

The Issues

Survey Results Show What Really Matters to College Students.

By Mary Elizabeth Carey

With Election 2000 around the corner, students—and all voters—are faced with making a choice for who is best suited to run the country. One thing is certain: students know what issues matter to them, even though many will be voting for the first time. It's the issues that will make or break this election.

According to an August poll of people aged 18-24, conducted by MTV and the Kaiser Family Foundation, the economy and jobs ranked at the top of the list of factors that will influence students' vote for president. Here's a summary of the rest of the findings:



Crime and Violence

School shootings like at Columbine High School or the more recent murder-suicide at the University of Arkansas have made violence at schools an issue. 74 percent of the respondents want to know how candidates are going to make schools safer.



Health Care

This issue has been at the forefront of every recent election. Rising health care costs and availability, plus the increase in prescription drug costs, effect everyone. 68 percent of the respondents believe health care is a very important issue.

Other Issues

The environment, taxes, civil rights, privacy, abortion and national defense are also issues on students' minds. Figuring out where you stand, and finding the candidate who closely matches your views, will help you make your decision.

Of everyone polled, 25 percent consider themselves Republicans, 28 percent consider themselves Democrats, and 41 percent are Independent. Check out our chart on page 4 to see how the main candidates stack up on these and other issues. •

For more information about these issues and how to get involved, go to steamtunnels.net and search using keyword "Issues."

Education



86 percent of the respondents saw education as being "very important" in determining their vote for president, and 20 percent ranked it as their single biggest concern. Half the students polled also said that affirmative action programs are still needed to counteract the discrimination against minorities.

Jobs



79 percent of those polled are concerned about job availability and the economy. Sounds strange, since we're in the largest economic boom in history, but you've heard the talk—what will happen if our web-centric economy hits the skids?

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