

GEN Z ²⁰₂₂ AGENDA

 **VOTERS OF TOMORROW**

Table of Contents

21st Century Economic Justice	2
Raising the Minimum Wage	3
Abolish the Tipped Wage	3
Pay Your Interns	3
Increasing Unionization	4
Paid Family & Medical Leave	4
A Federal Jobs Guarantee	4
The Right to Housing	4
Ending Food Insecurity	5
A Secure Retirement in our Future	5
Justice For All	6
Gun Violence Prevention	7
Women’s Rights	7
Racial Justice	7
LGBTQIA+ Equality	7
Justice for Immigrants and Asylum Seekers	8
Justice for Indigenous People	8
Police Accountability & Redefining Public Safety	8
No More War	9
Ending the War on Drugs	9
Implement a Restorative Justice System	9
Abolish Cash Bail	10
Ending Private Prisons	10
Decriminalizing Sex Work	10
Government & Democracy Reform	10
Voting Rights	11
DC Statehood	11
Self-Determination for US Territories	11
Youth Representation	11
Abolish the Filibuster	12
Campaign Finance Reform	12
Health Care	12
Universal Health Care	13
Reproductive Healthcare	13

Mental Health Care	13
Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs	14
Abolish the “Pink Tax”	14
Education	14
Higher Education for All	15
Cancel Student Debt	15
Early Childhood Education & Universal Child Care	15
A Holistic and Honest Curriculum	16
Fair Funding for Public Schools	16
Inclusive Special Education	16
End Standardized Testing	17
Universal School Meals	17
Being Honest about Health & Sex Education	17
Combatting the Climate Crisis	18
Nationwide Mass Economic Mobilization	19
Good-paying Green Jobs	19
Protecting Communities Most Affected	19
Gen Z Policy Proposals:	19
Gen Z Bill of Rights:	20

21st Century Economic Justice

Raising the Minimum Wage

Anyone working forty hours a week should not be living in poverty. Full stop. The minimum wage was designed to increase as the economy grew and worker productivity increased. Despite continued economic growth and increases in worker productivity, the federal minimum wage has not been raised in over a decade – the longest period of time without an increase since it was enacted in 1938. If the minimum wage had increased at the rate of productivity since 1960, it would be over \$23 right now. A \$7.25 minimum wage is embarrassingly low, and 86% of college students believe we must keep pushing for a minimum wage that is a living wage.

Proposals: [S.53 Raise the Wage Act](#)

Abolish the Tipped Wage

Many young people rely on tips in their first jobs. Relying on tips is not a fair labor practice for anyone, but especially young people during a time when they need to save money for some of life's biggest expenses. No one can afford a day of work where they may only take home \$2.13 an hour, the federal minimum wage for tipped workers. We must consider joining many other countries in ending the practice of tipping and factor it into pricing so workers' take home pay is not reliant on how busy their business is or how kind their customers are feeling on any given day.

Proposals: [S.53 Raise the Wage Act](#)

Pay Your Interns

Experience is not going to pay the bills. Unpaid internships exploit young people and prevent working class students from gaining valuable experience. If an internship is unpaid, students may not be able to afford to sacrifice time they could use getting paid at a job. These unpaid opportunities will only be available to young people who can afford it. *Pay Our Interns* says it best: We must be “committed to ensuring all people – especially people of color and of low-income backgrounds – have equitable access to professional career paths through the implementation of paid internships across all work sectors.”

Proposals: [H.R. 2370 House Intern Pay Act](#)

Increasing Unionization

As the middle class continues to shrink, unions are one of Gen Z's best paths to the middle class. Unionized workers earn about 20% more than non-unionized workers and also increased benefits. Unions also help reduce wage inequality because they primarily benefit working class people, blue-collar workers, and workers who do not have a college degree. As the costs of items like healthcare and education increase, we must utilize the power of collective bargaining to increase wages and benefits to ensure Gen Z enjoys an equal or better quality of life than those that came before them.

