

Political Views for Gen Z Dating: Dealbreaker or Not?

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Hily, 2024

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Introduction

The Hily dating app surveyed 2,500 Gen Z users in the U.S. about politics and relationships, asking how strongly they hold their political views and how these views influence their dating lives. The study reveals mixed feelings about politics and explores the range of policy issues that matter to Gen Zers, including their willingness to vote this year.

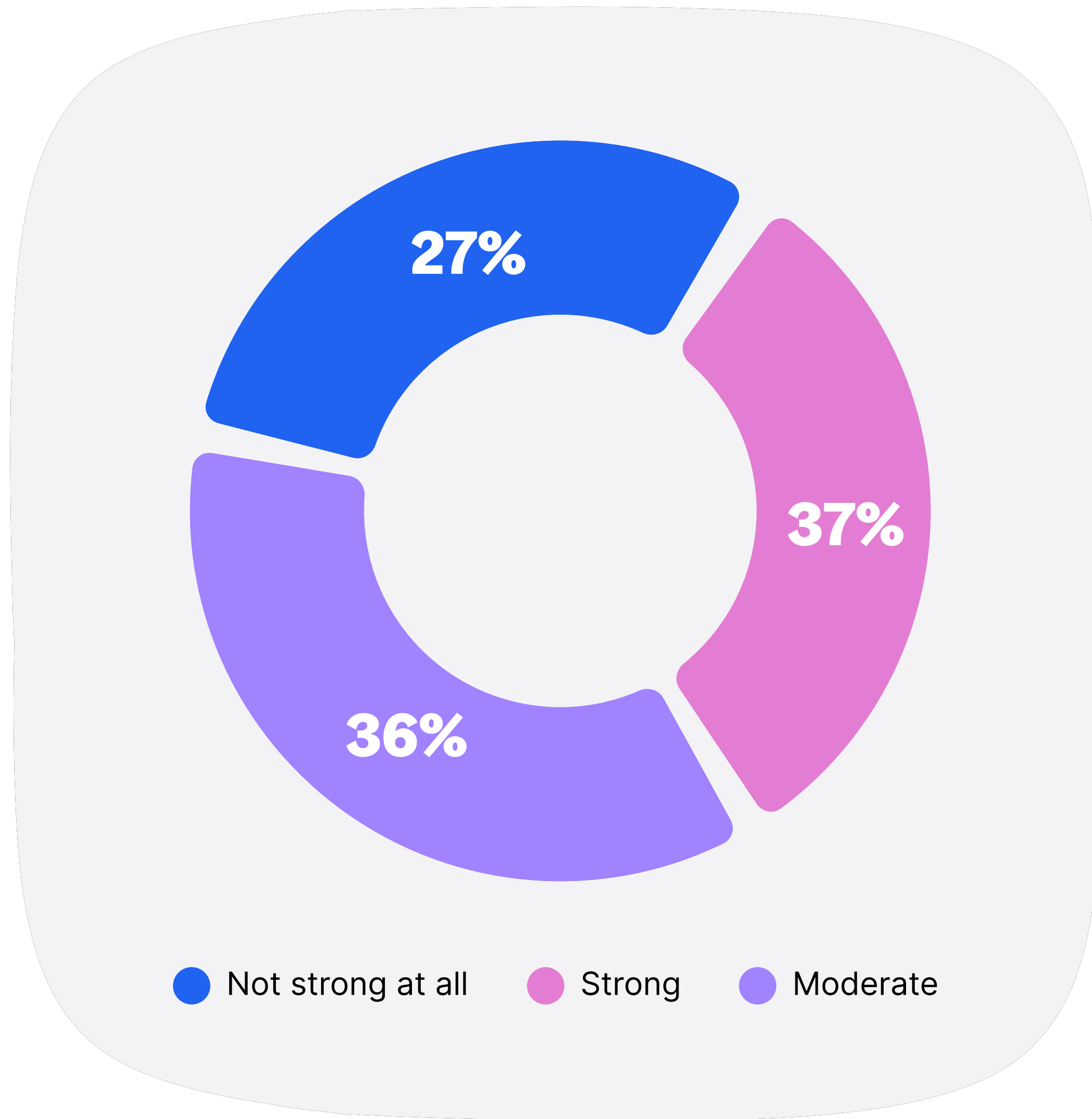
Hily's team of researchers and relationship scientists adopted qualitative and quantitative methods to understand the behavioral patterns of modern daters. The aim was to find out whether political compatibility can become the new chemistry on the dating scene—and if so, how strongly it affects Gen Z daters.



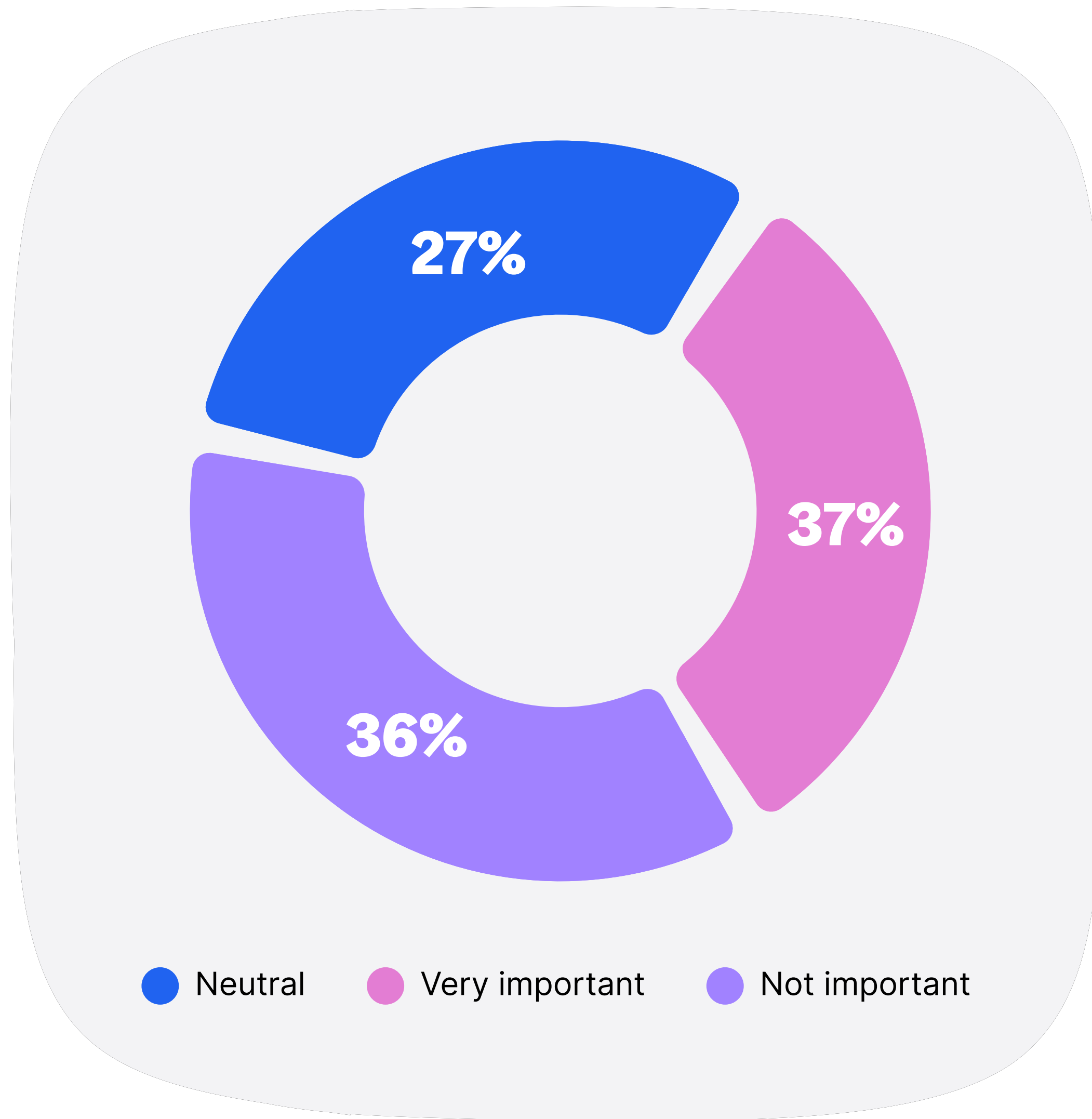
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Are Gen Z Strong Political Believers?

