

**Dr. Corey Seemiller**, *An Award-winning Professor of Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations at Wright State University*

The year 2024 has seen a flurry of elections around the globe, with the world's eyes on some pivotal contests. In this crucial moment for democratic governance, the spotlight is on Generation Z, the youngest cohort of voters. Their political leanings, expectations, concerns and critiques are the subject of intense scrutiny. Their choices will undoubtedly shape the near future of those countries. Professor Corey Seemiller of Wright State University answered the three most critical questions about the political approach of GEN Z, the largest generation in the world's total population with approximately 2.5 billion.

## Question 1:

**Do people in Generation Z have enough in common to make generalisations about political issues?**

There is a great amount of diversity within Generation Z, like there is among those in other generations. However, because of Gen Z's upbringing during a time in which the proliferation of technology and the media has made it easier than ever to stay informed about specific issues, they are more aware of current events more so than those in other generations were when they were the same age. With headlines around climate change, reproductive rights, and other issues being on the forefront of their phones, and thus, their minds, they can more easily craft opinions. And, given that anyone can be a content creator online, it is easy for them to find shared movements, particularly led by young people, speaking out on issues with a specific slant in one direction.

## Question 2:

**The last few years have been significant in that it has been the first time that many young people in the Generation Z cohort have participated in elections as voters. Can we make assumptions about the propensity of this generation to take a particular political stance?**

It would depend on which issues are more prominent that election cycle. Ones that continue to rise to the top of importance for them are the environment, social justice, and anything related to the economy (like cost of higher education, affordable housing, jobs, and healthcare costs). In some countries, it may be war or conflict, whereas in others, it might be immigration. While there is a diversity of opinions across these issues, there is far more solidarity among this generational cohort on these specific topics.

## Question 3:

**How do Gen Zers perceive leadership and approach politics? Does the image of a leader influence political participation and is there a particular type of political leader that influences Gen Z's preferences?**

Many in Gen Z believe that political leaders are corrupt and greedy. Some have opted out of the process because they don't want to participate in such an unethical and flawed system. However, when they do vote, they are looking for someone to inspire them and then further, champion their causes in an ethical, transparent way.