Proposals: [H.R.842 Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act](#)

Paid Family & Medical Leave

How does the richest country in the world not have paid family and medical leave? With the costs of starting a family increasing, we must ensure parents are able to fully spend time with and take care of their baby instead of having to worry about money and medical care. For those who require medical leave for other reasons, they need to have time to take care of themselves or others without worrying about making ends meet. It is time for the United States to join the rest of the developed world and enact a robust paid family and medical leave policy.

Proposals: [PL+US](#), [H.R. 1185 FAMILY Act](#)

A Federal Jobs Guarantee

This program would create a baseline standard for employment in the United States while also allowing us to dedicate major labor power to public service priorities like infrastructure, caregiving for seniors, child care, community development, and environmental conservation. These jobs would include a livable wage, full healthcare, and family and medical leave for all. These benefits in the public sector would incentivize the private sector to offer competitive compensation and benefits. Where necessary, these jobs would also offer training and experience to workers.

Proposals: [H.R. 4278 Federal Jobs Guarantee Development Act](#)

The Right to Housing

Every American deserves shelter. It is incomprehensible that while roughly 600,000 are homeless, more than 15,000,000 homes in the US are vacant. As wages have stagnated and the cost of living has increased, we must ensure that housing is affordable to all, especially young people. Home ownership is largely considered one of the best ways to generate wealth, and if Gen Z can never afford to buy a home, they will struggle to live an equivalent standard of living to their parents and grandparents.

Proposals: [H.R. 5244 Homes for All Act](#)

Ending Food Insecurity

No one should go to bed at night hungry or wake up in the morning wondering where they will find their next meal. How can you expect someone to work hard, focus in school, and succeed when all they can think about is how they are going to feed themselves and their families? This means putting an end to food apartheid and reducing barriers to nutritional assistance. Nutritional assistance benefits should be strengthened to ensure and incentivize access to healthier food options.

Proposals: [H.R. 3718 Closing the College Hunger Gap Act](#), [S. 876 School Modernization and Efficient Access to Lunches for Students Act](#)

A Secure Retirement in our Future

Young people need to start thinking about retirement. With the high costs of healthcare, education, and housing, retirement is becoming increasingly difficult for so many. We need to make sure that our government is enacting policies to allow people to retire without working themselves to death. We need to expand Social Security and Medicare to ensure that everyone is able to retire with dignity and respect at a reasonable age.

Proposals: [S. 478 Social Security Expansion Act](#)

Ending Childhood Poverty

No child deserves to be living in poverty. No one has control over the socioeconomic status they are born into. A child's education, health, and future should not be determined by anything out of their control. Our government needs to make a major commitment to ensuring all children, no matter their background, have access to all the tools they need to have a bright future.

Proposals: [H.R. 5376 Build Back Better Act](#)

A Just Tax Code

It is unacceptable that there are corporate CEOs in this country who pay an effective tax rate that is lower than teachers or construction workers. It has become normalized in the United States that major corporations can routinely pay nothing in federal income taxes. At a time of massive wealth and income inequality, we need a tax system that is based on the ability to pay. If we want to create a more economically just

country and rebuild the middle class, we have to demand that the wealthiest Americans, large corporations, and Wall Street pay their fair share in taxes.

Proposals: [H.R. 5376 Build Back Better Act](#)

Broadband for All

Participation in our 21st century society requires quality internet. Whether it is looking for a job, doing a job, paying the bills, or completing an education, those who do not have access to the internet are at a significant disadvantage. Something that has become such a necessity to everyday life should not depend on your zip code or your income.

Proposals: [H.R. 2411 Broadband for All Act](#)

Justice For All

Gun Violence Prevention

Gun violence is not an isolated policy issue. Gun violence can come in many forms: mass shootings, street violence, police violence, domestic violence, suicide, hate crimes, and many other types of violence; therefore, we need to treat it as the complex and multifaceted issue that it is. Gun violence is the result of systemic injustices and failures of the United States dating back to the founding of our nation. If we are to truly find a solution to preventing gun violence, we must address the root causes of gun violence in addition to enacting common sense gun laws that 64% of college students support.