Gen Zers are believed to be idealists—but when it comes to today's politics, it's hard to determine what this generation is. Almost one-third said they don't have any strong political views, and slightly above one-third have clear political ideals.



Political Compatibility Can Be a Thing (or Not)



Is there any correlation between strong political views and strong relationship expectations?

As a generation, Gen Z may have a mixed attitude towards politics. But when their political views are strong, they can be a dealbreaker in their personal relationships. For **37%** of respondents, political alignment with their partners is very or somewhat important.

At the same time, for **36%** of Gen Zers, different political perspectives are not a thing at all.

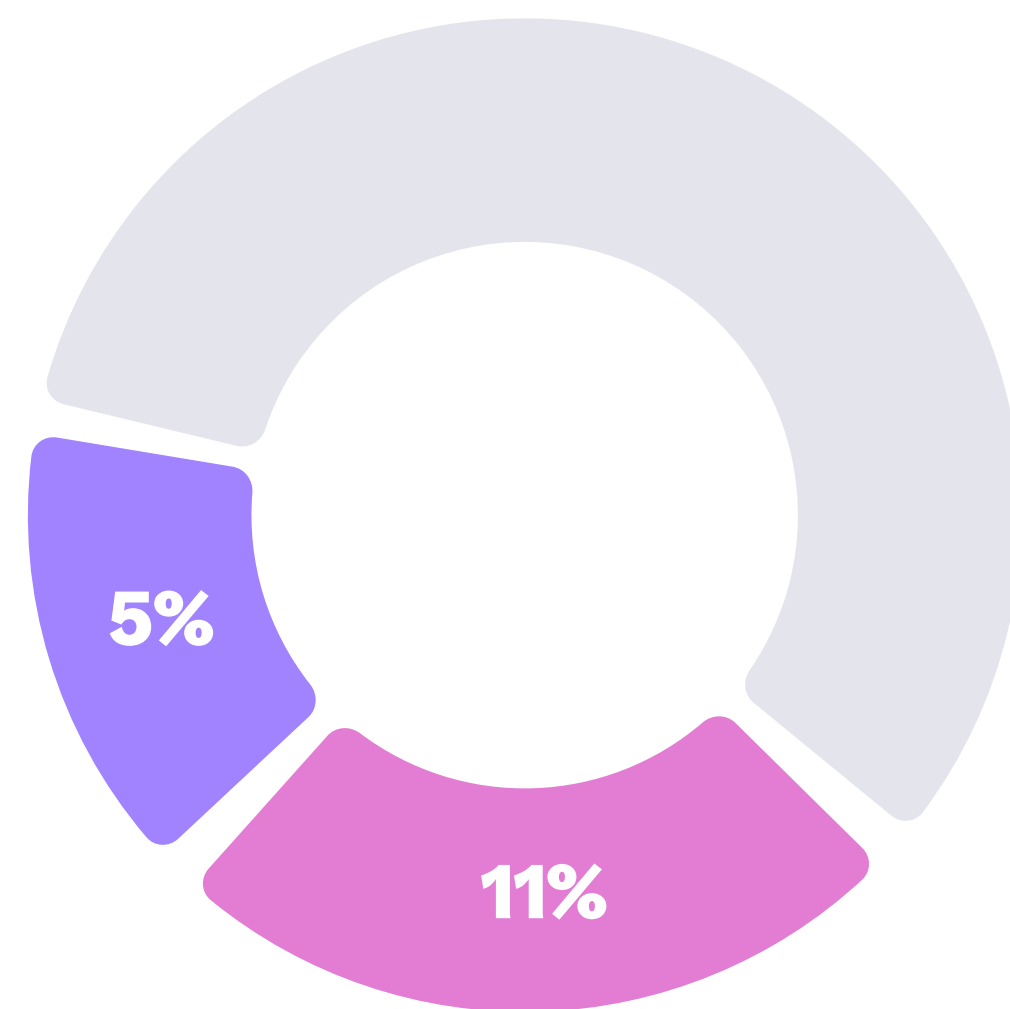
Political Differences: Must or Bust?

Given that strong political misalignment can be a dealbreaker, can Gen Zers give their potential date a chance?

