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## **WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOUNG VOTERS? 18-26 Year Olds Across America State Their Priorities**

November 1, 2010

During the past three months, the citizen-driven, unfiltered national website [www.ourvoiceourcountry.org](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org) invited young voters between the ages of 18-26 to identify what they believe to be America's most urgent national problems.

Rather than repeating sound bites of what they've been instructed to care about by the public relations industry, we asked young voters across America: "What's effecting you, your family, your community, that you believe is also effecting communities across the country?"

Here are just some of many compelling, specific and under-the-radar national issues that young voters from every state have raised, at [www.ovoc.org](http://www.ovoc.org). To see more, go to <http://bit.ly/9GXhNU>, & search 'Summer 2010 Competition' Topics.

### **Sex Trafficking in America**

Everyday, innocent children are being sold. It is time to put an end to this problem for good before more children are forced into this lifestyle. - 'shelbyayers'

### **Exposure to Toxic Chemicals**

Research what contamination is in your own community and ask yourself what action is necessary to get the contamination cleaned up? Being informed will give you the power to use your voice and the ability to help find effective solutions.  
- 'jelenny\_bug'

### **Foreign Aid**

...the U.S. committed to the Millennium Development Goals and is still not contributing what it has promised (only .7% of its GDP is required), but instead, military spending has increased exponentially. This does not address the root cause of conflict with other nations. In addition to this, the environment is often damaged by developing countries reliance on poor technology that brings pollution. This in turn, affects the U.S. and the entire world. - 'essoms'

### **Educating Young (African) Americans in Finance**

Speaking from my own personal experience, I did not have a clue about checking accounts, credit scores, having good credit, protecting myself from scams, loans, and my identity from others. If it happened to me I am sure it is happening elsewhere particularly in the African American community. We need to have this incorporated into our educational system. Classes need to be integrated at all grade levels. - tiarakharris'

[press@ourvoiceourcountry.org](mailto:press@ourvoiceourcountry.org)

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### **Autistic Rights**

At this very moment, autistic people, especially children, are put through tortures ranging from IV chelation and parents intentionally infecting them with worms illegally imported from Thailand, to electrical skin shocks and violence in the name of behavioral correction. They are treated as non-persons, as less than human, simply for being different. - 'alaras'

### **End of Life Care**

National standards of care are needed, and a focus on preventative health care needs to be implemented. I have had several patients that stopped taking their blood pressure medicine due to lack of preventative health care resources. They ended up in my ICU for brain hemorrhages. A four dollar Wal-Mart prescription could have saved many of these patients from suffering and huge medical bills. Consistent standardized preventative health care is needed in America. - 'henklej'

### **Lack of Funding (For) Public Education**

By disregarding those who will run the future, we are leading ourselves into chaos. We have begun to concentrate only on the present, and trying to get ourselves out of this recession, but we do not put so much into our future, and into helping those who will be stuck with all that debt for years and years to come. Without an appropriate education, how are our future leaders to handle the mess that has been left in their laps. - 'HanaMarie'

### **Illegal Immigrants**

More and more of the foreigners who want to live in the U.S. are being admitted without being granted U.S. citizenship. These people now have access to our jobs, our legislature, and (are) gaining from benefits intended for legal citizens. As a result from their growing numbers, these resources are being depleted for everyone. - 'tlobb91'

### **Mental Health Among Soldiers**

If we as a country were more pro-active in the fight to help our soldiers deal w the problems they have developed during their time protecting our country, we will lower the rates of suicides, depression, self medication, substance abuse, and panic disorders. "Of the 256,000 veterans in need of treatment for illicit drug use in the past year, 20 % had received treatment during the past year."(USDOH) -kaede97601

### **Clean Energy**

. "Fine particle pollution from U.S. power plants cuts short the lives of over 30,000 people each year." (<http://www.ecomall.com/greenshopping/cleanair.htm>) and that's on coal alone and in the USA alone! By pumping pollution into our air-the

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same air we share with everyone else on Earth-we are slowly killing ourselves and our neighbors. - 'nbaggett'

### **What People Are Saying**

"...a very important undertaking." - Connie Morella, ex U.S. House Representative

"The website is amazing...I love the concept, purpose and faith it shares with everybody." - User comment

"... a good way to hear many unspoken individuals and their ideas...an effective program that needs to continue." - User comment

"...a great way for ordinary people just like you and me to discuss important issues and hopefully find solutions that could benefit any and everyone."  
- User comment

It's a wonderful way to harness the power of technology to strengthen our democracy. " - Ruby Dee

### **About *Our Voice Our Country***

*Our Voice Our Country* is a completely non-partisan civic empowerment project that was developed with early endorsement and input from: Walter Cronkite, Yolanda King, Joanne Woodward, Jane Alexander, Ruby Dee, from leaders of national non-partisan organizations, judges, professors, lawyers, students, senior citizens, soldiers, officers, current and retired politicians, from and dozens of blue and white collar workers of all political parties from across the country. Their contributions have been integrated to form the *Our Voice Our Country* system, which has been created to strengthen The People's role in our Democracy, to better America now and in the future.

*Our Voice Our Country* is a Google Grant recipient, and has been funded by user and private donations, led by grants from The Yudelson Foundation.

**Donations are needed today, and can be made 24/7 at [www.ovoc.org](http://www.ovoc.org)**

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