

Weekly Newsletter

The Shifting Politics of Gen Z

"And where are you going to get these angels who are going to run society for us?"

-- American Economist, Milton Friedman (1912 - 2006)

I was born at the tail end of the baby boomer generation. My parents were part of the "Silent Generation" who grew up during a time of war and economic depression. As a kid, I remember them complaining that we were lazy, that rock 'n' roll music was the devil, and that the country was "going to hell." They were sure that our generation would not be ready to lead when the time came. Like their parents, some baby boomers feel the same way about the younger generations.



I am the parent of four millennials. As I am out campaigning and talking to younger folks, I'm finding a difference between millennials and those from Generation Z, who are 12 to 27 years old. Even more pronounced is the difference between teens and adults within Gen Z. I'm always interested in what this group has to say because this is the generation that will lead and shape our country in the near future.

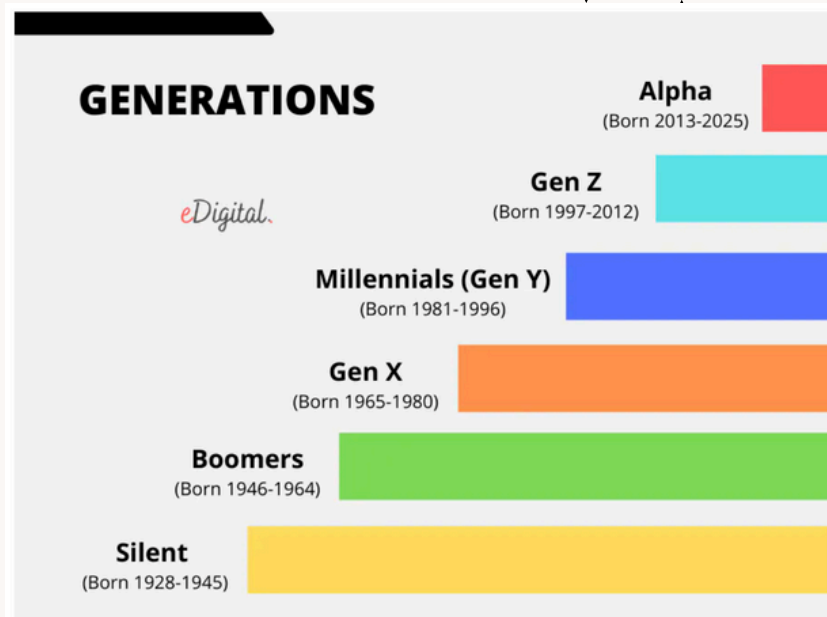
Millennials were raised in a relatively stable economy. They were known as "helicopter parents" who invested heavily in their children's personal safety (you can never be too safe), self-esteem (everyone gets a trophy), and future wellbeing (save the planet). Gen Zs are focused elsewhere. They have seen much more economic instability and reflect a shift in millennial perspective. They seem to be more interested in politics and in shaping the future.



The Democrats have done an excellent job marketing their ideas to millennials and Gen Z adults. On par with millennials, Gen Z adults are less likely than other generational groups to be Republicans, with only 21% identifying as such. However, an interesting shift is taking place: Gen Z teens aren't necessarily buying what Democrats are selling. Although Gen Z adults are more liberal than any other group, Gen Z teens are more moderate.

Approximately half of Gen Z teens don't identify with either major political party, while the other half generally follow their parents' partisan identities.

I think these young people are looking for change agents who are willing to listen to them. Today's teenagers tend to be driven by what is right rather than by what is politically expedient. Many are trying to discern the truth by weeding through all of the noise coming from the media and other sources—much of which is biased. They are asking, "What is the truth? Who is right? How can we find out?"



As leaders, we owe it to these young truth-seekers to discuss all of the issues in front of them with honesty. We have to reach out to teens with facts and sound reasoning, especially in light of the distorted information they are likely receiving. These are the "angels" Friedman refers to in his quote who will soon be running our society. They will be looking for legislators to do what is best for our society. In Congress, I will be committed to doing the right thing not only for my generation, but also for the generations who will determine our future.

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

Let's chat!

LET'S DO
SOMETHING-
TOGETHER

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