Proposals: [H.R. 5717 Gun Violence Prevention & Community Safety Act](#)

Women's Rights

Establishing equal pay, protecting reproductive rights, ending the pink and tampon taxes, implementing paid family and medical leave, and combating all forms of violence against women are all essential to help put an end to the gender inequity existent in almost every aspect of our society. We must continue to fight to make sure that women are represented in all places where decisions are being made so we can ensure that we are creating both a society and government that treat all of us with dignity and respect.

Proposals: [H.R.3755 Women's Health Protection Act](#), [S.J. Res. 28](#)

Racial Justice

Systemic racism is a part of our nation; it did not disappear after the abolition of slavery or the Civil Rights Movement. Whether it is combatting redlining, environmental racism, access to loans, racism in health care and medicine, racial profiling in education and policing, or racist voting laws -- we need to actively be working to dismantle all institutions that continue to perpetuate racism. It is not enough to be not racist; we must be actively anti-racist and do all that we can to dismantle these institutions and to establish equitable institutions.

Proposals: [H. Con. Res. 19](#), [S.40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act](#)

LGBTQIA+ Equality

No one should be discriminated against for their sexuality, gender identity, or their gender expression. Gen Z wants to live in a society where all people are allowed to be who

they are and love who they love. In order to achieve this mission, we need to work to ensure they have the same rights and privileges as heterosexual and cisgender people.

Proposals: [H.R. 5 Equality Act](#)

Justice for Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

Immigrants are welcome here. No amount of hateful rhetoric will change the fact that the diversity of people and culture is what makes the United States special. We must provide the necessary funding to process these cases in a timely manner, and we need to establish a pathway to citizenship. We also need to end the abusive practices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to prevent them from further terrorizing human being seeking a better life in our nation.

Proposals: [H.R. 5 Equality Act](#), [H.R. 6222 Protecting Immigrants From Legal Exploitation Act](#)

Justice for Indigenous People

Gen Z believes in justice for indigenous people. The ACLU of New Mexico defines indigenous justice as “the freedom and ability of Indigenous people to exercise their rights and sovereignty over themselves, their people, and their land. This includes the freedom to engage in traditional ways of governing, being, healing, and knowing while also learning and celebrating culture, language, tradition, and heritage by ceremonies and other practices.” The United States has committed far too many atrocities against indigenous people, and this goal is the bare minimum we can do to begin to heal these deep wounds.

Proposals: [H.R. 5 Equality Act](#), [H. Res. 709](#)

Police Accountability & Redefining Public Safety

Our current solution to public safety is not working. Despite the endless amounts of money that local, state, and federal governments invest in policing, it is not having the desired effect in reducing crime. We must invest in community-based solutions that address the root causes of crime instead of investing in over-policing. Additionally, we must institute better systems for holding police accountable. Their job is not easy, nor should this many responsibilities be placed on them, but they have to be held accountable if they fail to do their job or they abuse their position. Ultimately, we must rethink what the characteristics are of a world that would make us more safe.

Proposals: [H.R. 1163 Federal Police Camera and Accountability Act](#), [H.R. 1280 George Floyd Justice in Policing Act](#)

No More War

Young people are tired of being used as pawns in the endless and senseless wars of the military-industrial complex. Peace and diplomacy should always be the top priority of U.S. foreign policy, and war should be the very last option on the list. No one benefits from war, except the military contractors who profit from it, but we all benefit from peace and cooperation. If we want to tackle global problems like climate change, we need to have global cooperation in order to avoid impending disaster.

