

After Trump's win I was pretty curious as to some of the thoughts of people my age who voted for him (for reference i am 20 in college) So i called up one of my friends who I know voted for trump and managed to get Boba just a few minutes ago with four 20~ year old males who voted for Trump. I thought it was pretty interesting to hear their thoughts unfiltered as to why they made their pick and some other thoughts they had.

The economy

So one of the first things they all mentioned as to why they voted for trump was of course the economy. Their general thoughts can be broken down into a few bullets

- Prices are higher: They all mentioned how prices now are higher than they were during the Trump administration. They understood that Covid happened and that made it hard for Biden to keep prices under control, however, its been a minute since COVID-19 and inflation has still been happening in the Biden administration even though it appears Covid is over. Trump's administration had lower prices and he is promising to bring those prices back to a certain extent. They know he can't bring it down to 2019 levels because of inflation but are frustrated to see the higher bills
- The president can't control the economy: Three of the four of them mentioned to me the fact that they knew the president alone does not control the economy. They were pleased to see the House and Senate were also GOP controlled and when I asked them their expectations it was expressed to me they know politicians over-promise and under deliver but they would lose trust if the GOP does not get at least some done of what they have been claiming
- The Biden administration didn't get much done: All four expressed dissatisfaction at the Biden administration for how stagnant it feels currently.
- Drill baby Drill: They all pretty much mentioned higher gas prices but one of them specifically mentioned how important cheap energy is to a strong economy with little inflation and believed Trump would boost energy production and make it cheaper

Other things I asked them about the economy

- When asked none of them knew who Lina Khan was
- They do understand that prices cannot go back down because that is how prices work, I touched on this above
- One person specifically who I pressed on taxes said that it is hard to tax the rich as many of their assets are not in income tax but in other facets such as abusing business expenditures or getting compensation in stock, they believed this was good as it incentives startup culture in America vs other countries and allows businesses to hire people, etc which is generally good for the economy

Abortion rights and other rights on the ballot

- I am a man: Frankly, this is a sentiment I heard from them that they are men and that they get how these issues may matter more to a woman but to them, abortion isn't an issue and they are worried about other issues
- Trump can't do anything: Another sentiment I heard from them is that Roe v Wade is already retracted and a federal ban would be so deeply unpopular that it will not happen so voting Trump or not has little to no impact on abortion and isn't much of a consideration

- Christian values: One of the four guys I spoke to specifically mentioned that for him he is a Christian and he believes that life starts in the womb. He did concede that other people may have different values but those were his
- States rights: There was a general consensus that abortion should be a state's rights issue and that is what it is right now and that is perfectly fine
- Other rights (essentially LGBTQ rights): there was not much of a consensus here, one of them was just straight-up transphobic but this was generally less thought about especially when compared to abortion

Other things I found interesting

- One of them mentioned that they would be perfectly happy to vote for a woman or person of color for president and this was not their issue with Harris. They all happily agreed with this and chimed in their agreement which I found interesting

Democracy is on the line

- Trump is not going to destroy democracy: Pretty much all of them thought the rhetoric that Trump is going to destroy democracy was false and overblown.
- Surprised that Trump won the popular vote: While they of course wanted Trump to win they were quite happily surprised that Trump won the popular vote and pretty much blew Harris out of the water.
- Harris was also a threat to democracy: All four were in consensus that it was unfair that Harris was just picked to run for president and that there was no primary. They also conceded that this was probably due to Biden dropping out of the race late and that Harris would have likely been the candidate anyway. It did feel unfair to them that only Trump has been called out to as a threat to democracy when they thought Harris joining last second was also pretty unfair.

Foreign policy

- Stop the wars: All of them were displeased with our meddling overseas with Ukraine and Israel and hope that Trump can stop the killing and wars there in a way the Biden/Harris administration has not been able to.
- Trump is a tough guy: This was specifically mentioned by one of them but the rest agreed. Trump is strong and is seen as so overseas and so China and Russia are less likely to mess with us or others.
- Stop the spending: They all thought we are spending too much money on wars we see nothing from and there is no need for us to front this bill

Trump is only the president

- Trump has his pitfalls: All four of them agree that Trump has his issues especially character-wise but the president alone does not have much power to get stuff done and even with the GOP controlling the House and Senate as well he will be kept in place and can't do anything super crazy

- Trump's tax proposal is a bad idea: This is specifically his one where he mentioned removing all income tax and hiking tariffs to 100%, they recognized this is a terrible idea but also did not think it mattered as the other branches of government would prevent this from happening

Climate change: I specifically brought this issue up to hear their thoughts

- Climate change is real: Almost all of them agreed that climate change is real and man made, one tried to refute this by saying the climate has always changed on the planet and this claim was quickly refuted by the other three.
- We are cooked (literally): They all recognized that our burning of fossil fuels is an issue that we need to fix

They honestly did not have many more thoughts on climate change but they did very readily admit it was a problem it just did not seem to be their top issue at all.

general other thoughts they had

- Frustration at their peers: Much of what they voiced to me is their frustration at many of their friends and peers ostracizing them or getting mad at them because they voted for Trump. To them, this is a political decision and it is frustrating to lose friends over it. Keep in mind I am a 20-year-old in uni and so are they

- Do not care about immigration: Honestly, none of them really had thoughts on immigration or had it in their radar as a concern for this election. This is probably due to my location

Now keep in mind these are only the thoughts I got of four people I talked to today, I may have also misrepresented some of their claims accidentally. That was not my goal but I wasn't taking notes or anything. I overall just thought this was pretty interesting so I would share it here. If you have any other questions or anything let me know!