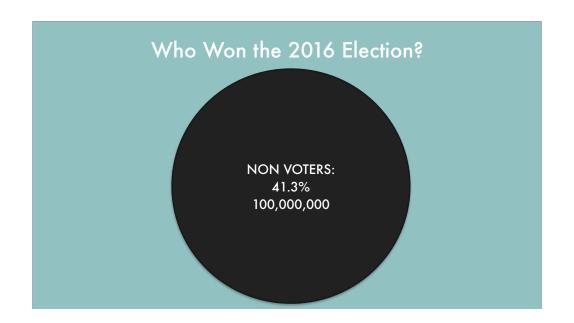


Thanks, Torie. This is an update on a presentation I made a year ago. I hope you remember Blue Voter Guide, so I'm going to focus on some things you may not know. Those of you who have used it are aware it's a very different kind of voting guide built to make voting decisions easier. Enter your address and we show you what's on your ballot, and for each candidate, judge, and measure you'll see a list endorsements from trusted progressive organizations. An x-Ray of who supports whom. You don't have to wade through reams of information. Make informed, confident choices in minutes instead of hours. Save it, print it, share it. You've unleashed all your voting power.

All great for you, me, and our friends.

What I want to focus on today is how this is solving an enormous and enormously under-appreciated turnout problem: which is confusion about who to vote for, especially down ballot, among new, hesitant, low-propensity voters.



So here's a trick question. Let's look at 2016 and see who won.

So here's how Donald Trump did. He got 27% of the eligible voters, about 63 million.

CLICK Hillary did better. She got 28 and a half percent, which was nearly 66 million. Although she did lose the electoral collage.

But there's another group.

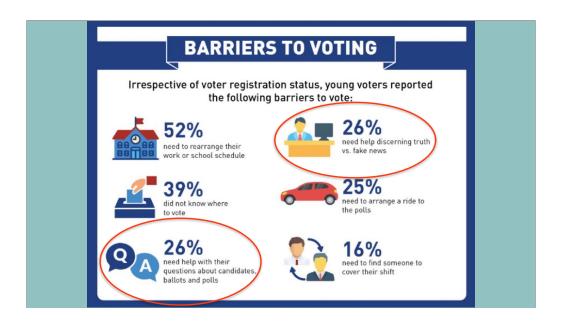
CLICK

People who who could have but didn't vote. All 100 million of them. They won. They beat Trump and Hillary.

The number of eligible non-voters fell to 79 million in the 2020 election. It's still in the scores of millions.



The Knight foundation did a deep dive into the non-voters by looking at a large sample of them. They called this the 100 million project.



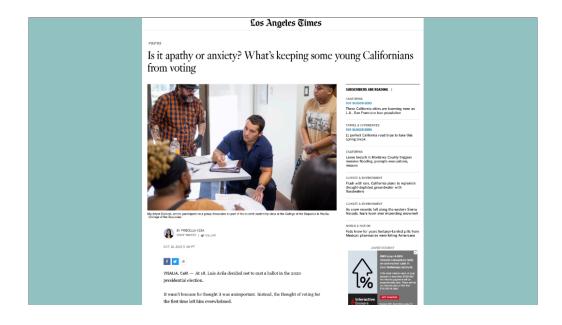
Here we're looking at the barriers to voting reported by young voters.

CLICK On the bottom left we see that over a quarter of them didn't vote because of uncertainty about the candidates.

CLICK These are people who needed help telling real news from fake news. There may be some overlap but this is telling you that from a quarter to half of young people had trouble voting because they didn't feel they had enough information, or didn't trust the information they had.



The Knight study broke down the reasons even further, summed up in a T-shirt. Young people were not engaging with the news. It had become noise.



Here's an article from the LA times about a young guy who didn't vote. This is what he said,

"I don't know how to do this," "Like it's a huge step. I don't want to make the wrong decision."



From an interview by Simon Rosenberg on ${\it Hopium}$

John Della Volpe is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, where he has led the institute's polling initiatives on understanding American youth since 2000. He is the author of the best-selling book, FIGHT, How Gen Z is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America.

With this [young] generation, they feel like they want to be perfect, and they want to have all of their homework done and understand not just the office, but each of the candidates who are vying for that local office. And if they don't feel comfortable they're going to leave that blank. That education element is going to be as or more important than the persuasion piece.