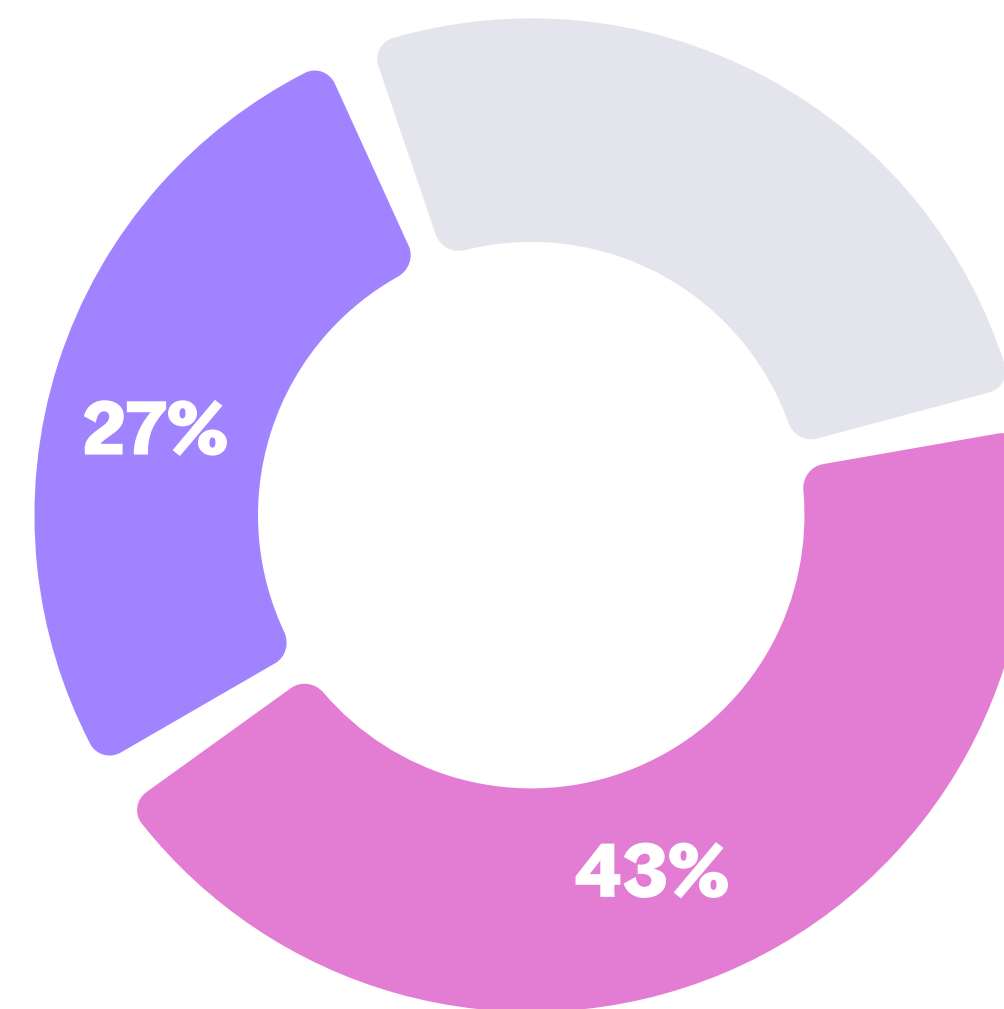
Gen Z's views on dating someone with differing political opinions show interesting gender dynamics. Around **1 out of 20** men and **2 out of 20** women admitted that political incompatibility is a strong dealbreaker for them. But when it comes to the level of flexibility on the matter, gender differences become more pronounced.

On the other hand, **30%** of men (compared to 17% of women) revealed readiness to give a shot to someone regardless of a political misalignment, while **43%** of women (compared to 27% of men) chose to ditch politics if other important factors were also in play.