Proposals: [Win Without War](#), [Legacy of War Foundation](#)

Ending the War on Drugs

Gen Z knows better than to continue to fall for a decades-long failed War on Drugs that disproportionately incarcerates Black and Brown Americans. In contrast, we now know that many of the drugs for which people have been imprisoned, like marijuana, are beneficial for medicinal and recreational use. 93% of college students believe that marijuana should be legal at least for medical use, and 68% believe it should be legal for recreational use as well. In addition, adult drug use should not be considered a crime the same way cigarette smoking and drinking alcohol are not a crime. The problem with all of these substances is addiction, and addiction needs to be treated as a medical issue, not a criminal justice issue. For those who are already victims of this immoral policy, we need to clear their records and let them have their lives back.

Proposals: [H.R.420 Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act](#), [H.R. 4020 Drug Policy Reform Act](#)

Implement a Restorative Justice System

We need to fundamentally reevaluate the justice system. The goal of prison should not be to dehumanize and ruin the lives of all incarcerated people. Someday, many of these people are going to be released from prison and we need to ensure that all incarcerated people are ready to reenter society in a productive way. Recidivism rates in the United States are far too high and we must combat that with a new vision for incarceration. Other countries around the world have implemented restorative justice systems where inmates are treated like humans and the punishment is solely that they are cut off from the outside world. A system like this would allow us to rehabilitate inmates, decrease recidivism, and help them improve their lives when they are released.

Proposals: [S.2029 Protecting our Students in Schools Act](#), [S.1989 Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act](#)

Abolish Cash Bail

If the “justice” system has policies or laws in place that have a monetary value tied to them, then those policies only apply to low-income people. No one should have to remain in prison for the duration of their case just because they do not have the financial means to pay their bail. Cash bail only applies to low-income people and we need equal justice.

Proposals: [H.R.5034 Community First Pretrial Reform & Jail Decarceration Act](#)

Ending Private Prisons

There absolutely cannot be a profit incentive to incarceration in the United States. Similar to the military-industrial complex, if we allow people to profit off the suffering of others, then they are going to do everything in their power to maximize it in order to maximize profits. About 25% of the world’s prison population is in the US, despite the fact that the US is less than 5% of the world’s population. If we are to begin to stop our mass incarceration problem, we must end the profit incentive.

Proposals: [H.R.1206 End For-Profit Prisons Act](#)

Decriminalizing Sex Work

Sex work is work. The idea that “Criminalizing adult, voluntary, and consensual sex – including the commercial exchange of sexual services – is incompatible with the human right to personal autonomy and privacy. In short – a government should not be telling consenting adults who they can have sexual relations with and on what terms.” ([Human Rights Watch](#)).

Proposals: [Representative Pressley Draft](#)

Government & Democracy Reform

Voting Rights

Our democracy is under attack. State legislatures across the country are working day and night to disenfranchise voters, particularly voters of color, for political gain. 30 states have enacted laws that restrict access to the ballot box since the 2020 election. Allowing state legislatures to legally disenfranchise millions of voters nationwide will undermine our democratic values and also will suppress the will of the people perpetually. We need to make voting easy through policies such as vote-by-mail, same-day voter registration and automatic voter registration, as well as the introduction of Election Day as a federal holiday, (a policy that 65% of college students say would make them more likely to vote), among other proposals. We also need to ban gerrymandering by allowing nonpartisan commissions to draw districts fairly.

Proposals: [H.R.1 For The People Act](#), [H.R.5746 Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act](#)

DC Statehood

American citizens residing in DC have been denied the rights of those in states, the right to federal representation. They bear the same responsibilities of all Americans, paying federal taxes and taxes to federal programs, with no representation to yield for it. It is time we right the wrong of denying over half a million citizens their full right to federal representation without taxation, the basis of the American Revolution.

Proposals: [S.51 Washington, D.C. Admission Act](#)

Self-Determination for US Territories

The US's history of imperialism and not granting the same rights to all citizens make it imperative that we allow US territories to determine their own fate. Whether it is Puerto Rico or any other US Territory: If the citizens of a territory want to become a state, they should be allowed to become a state. If they want to be independent, they should be allowed to be independent. The bottomline is that the citizens of US territories are the best people equipped to determine what is best for them.

