# Voter Registration Drive at University of Pennsylvania Reveals Shifting Political Alignments Among Younger Voters



In 2022, a voter registration drive at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia highlighted the significance of younger voters in the upcoming elections. This demographic, while crucial in past elections, shows varied political alignments now. Data from the General Social Surveys of 2021-2022 reveal demographic shifts and changes in political identification among younger voters — primarily, an increase in non-White voters and those identifying as independents.

This trend impacts support for President Biden, who polls weakly among non-White and young voters. Additionally, a Pew Research Center study suggested younger non-Whites more frequently identify as Democratic-leaning, whereas Gallup polls in February noted a shift toward Republican identification among young and non-White adults, even if not formally registered as Republicans.

Historically, younger voters' low turnout contrasts with the 2008 election, where they significantly supported Barack Obama. However, uncertainty persists for the upcoming elections, with changing demographics and political affiliations influencing potential outcomes. Notably, voter turnout will be critical in determining the results, reflective of young voters' engagement levels.