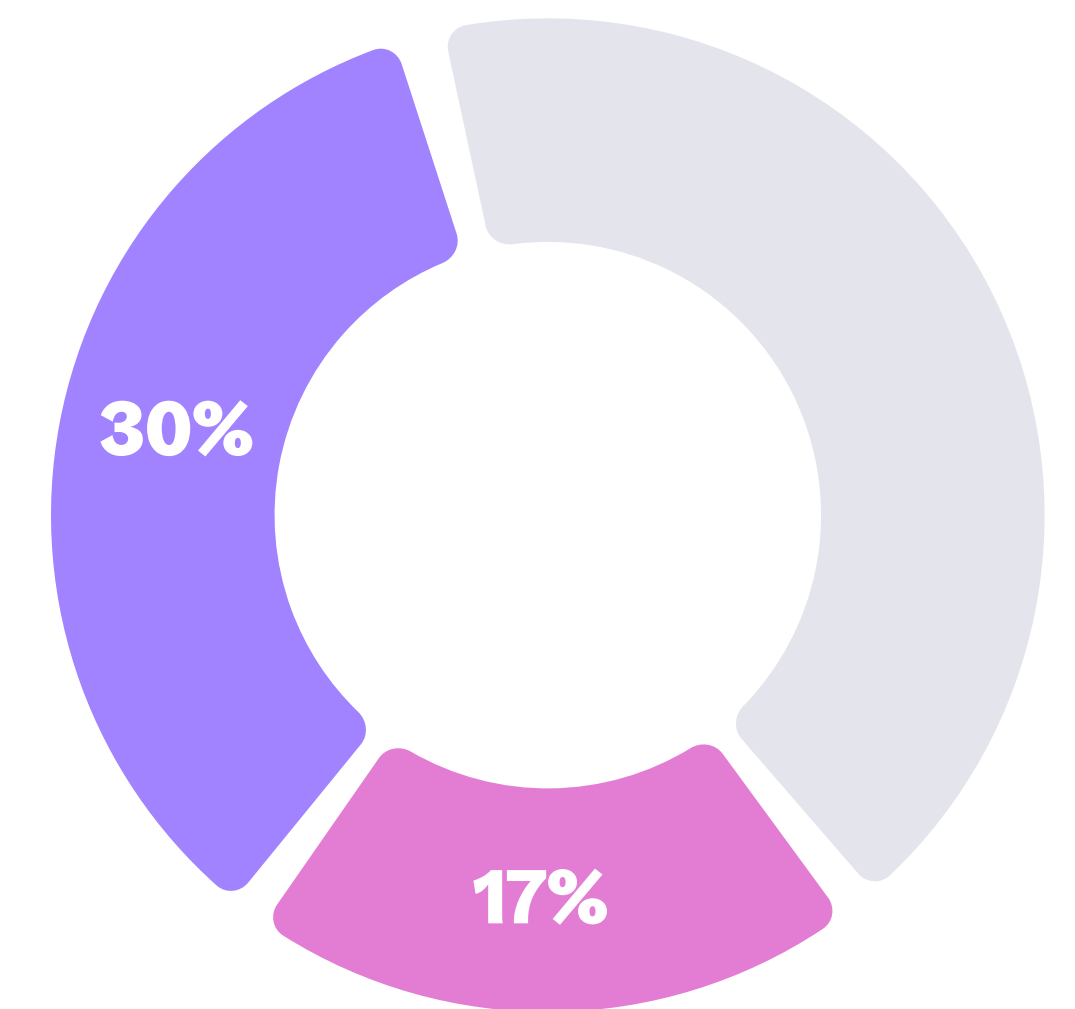
● Men
● Women



No, I wouldn't give them a chance



Maybe, if there are more important facts that matter



Yes, I would

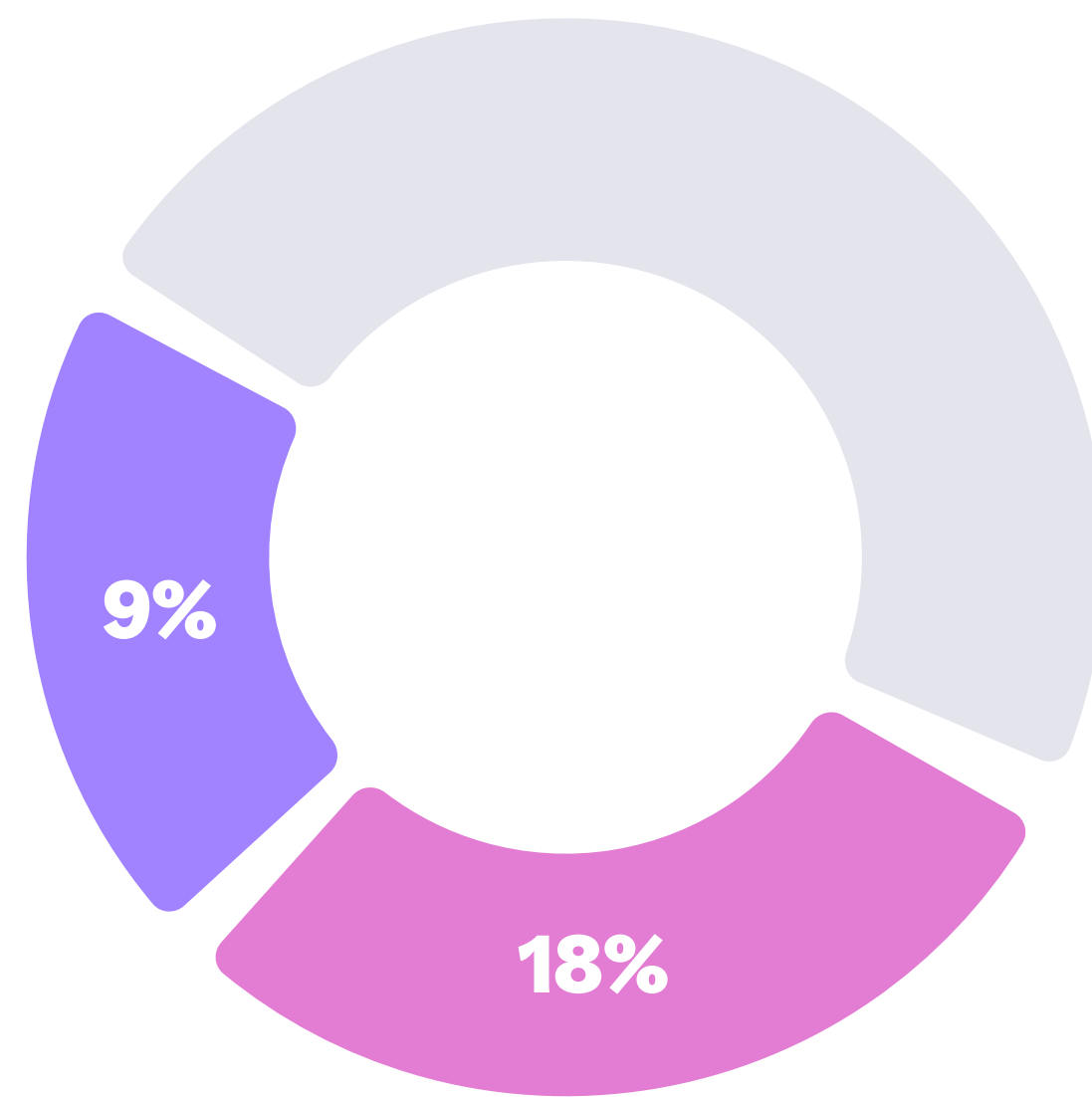
When Politics Breaks Couples

Can political differences become one of the reasons to end a relationship?

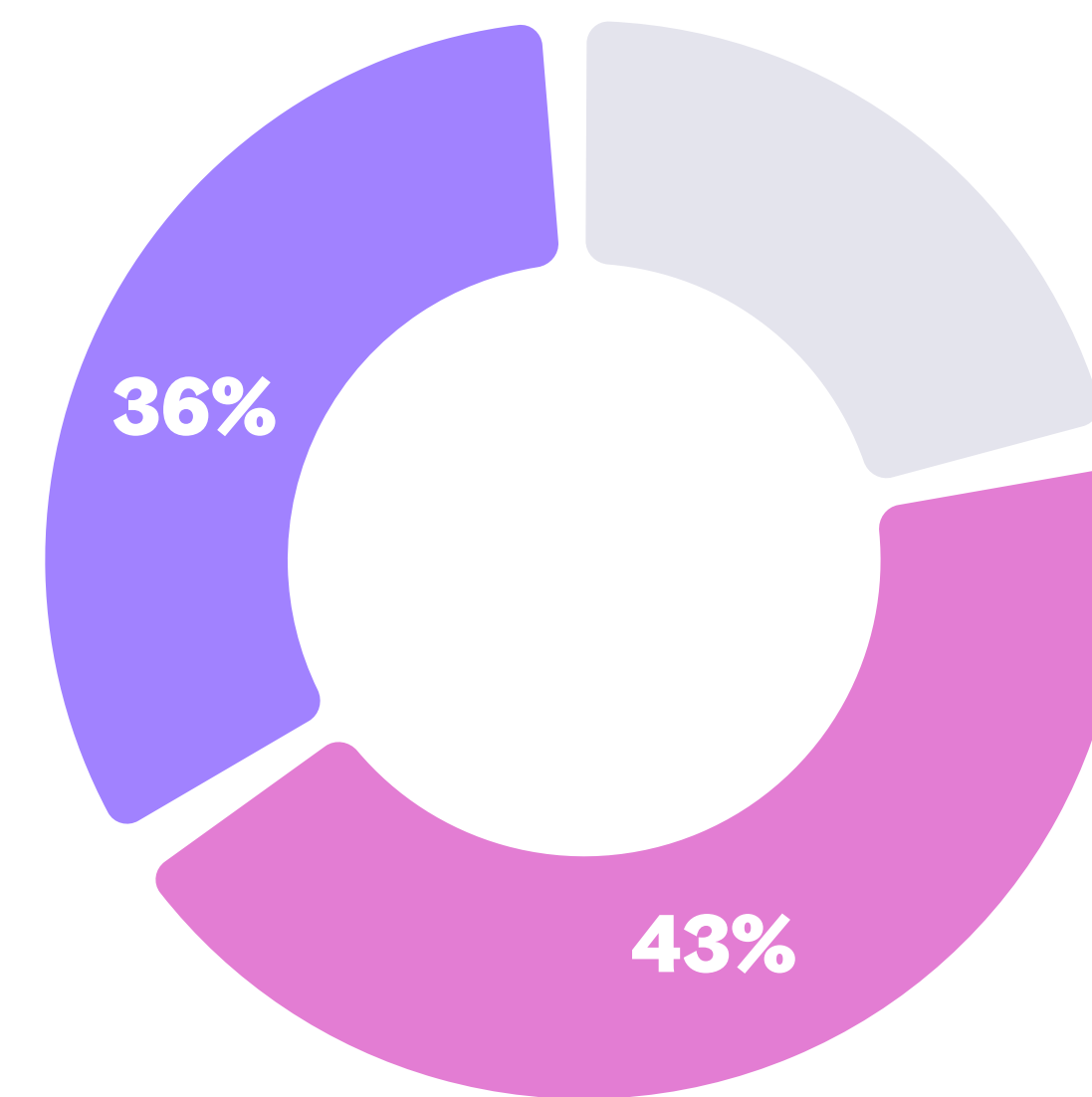
No matter how strong Gen Zers feel about politics, they rarely let these feelings break their relationships: only **9%** of male respondents broke up with someone due to opposing political views.

For women, the likelihood of ending a relationship due to opposing political perspectives is twice as high but still not that frequent (around **18%**).