Proposals: [S. 865 Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021](#)

Youth Representation

It's time that future generations receive some say, beyond voting, for matters in the US Government. It's necessary that we have formal and recognized youth

representation from qualified individuals in both legislative and executive branches of government in the form of councils or boards that serve as a form of advisement for the president and lawmakers alike. Youth voices and youth issues deserve and need to be heard to protect the interests of youth generations moving forward and to better protect the future of this country and the world. This starts with establishing a White House Youth Americans Advisory Council.

Proposals: [YouthInGov](#)

Abolish the Filibuster

The filibuster, a long-time abused system in the Senate (typically used to block popular legislation from passing), can block all progress in acting on critical issues like civil rights. It is a completely undemocratic process that stifles the will of the people and places power in the hands of self-acting politicians. For our government to truly act on the will of the people instead of the interests of a powerful few, it is necessary that we eliminate the use of the filibuster, so that Congress can pass crucial legislation. 56% of college students support abolishing the filibuster to allow legislation to pass through the Senate with a simple majority.

Proposals: [Change Senate Rule 22](#), [Create Senate Precedent](#)

Campaign Finance Reform

Money in politics is the source of many of our problems. Political donations are at an all-time high. Super PACs, special interest groups, and political parties alike all funnel endless amounts of money to elect more members of their party and to ensure specific policies are enacted or blocked. Many of our politicians are working at the benefit of themselves and their donors, and not the constituents that elected them into office. It's critical that we limit money in politics while simultaneously disallowing politicians from impacting legislation when they receive considerable amounts of money from stakeholders of that legislation.

Proposals: [Reverse Citizens United](#), [CFR28](#)

Health Care

Universal Health Care

Health care is a human right. Plain and simple. It is not a good or service that's price or scarcity should be left up to the free market. The median family of four in the United States is making about \$60,000 a year, but can pay upwards of \$10,000 a year on healthcare costs alone. These astronomical costs leave about 37 million Americans uninsured and an additional 41 million are underinsured. In the richest country in the world, that is unacceptable and 83% of college students agree we need to achieve universal health care coverage in the United States.

Proposals: [Medicare For All](#), [Medicare-X Choice Act](#), [Medicare for America Act](#)

Reproductive Healthcare

Women deserve autonomy over their bodies without interference from legislation, policies, and measures that aim to strip women of their rights over their body. Women, especially women of color, deserve increased access to abortions, birth control, and reproductive healthcare overall. 79% of college students believe it is imperative we establish new legislation that accomplishes these goals while simultaneously barring attempts to strip the rights of women from doing what's best for their own body. The strictest abortion law in the United States now bans abortions after the 6th week of pregnancy, before a majority of people know that they're pregnant. Not only is it important we address the problems of reproductive healthcare now, establishing comprehensive sexual education programs for the future is also necessary for decreases in accidental pregnancies as well as sexually transmitted diseases.

Proposals: [S.1975 Women's Health Protection Act](#), [H.R. 4097 Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act](#)

Mental Health Care

Any true universal health care system must include mental health care. Our mental health is a crucial part of our overall well being and it is time that the US healthcare system begins to treat it as the health care issue it is. Additionally, we need to continue to destigmatize mental health care treatment so people feel comfortable and empowered to seek out the best treatment options for themselves.

Proposals: [H.R.6076 Compacts, Access, and Responsible Expansion for Mental Health Professionals Act](#)

Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs

Cost should not be a barrier to anyone seeking the medicine they need to live and be healthy. In the case of lifesaving drugs like insulin, it is horrifying to think that Americans are paying roughly 15x's as much for a single vial of insulin than our neighbors to the north in Canada. That has got to change. Medicine is a necessity, not a luxury and it is crucial that we take the steps necessary to ensure cost is not a barrier to receiving it.

