

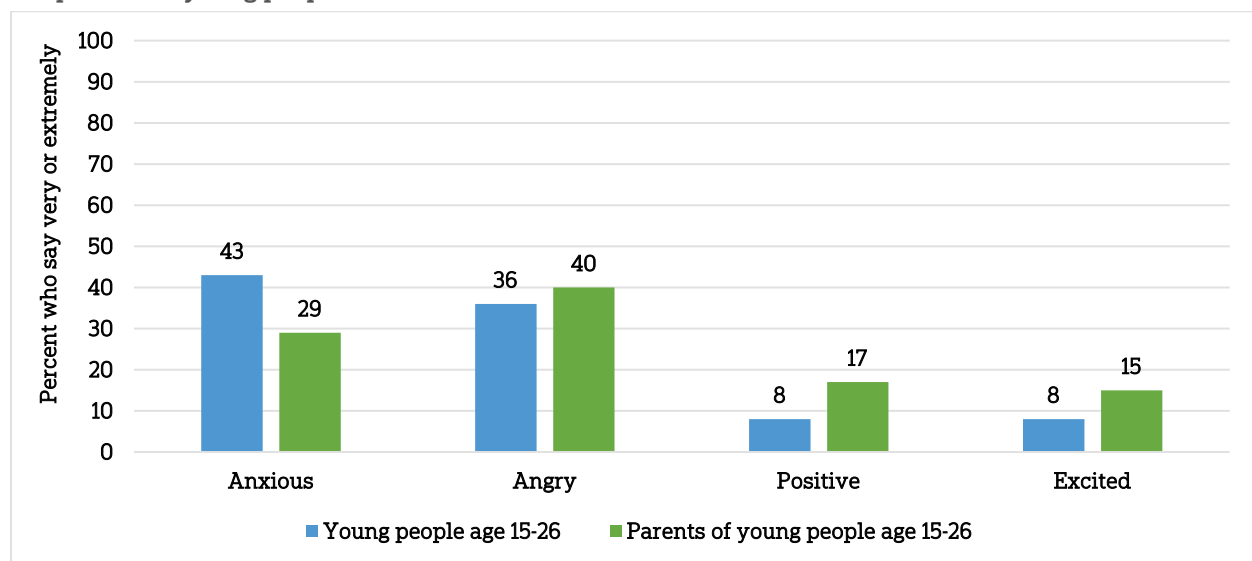
Young peoples' priorities have also shifted. When asked to describe in their own words what issue facing the country concerns them the most, 21 percent cited gun laws in March. Just 6 percent mention gun issues now.¹ The most common worries are now the economy (16 percent) and social inequality (14 percent).

BOTH YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS SAY POLITICS HAVE BECOME DYSFUNCTIONAL, AND BOTH ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM.

Young people age 15-26 and parents of young people age 15-26 alike have mixed outlooks on the future of the United States. Young people are more pessimistic than parents (55 percent vs. 40 percent), although these differences are mainly attributable to the parents being more Republican and less racially and ethnically diverse than young people.

Both generations report relatively negative feelings about the state of the country over the past month. Substantial minorities of both groups have felt anxious or angry in the past month, while few have felt positive or excited. Young people are more likely than parents to say they feel anxious (43 percent vs. 29 percent) and less likely to feel positive (8 percent vs. 17 percent) or excited (8 percent vs. 15 percent).

Young people age 15-26 are more anxious and less positive or excited about the state of America than are parents of young people.



Question: In the past month... How ___ have you felt about the state of the country?

Source: MTV/AP-NORC poll conducted April 23-May 9, 2018, with 607 parents and 558 children age 15-26 nationwide

Young people and parents have similar assessments of the political system and their own efficacy within it. Majorities of both groups say American politics have been dysfunctional over the past month. Sixty-four percent of young people and 67 percent of parents feel that politics have not been functioning very well or at all.

Young people see the current two-party system as inadequate, and parents agree. Less than a third think the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, while more than two-thirds say a third party is needed.

¹ Interviews for this survey were conducted April 23-May 9, 2018, prior to the May 18 shooting in Santa Fe, Texas.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS ARE SIMILARLY ENGAGED WITH THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS.

When it comes to the upcoming midterm elections in November, parents of young people age 15-26 are more likely than young people age 15-26 to be regularly reading or watching news about the elections (66 percent vs. 45 percent). However, older adults tend to consume news more often than young people in general² and may be hearing more about the midterms as a result.