● Men
● Women



Yes



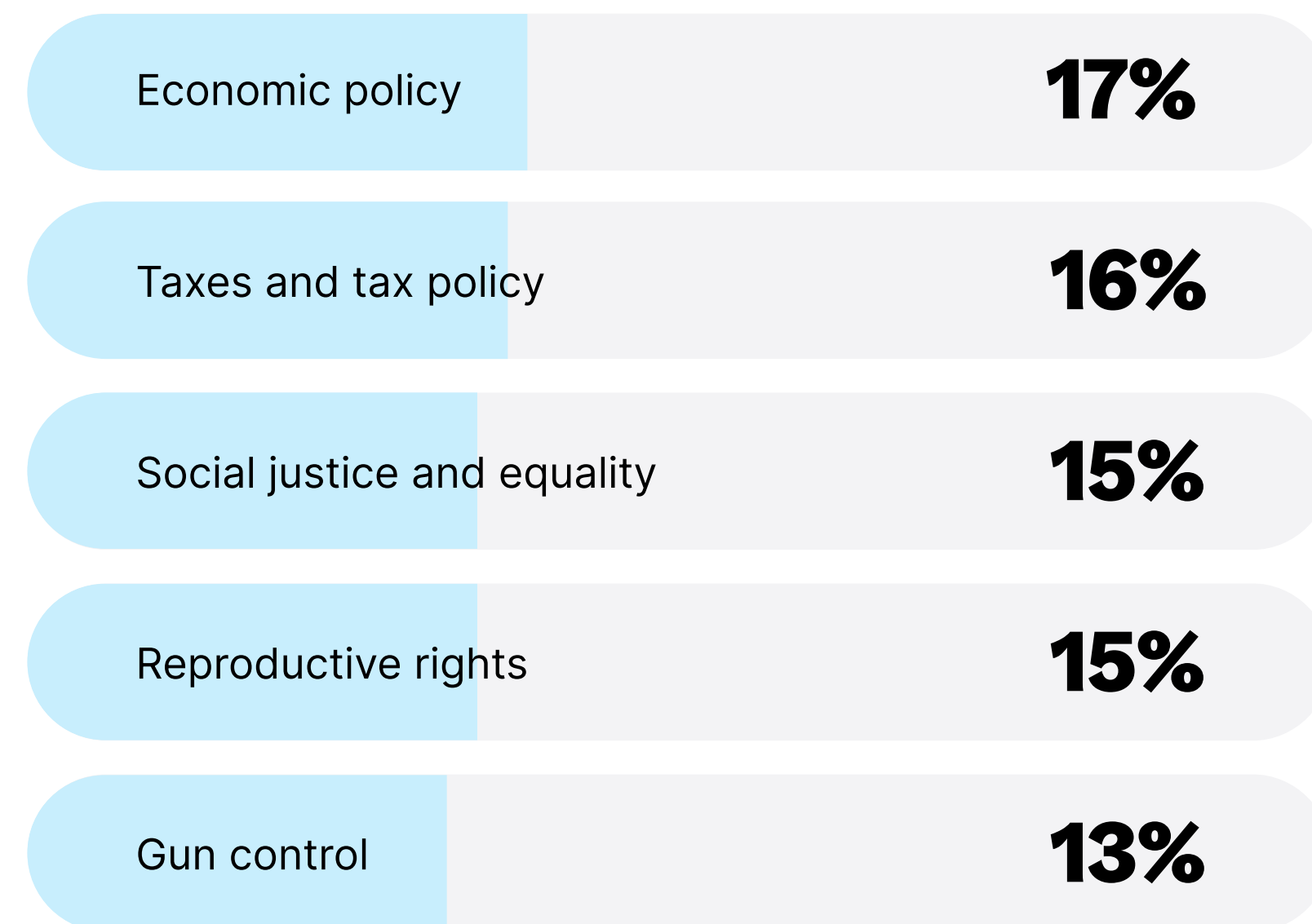
No

Must-Have Political Alignments for Gen Z Relationships

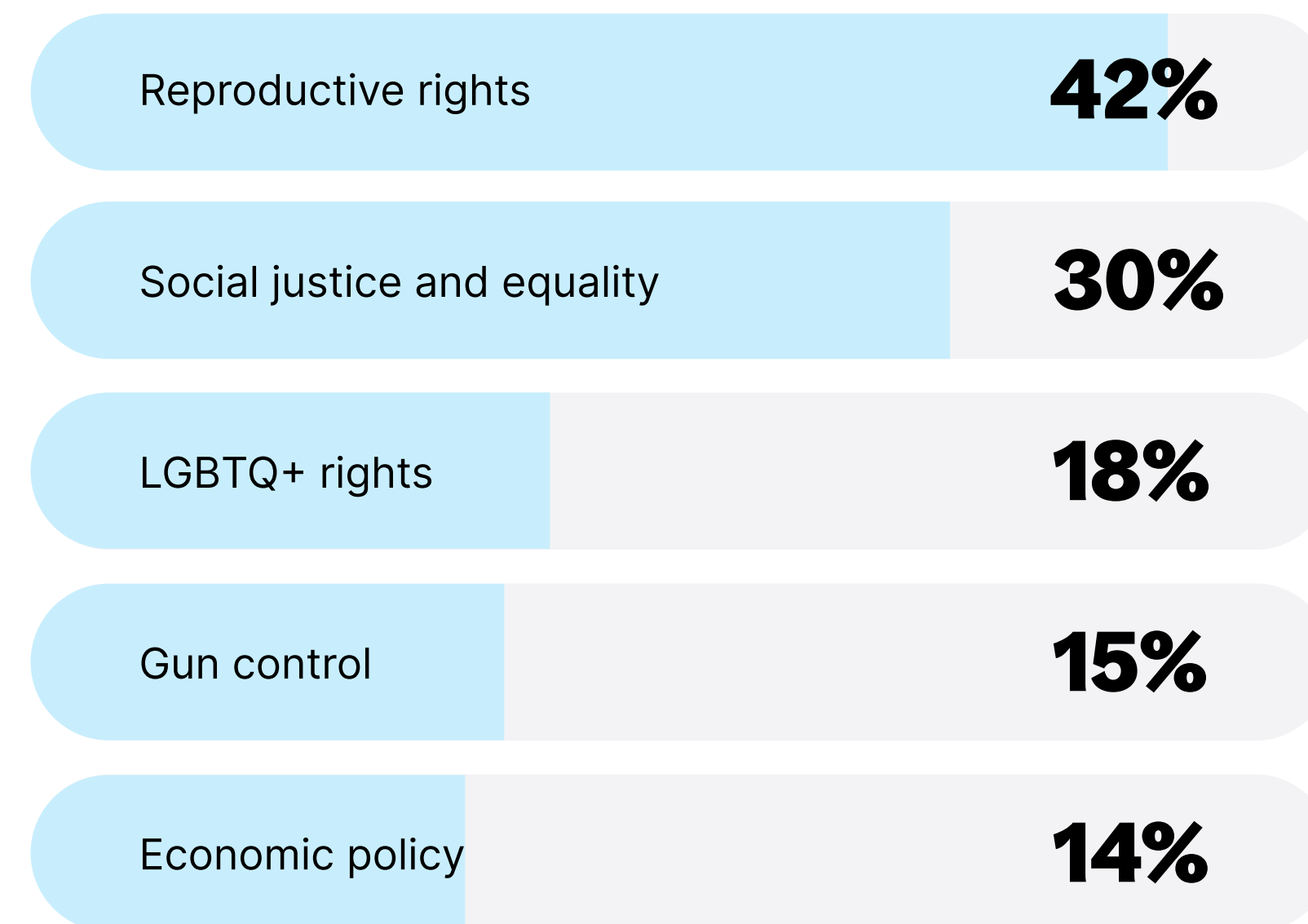
Which issues Gen Zers find most important to agree on with their potential partners?