Proposals: [S.1773 Prescription Drug Pricing Dashboard Act](#), [H.R.5376 Build Back Better Act](#)

Abolish the "Pink Tax"

Women deserve to not have to pay more for products specifically designed for them. The Pink Tax targets women and causes them to pay more for necessary daily-use items solely based on packaging aesthetics. This is unequivocally un-American and any and all efforts to abolish the Pink Tax should be taken. This also extends to The Tampon Tax, sales tax placed on feminine hygiene products. While sales tax is placed on most items, states have the right to exempt certain types of products from being taxed and cost should not be a barrier to access feminine hygiene products.

Proposals: [H.R. 3853 Pink Tax Repeal Act](#)

Education

Higher Education for All

Every American deserves the opportunity to pursue as much knowledge as they desire without having to worry about cost as a barrier for entry. Given that college degrees and professional certifications are becoming almost a necessity to gain an entry-level job, we cannot allow the socioeconomic status you were born in to determine whether or not you are able to earn a decent living. Whether it is trade school, an apprenticeship, four-year college, community college, or any other form of professional training; every American deserves the chance to pursue their passion and to make a decent living. A majority of college students support making college tuition free for all students and even larger majorities support enacting tuition free college for families with incomes under \$120,000 a year and free community college for all.

Proposals: [S.1947 The College for All Act](#), [American Families Plan](#)

Cancel Student Debt

There is currently about \$1.9 trillion worth of student debt in the United States. With the average borrower graduating with \$37,000 in debt, young Americans are entering the workforce with a large amount of debt hanging around their neck for the crime of pursuing an education. This extreme level of debt is forcing young adults to delay or reconsider starting a family and in many cases is making it near impossible for them to ever own a home. No one should be punished for the “crime” of pursuing an education and over 75% of college students believe that some or all student debt should be canceled. President Biden has the power and needs to cancel as much student debt as possible. If he chooses not to, then Congress must take action to prevent our generation and future generations from being saddled with student loans for decades to come.

Proposals: [Executive Order](#), [H.R. 3448 Student Debt Cancellation Act](#)

Early Childhood Education & Universal Child Care

If we want to ensure Americans are the best educated population in the world we need to start educating students earlier. In addition to the benefits of a well-educated population, expanding early childhood education and providing universal child care alleviates some of the larger costs associated with having children. By lowering this financial burden, more young adults who want to have children can do so without having to worry about whether or not they can afford it. In polling conducted by Generation Lab, 79% of college students said affordable child care would make them more likely to have children or adopt.

Proposals: [S. 1398 Universal Child Care & Early Learning Act](#), [H.R.5376 Build Back Better Act](#)

A Holistic and Honest Curriculum

A well-educated population does not mean being just educated in math, english, and science, but also being educated in civics and history. Students should graduate high school and be ready to become active and informed citizens. This means teaching them important skills like applying for a job, learning how to pay bills, budgeting, and so much more. They cannot be fully active citizens if they are not being educated on how our government really works and how public policy works. They cannot become fully informed if history is being taught differently in different parts of the country. This isn't indoctrination. This is about being honest and reckoning with the dark history of the United States. This does not mean students need to hate their country, it just means that they should know the truth of the past in order to create a better future.

Proposals: [H.R. 400 Civics Learning Act](#), [H.R. 518 Strengthening Youth Apprenticeships Act](#), [H.R. 1547 Youth Financial Learning Act](#), [H.R. 2283 Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act](#)

Fair Funding for Public Schools

It is a disgrace that in the wealthiest country in the world that your educational outcome can largely be determined by your zip code. We need to put to an end the practice of using regressive taxation like property taxes to primarily fund public schools. The federal government and state governments need to make education a priority and ensure that every child in America has access to a public school that is more than adequately funded.

Proposals: [NYC Int 1014-2018](#)

Inclusive Special Education

It is important that our education system begins to recognize that all students have different needs without completely segregating students with disabilities from the traditional classroom environment. Our education system can still provide all students with the resources they need without isolating them. While every situation is different, we should not have students with disabilities only interacting and working with students with disabilities and we should not have students without disabilities interacting and working with only students without disabilities. By being more inclusive with special education students, we can expand opportunities for all students and better prepare them for the real world.

