of young people support at least some form of abortion access. About 62 percent say abortion should be legal “almost all cases” or in “most cases but with some restrictions.” This includes support for abortion in “almost all cases” or in “most cases” among 77 percent of Democrats, 60 percent of Independents, and 38 percent of Republicans.



Outside of the specific question of abortion access, young people overwhelmingly support ensuring people have access to a variety of reproductive healthcare needs. There is no appetite among young people for outlawing contraception or any common form of reproductive healthcare (75 percent would oppose such a measure). Young people also overwhelmingly oppose newly-discussed state mandates to investigate miscarriages for signs they were an induced abortion, by a roughly 30 percentage point margin (24 percent to 52 percent).<sup>2</sup>

Amidst nationwide debates about whether our country needs more gun safety protections or would benefit from having more “good guys with a gun” on the street, young people say they would prefer more gun safety protections. In a generation that views gun violence on their streets and in their schools as one of their generation’s most formative generational experiences, this view stems from the unique environment in which this generation finds itself. Nearly two-thirds of young people say they would prefer to see fewer guns in our society, rather than more.<sup>3</sup>



With these policy disconnects in mind as valuable for understanding the views of young people, it is also important to contextualize these views with this generation’s concerns about the economy. Similar to what one may see in other generations, this generation is highly concerned with inflation and the availability of jobs.

<sup>2</sup> For more, refer to question 51 of the survey documentation.

<sup>3</sup> For more, refer to question 47 of the survey documentation.