When it comes to politics, the Venus-Mars theory does not apply to Gen Z. But once asked about the issues that matter most, the gender differences became striking. Women tend to feel the strongest about their social safety, including **reproductive rights (42%)** and **social justice (30%)**. Male political preoccupations are more about **economic policy (17%)** and **taxes and tax policy (16%)**.

Male



Female



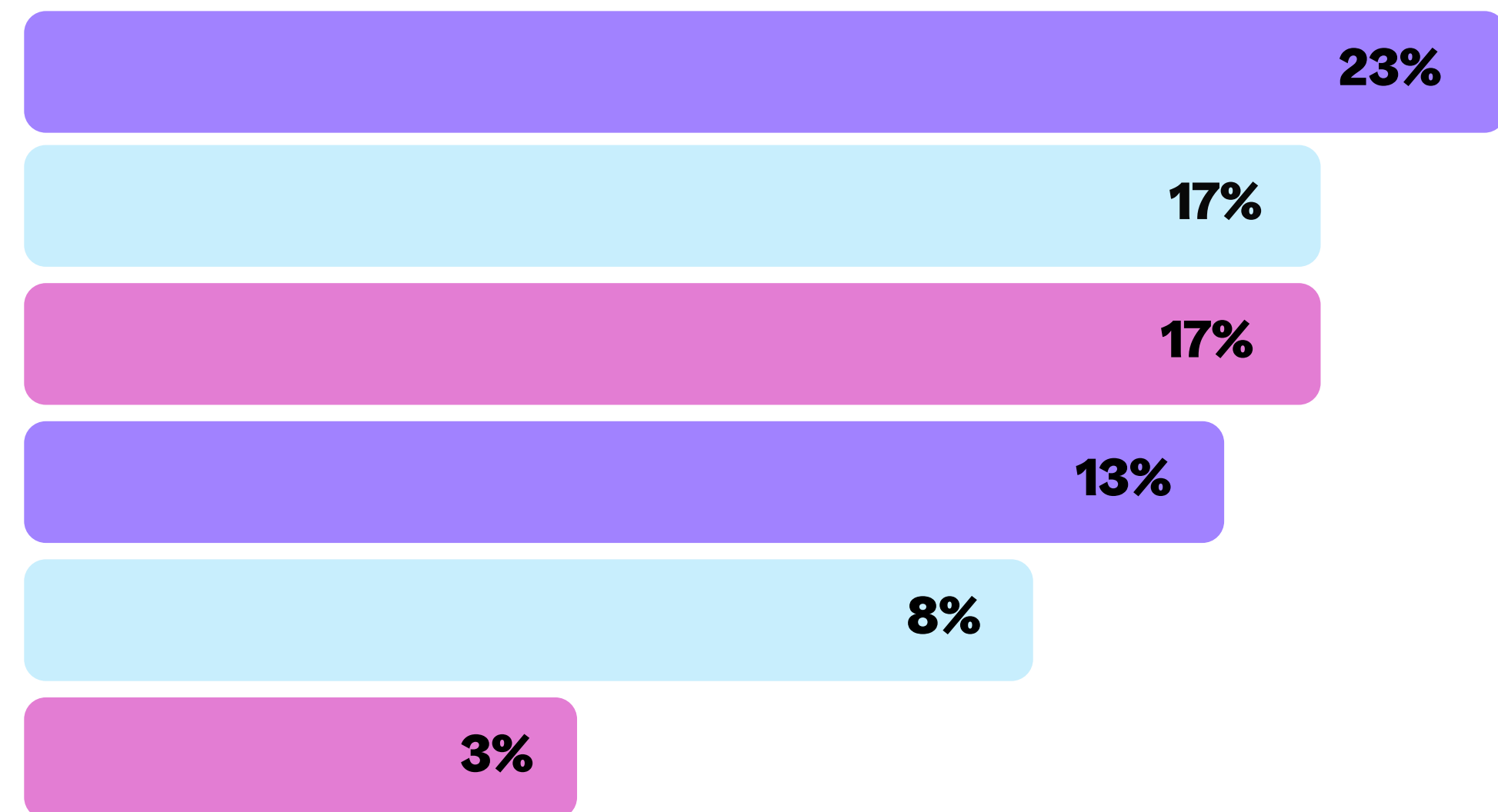
Do Gen Zers Discuss Politics on First Dates?

How Gen Zers find out about a potential partner's political views on the first date?

Based on the survey results, most Gen Zers (**23%**) prefer to avoid politics in the early dating stages and instead look for subtle signs of their date's political views during casual conversations (**17%**).

If daters want to discuss politics, they'd rather ask a direct question (**17%**) than bring up a related topic (**8%**) or silently check their date's social media (**3%**).

- I don't ask about politics early on
- I notice their political views from things they say
- I ask direct questions about politics
- I wait for a potential partner to mention their political views
- I bring up a related topic to see their reaction
- I check their political views on social media