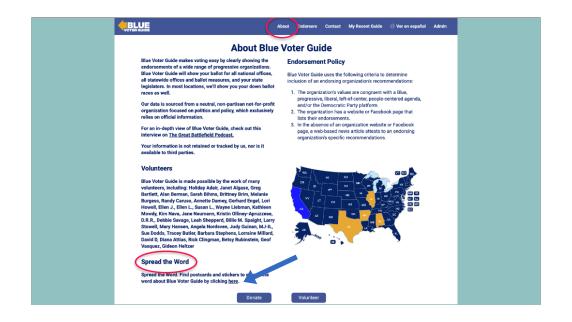
This is John Della Volpe, director of polling at Harvard Kennedy School, he's been studying young voters for two decades, this is what he told Simon Rosenberg on the Hopium podcast a couple of months ago:

"Gen Z voters want to 'be perfect' and have all their homework done. Or else they will leave a ballot item blank."



So how does this affect you as an activist? Well here's a story.

I got a call from a Swing Left Peninsula activist in N. California. She led Voter Registration drives in central California. She encountered young Spanish speaking kids who didn't want to register because they were afraid to vote. It was too intimidating. This is the exact problem that was highlighted in the Knight study. So she started giving out Blue Voter Guide postcards, telling everyone to keep the card and point their phone at the QR code when it came time to vote. No muss no fuss. Only there was no Spanish version of the postcard, which she asked me to make, which is what you're looking at at the top, the English on the other side, shown below.



When you go to register voters, this postcard should be in your toolbox. If you go to the about page

CLICK you get there by by clicking up here

CLICK you'll see "spreading the word" at the bottom.

CLICK Clicking on the word "here" takes you to this Printable tools page (actually on the Field Team 6 website). It's not there now, but will be live late this evening.



That takes you to a page where you see this. Every graphic here contains a QR code that goes to the Blue Voter Guide website. The stickers on the right are free, you can order them for the price of postage. The postcards on the left are printable—the one in the middle has English and Spanish—you download everything and print it on any paper, or you can order Avery labels, which they fit on.

This also works for GOTV. When you canvas, you will encounter people who think voting is too much of a chore. Tell them about Blue Voter Guide. Give them something with the QR code on it. Blue Voter Guide was created for them.

Blue Voter Guide is critically helpful to low propensity voters as it quickly increases that crucial "I've done my homework" feeling that enables pro-democracy choices. It boosts turnout for all our candidates, not just one or another candidate in particular.

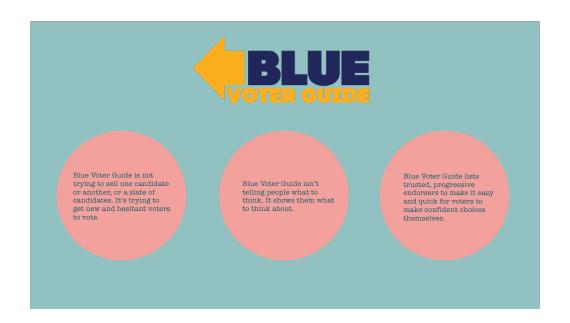


I want to say more about this idea of elevating all Blue candidates, because it's counter intuitive, even contraversial--when we canvas we're usually canvasing for one candidate. I've had conversations about Blue Voter Guide with CADEM and when I tell them what it is, and how it features many progressive endorsements, I've gotten the response, well that's fine, but we've already endorsed the candidates we want, why do we need more endorsements?

CLICK It's short-sighted of the party, or any endorsing org, only to think about its own sheet of endorsements, which is one more piece of information that gets to an already overwhelmed voter.

Moreover, Recent CADEM polling has shown that young voters do not feel tethered to the party—much less any single endorsing organization, or candidate. I suspect that's true nationwide.

So when you're canvassing, by all means tell people about your candidate. But don't forget the problem of getting them to vote at all. Please consider telling them about Blue Voter Guide as well.



Because when young voters are afraid they'll make mistakes, it stops them from voting.

CLICK Blue Voter Guide is not trying to sell one candidate or another, or a slate of candidates. It's trying to get new and hesitant voters to vote. It's apples and oranges. What good is your slate if the voter is afraid to vote? The vast majority of voters using blue voter guide will make choices in agreement with the Democratic party and other progressive endorsing orgs.

CLICK But the voter will come to this not because Blue Voter Guide tells them what to think, but rather shows them what to think about. Blue Voter Guide is trusted precisely because it doesn't endorse specific measures, judges, or candidates.

CLICK It just lists trusted, progressive endorsers for each of these and makes it easy and quick for the voters to make confident choices themselves.