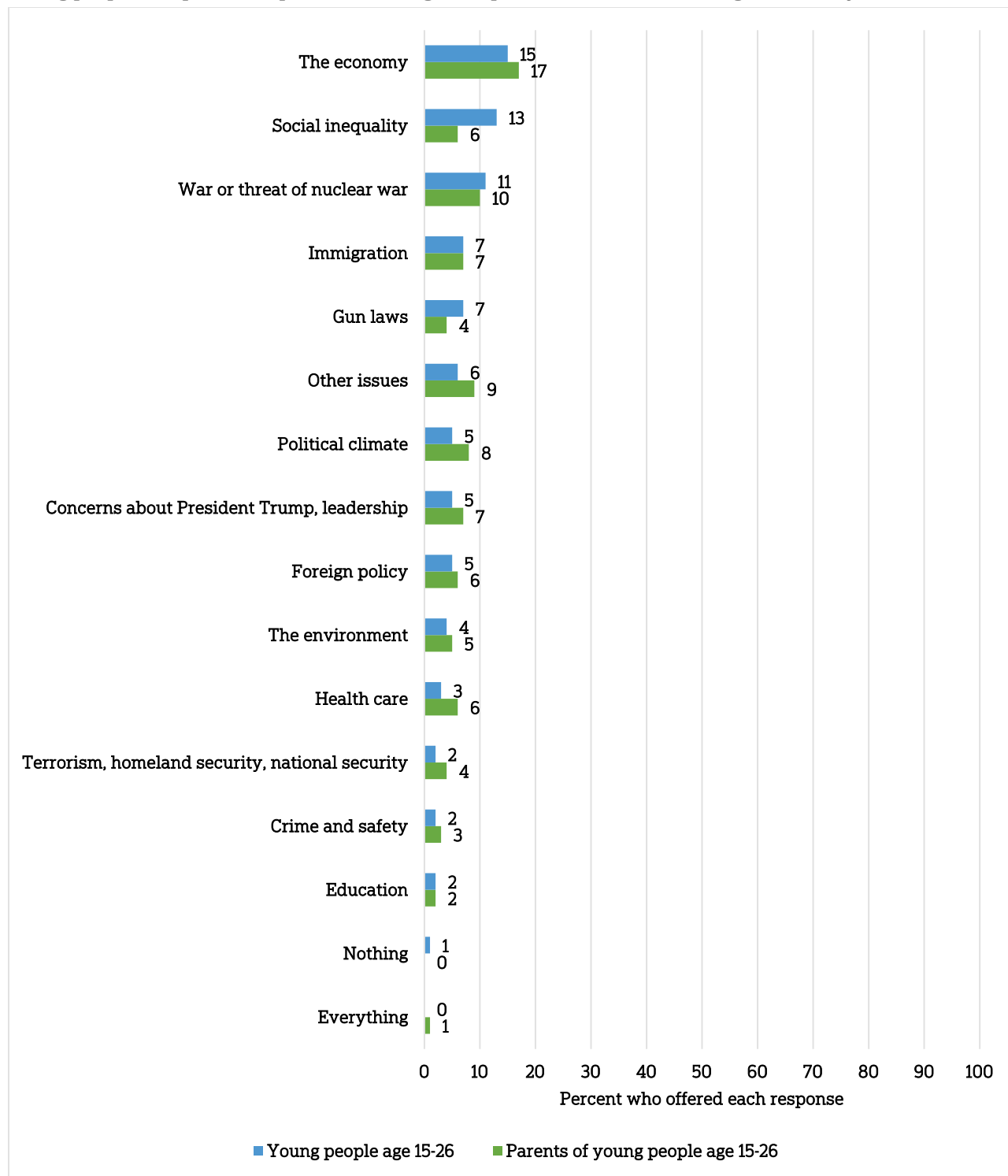
The two generations are equally likely to engage with the November elections in other ways, such as posting or commenting about them on social media (25 percent of parents vs. 25 percent of young people age 15-26), sharing political memes (18 percent of parents vs. 24 percent of young people age 15-26), participating in events (14 percent of parents vs. 16 percent of young people age 15-26), or volunteering with a candidate or issue campaign (11 percent of parents vs. 9 percent of young people age 15-26).

BOTH GENERATIONS HAVE VARIED POLITICAL CONCERNS AND ARE STRONGLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE ON KEY ISSUES.

Economic issues top long lists of current concerns for both young people and parents. When asked to say in their own words what concerns them most about the issues currently facing the country, 15 percent of young people age 15-26 and 17 percent of parents of young people age 15-26 say they are most concerned about the economy. The two groups place similar priorities on a range of other issues, although social inequality ranks second highest for young people (13 percent) and fails to make the top five most worrisome issues for parents (6 percent).

² The Media Insight Project. 2014. *The Personal News Cycle*.
http://www.apnorc.org/PDFs/Media%20Insight/News%20Cycle/The_Personal_News_Cycle_Final.pdf

Young people and parents report a wide range of top concerns of issues facing the country.



Question: Of all of the issues facing the country right now, what concerns you the most?
 Source: MTV/AP-NORC poll conducted April 23-May 9, 2018, with 607 parents and 558 children age 15-26 nationwide

Young people age 15-26 believe the federal government is doing a poor job addressing a majority of key issues. They most commonly give the government a failing grade for 15 of 17 key issues. However, young people rate performance on the economy and job creation as average, most commonly giving a grade of C.