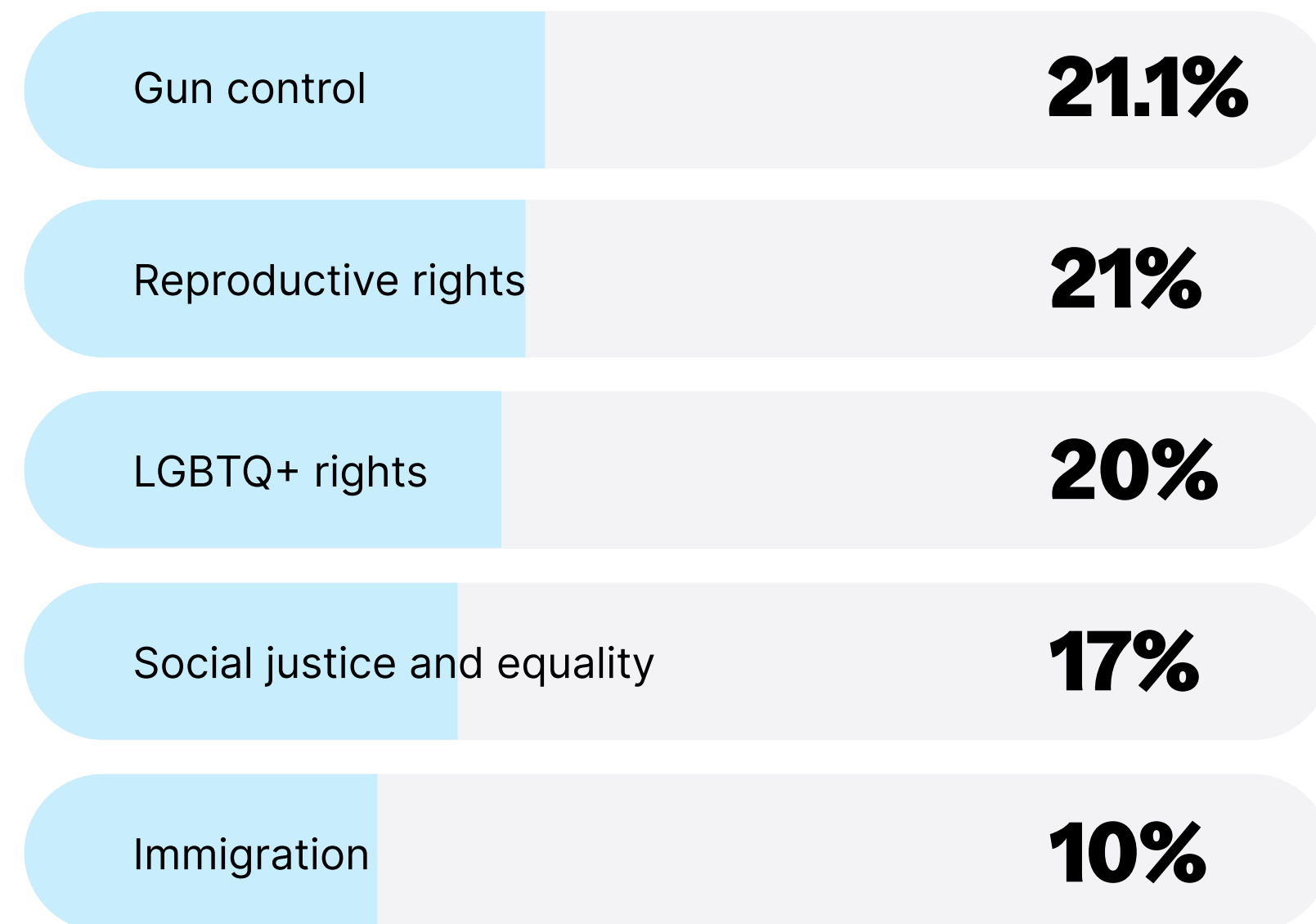


Political Dealbreakers

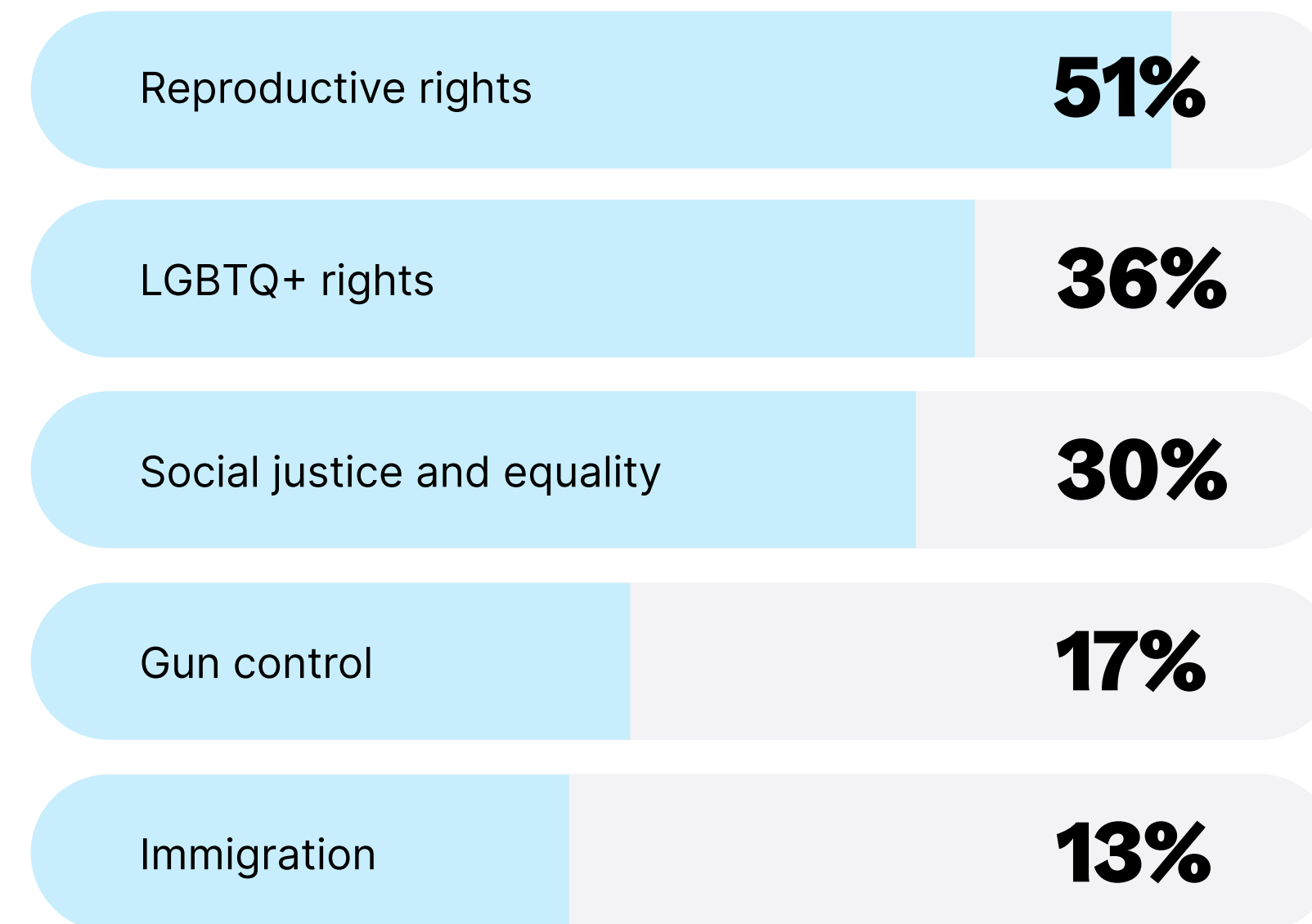
Which political topics are real dealbreakers for Gen Z?

Gen Z men are generally less likely to break up with someone over political differences—but when they do, **21%** cite **gun control**, **reproductive rights (21%)**, and **LGBTQ+ rights (20%)** as the reasons. For women, these issues carry more weight, with **51%** ending a relationship over **reproductive rights**, **36%** over **LGBTQ+ rights**, and **30%** over **social justice** issues.

