

“Young Voters Hold the Keys,” by Dr. Chris Jones

Press and media talk about how young voters may determine the outcome of November’s presidential election – that you hold the keys. I agree.

So, I want to talk to you young voters about you, the issues you care about, and how Vice President Kamala Harris stands with you on these issues.

Over 40 million Gen Z (ages 18-24) Americans are eligible to vote in the November 5th election. This includes more than 8 million newly eligible young folks (18-19 this year). Nearly half (45%) of eligible Gen Z voters are young people of color, including 8.8 million Latinos, 5.7 million Black youth, 1.7 million Asian Americans, and 1.8 million multiracial youth.

To all 40+ million of you, welcome to the freedom to determine your and your nation’s future by voting!

In national polls and media interviews, you’ve made clear your major issues: these include the Economy and Education; Human Rights including Racial and Reproductive Rights; Climate Change, and Immigration. You want to know where the presidential candidates stand.

In this column, let’s look at where Vice President Kamala Harris stands with you on this first major issue:

The Economy, Education, and You

What is your future regarding getting a job? Getting promoted? Starting your own business?

If you are going to grow professionally, you need to be educated. You need to finish high school, get a trade-school or vocational degree, a college degree, maybe even a

graduate degree. But there's a major problem: the more education you acquire, the larger your student debt.

Kamala Harris has constantly spoken of the Biden-Harris administration's record on student loan forgiveness. It includes nearly [\\$170 billion](#) in student debt relief for almost 5 million borrowers. She and the President have pushed for much more but been opposed by a conservative-heavy U.S. Supreme Court and MAGA Republican controlled state governments.

The Biden-Harris administration has also made unprecedented financial investments in education, including the single-largest investment in K-12 education in history. Harris has stressed she'll continue to fight for even more education investment and student loan forgiveness as president.

VP Harris's campaign is calling for "an Opportunity Economy" that includes (1) cutting taxes for working people; (2) lower food and grocery costs; (3) lower health care and prescription drugs costs; (4) lower energy costs; (5) lower costs by protecting consumers from fees and fraud, and (6) helping citizens who want to buy a home, or afford rent.

You can find more specifics about her "Opportunity Economy" on her campaign website: [A New Way Forward - Kamala Harris for President: Official Campaign Website](#).

But go even deeper. Know what you want, look at the choices that you have and their policies, and then be prepared to vote in your best interest. The choice will be clear.

In my future columns in the four weeks leading up to the Nov. 5 election, we'll look more deeply into these other major issues which concern you. Consider them all before you vote! Remember, you hold the keys!

Share your thoughts and comments at chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com.