



for every child

2026 HARRIS YOUTH POLL

3,204 *young people*
Ages 14-22

told us how they really feel about whether their voice is being heard by the people in power, and the direction our country is headed.

78% of youth believe people in power don't care what they have to say

59% of youth have a positive view of local leaders vs. 33% positive view of federal leaders

62% of voting age youth intend to cast ballots in state elections – up 15 points since 2024

Young people are ready to be heard.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Youth are ready to show up.
GIVE THEM A REASON TO BELIEVE THEIR VOICES WILL MATTER.

The intention of youth to vote is **up 15 points** in state elections and **13 points** in local elections since 2024. Young people are not disengaged – they are looking for leaders they can trust. Local officials are viewed **26 points** more positively than federal leaders.

82% of young people believe people their age can make a difference.

74% believe their involvement in policymaking will make America better.



Feeling heard **IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.**

Young people want to participate but need to believe that leaders are listening. That belief is growing but it's fragile, and needs to be strengthened through authentic engagement.

ONLY 30% of youth feel involved in the political process.

They're looking for a real seat at the table, **NOT SYMBOLIC GESTURES.**

Young people have expressed exactly what they need: to be understood, considered in legislation and included directly in decisions that affect them.

TOP ASKS FROM YOUTH:

44% UNDERSTAND YOUTH VIEWS

43% CONSIDER LEGISLATIVE IMPACT
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

42% HONEST DIALOGUE

42% INCLUDE YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING



INFLATION

is the top concern for **60% OF YOUTH**

Consistent across ideological lines, youth are concerned about their economic prospects and need to know lawmakers care about building a better future.

Close the trust gap. **MEET YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE.**

Learn more in the
2026 UNICEF USA
Harris Youth Poll.

