

# Millennials Ready for a Change



**Abby Weingardt**

I am a Republican millennial. We exist. But being called a “millennial” is an assumption that we are a group of lazy, over-educated staff assistants that think we should be paid like a CEO. No one wants to be called a millennial. But, I believe whatever candidate can tap into the millennial vote will win the 2016 presidential election.

Millennial voters now outnumber Baby Boomers. Republican millennials under the age of 30 have never voted for a successful Republican presidential candidate. And our number of first-time voters is puzzling political pundits across the country. One thing everyone agrees on – we are a misunderstood generation.

Millennials in Indiana, contrary to popular belief, are hard-working, educated and determined. We don’t sit down and read the newspaper every morning, but we do read social media sites, sometimes even as a primary news source. We don’t want government to create opportunities for us – we want government to get out of our way so we can make opportunities for ourselves. We don’t want free stuff – we want things like health care and college to be actually affordable in the first place.

In 2008, young people across the country turned out to vote for President Obama. The Obama machine had a laser focus on young people and somehow made it cool to vote for him. President Obama made a VIP

appearance at Little 500 at IU and even brought the Dave Matthews Band to the campus for a free concert. The College Republicans had John McCain t-shirts. Not as cool as a free concert.

Something that I think Democrats may underestimate – all these young people voted for Obama then graduated college and realized he didn’t seem as cool as they thought he was going to be. Somehow our economy nationally hasn’t improved, our national health care is a disaster and is an undue burden on actual job creators and our reputation around the world is in decline.

Electing Hillary Clinton would be a worse extension from the last eight years. If we can’t trust her to keep top-secret emails safe, how can we trust her with the safety of our country? Love or hate Donald Trump’s rhetoric, millennials appreciate his straight talk and his business background. He isn’t a politician – he means what he says and says what he means. He isn’t afraid to stand up for our country abroad and isn’t going to play politics when it comes to our safety and security.

Millennials grew up in the time of school shootings, plane crashes and not feeling safe in large crowds. We’re ready for someone to go to bat for us that we can trust to make us feel safe again.

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# No Shortage of Presidential Shockers



**Ashley Gurvitz**

After being involved in various local grassroots electoral initiatives and attending the national Democratic convention, one thing is for sure: There is a high level of excitement due to the surprises presented in the presidential races.

One of the main surprises I have witnessed has been the evolutionary change regarding who Americans have identified as potential presidential leaders. It is very shocking to see that at the top of the Republican ticket we have Donald Trump, who I personally view as an opportunistic leader versus a representative, servant leader of its citizens. It is completely appalling knowing a man who is supposed to represent all can get away with derogatory statements against the beautiful, cultural entities that have already made America great.

In retrospective, we also have in society individuals not trusting Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has dedicated her whole life to public service. As a public servant, that saddens me. It is imperative that we address this surprise and realign our principles so we elect a president who can inspire all to a better life,

liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Another surprise during the current race for presidency is understanding how quickly party paradigms have shifted.

Both presidential candidates have embedded new ideas and individuals looking to participate in the electoral process. Overall, in midst of all the surprises during this election cycle, I hope that political ideologies will help shift political party politics in the direction that can best serve our society. Many are pleading for change so that everyone can invest in a positive and equitable future.

If we the people are looking to grow stronger together, then we need to be accountable for understanding that every citizen’s voice should be heard in the process. Also, it is very imperative we build relationships with those who may oppose our political ideologies so we’re learning from one another. The best way to eliminate such surprises in the future is by being involved after Election Day.

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