Proposals: [Advisory Committee Representation Enhancement Act](#)

End Standardized Testing

There is something fundamentally wrong with the idea that an hours-long test on a select number of subjects is the best way to evaluate a student's intelligence. So many students are not good test takers, excel in a completely different subject area, are different types of learners, and to initiate one format to assess academic aptitude does not make any sense. While there are also preparation options for these tests, many have a significant price tag attached to them which puts students from low income households at a massive disadvantage. We must set a standard of evaluating each student holistically to allow them to pursue the best higher education and/or career options for them

Proposals: [Standardized Testing Overburdens Pupils \(STOP\) Act \(South Carolina\)](#)

Universal School Meals

It is really quite a simple question: Does any student deserve to start or end the school day hungry? Students cannot begin to focus on their schoolwork if they are focused on how hungry they are. Public schools need significant increases in funding and that funding needs to include at least two meals for every student each day. The dystopian phrase "school lunch debt" needs to be eradicated from existence and we need to be committed to ensuring our students are given every opportunity to succeed inside the classroom and outside of it.

Proposals: [S.1530 Universal School Meals Program Act](#)

Being Honest about Health & Sex Education

Health, and specifically sex, can undoubtedly be an uncomfortable subject to discuss with young people but we are doing them a massive disservice by not being straightforward about it. The truth is that premarital sex is normal in the United States and our education system needs to be honest in providing the information and resources necessary to make sure young people are being safe, responsible, and respectful in their sex life. Abstinence-only education is not a responsible form of education. Students need to be educated on concepts like consent and contraception, then they can make whatever decisions they feel is best for themselves and their beliefs. Additionally, we need to do a better job educating students on nutrition and their personal health. This education should not pressure students to feel like they need to conform to certain beauty standards, but instead inform them on strategies to better take care of their mind and body so they can be their best selves.

Proposals: [S.1689 Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act](#)

Combating the Climate Crisis

Nationwide Mass Economic Mobilization

In order to prevent an uninhabitable future, we must mobilize all our resources and the American people to prevent the climate crisis that has already begun. We need to mobilize all sectors of the American economy in a way we have not seen since World War II to even have a chance of preventing this from becoming cataclysmic. We cannot compromise with the future of our planet at stake.

Proposals: [H.Res. 332 Green New Deal](#)

Good-paying Green Jobs

The United States' transition to renewable energy will undoubtedly shake up the lives of countless Americans. Therefore, we need to ensure that any and all climate policy put forward is mindful and inclusive to workers whose livelihoods were reliant on the fossil fuel industry. Workers affected by this transition and members of frontline communities affected by climate should be given priority to receive the training, jobs, and the support necessary to defeat the climate crisis.

Proposals: [Sunrise Movement's Civilian Climate Corps](#)

Protecting Communities Most Affected

We must acknowledge the fact that the climate crisis has had a profound impact on communities of color and urban communities. This includes people in public schools and public housing where a lack of governmental investments have left them with old appliances, pipes, and conditions that threaten their lives and the lives of their surrounding communities through tainted water, mold, and air pollution. We must ensure that clean drinking water and safe air quality is treated as a human right instead of as a priority. We must work to ensure that polluters are held accountable and are regulated in how they operate in densely populated areas.

Proposals: [H.R. 2664 Green New Deal for Public Housing Act](#), [H.R. 4442 Green New Deal for Public Schools Act](#), [H.R. 2644 Green New Deal for Cities Act](#)

Gen Z Policy Proposals:

Gen Z Bill of Rights:

1. The Right to Healthcare
2. The Right to Education
3. The Right to Clean Water, Clean Air, and a Habitable Planet
4. The Right to a Good-paying Job
5. The Right to join a Union
6. The Right to Food Security
7. The Right to Housing
8. The Right to a Secure Retirement