Male

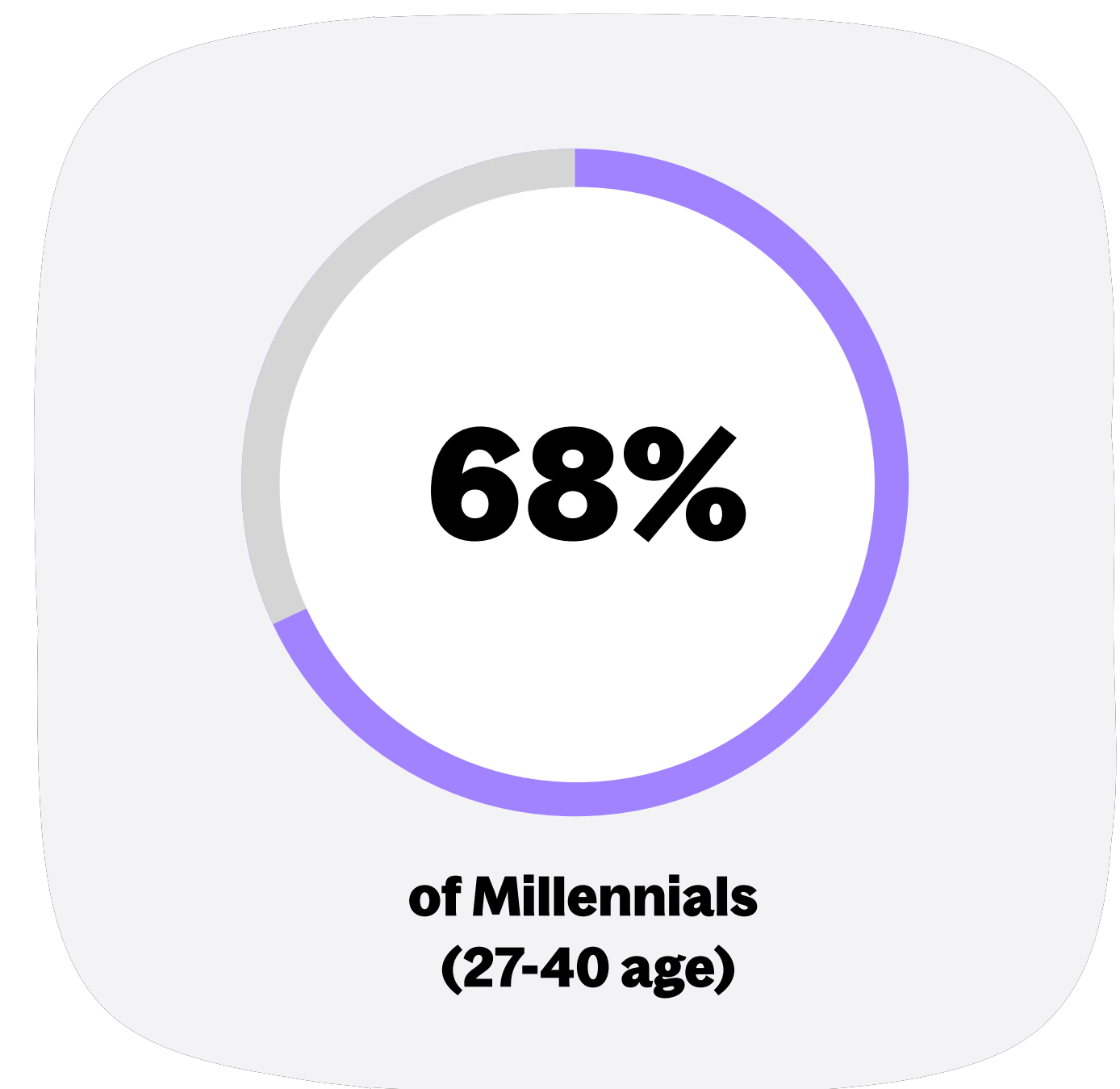
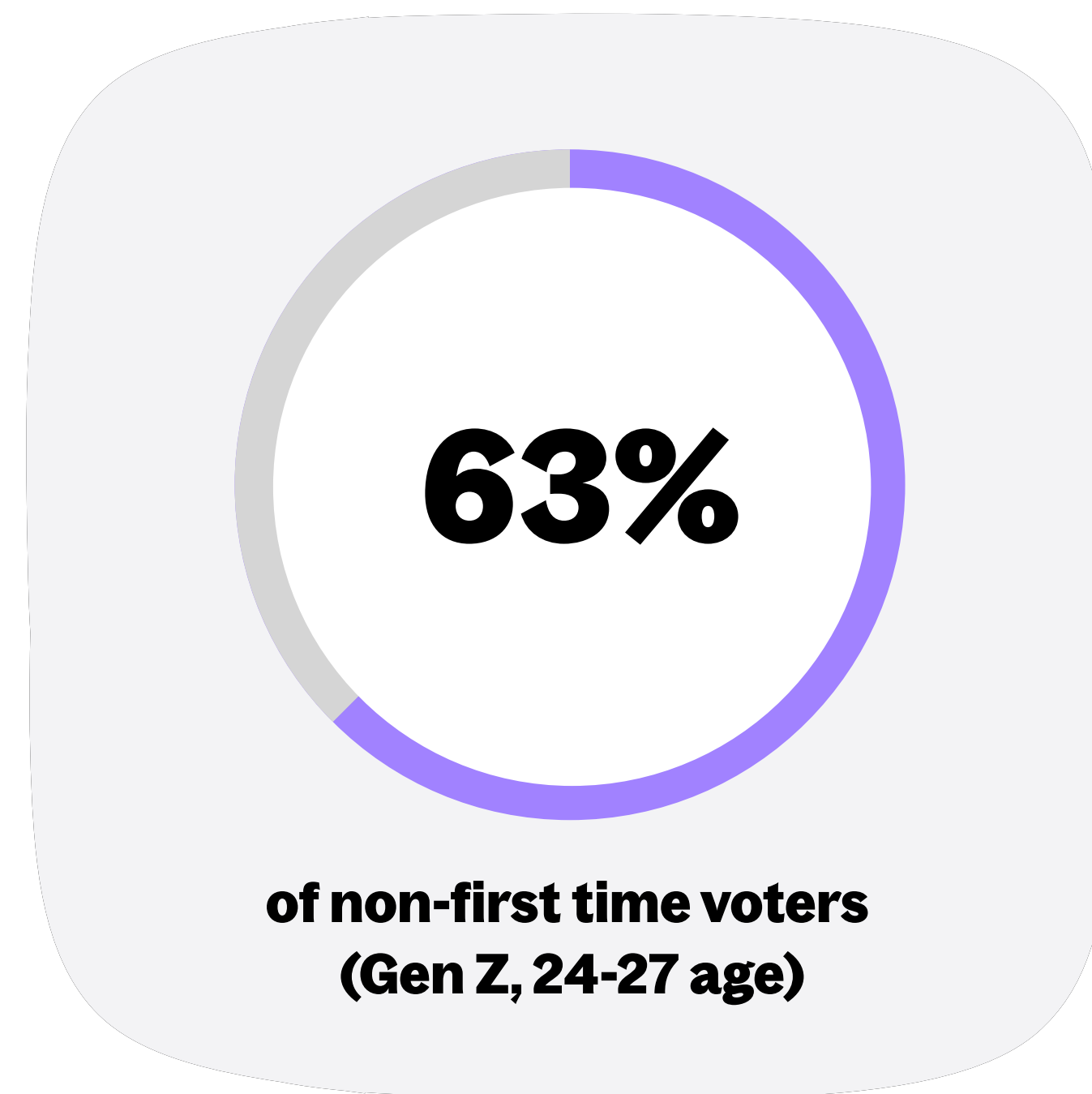
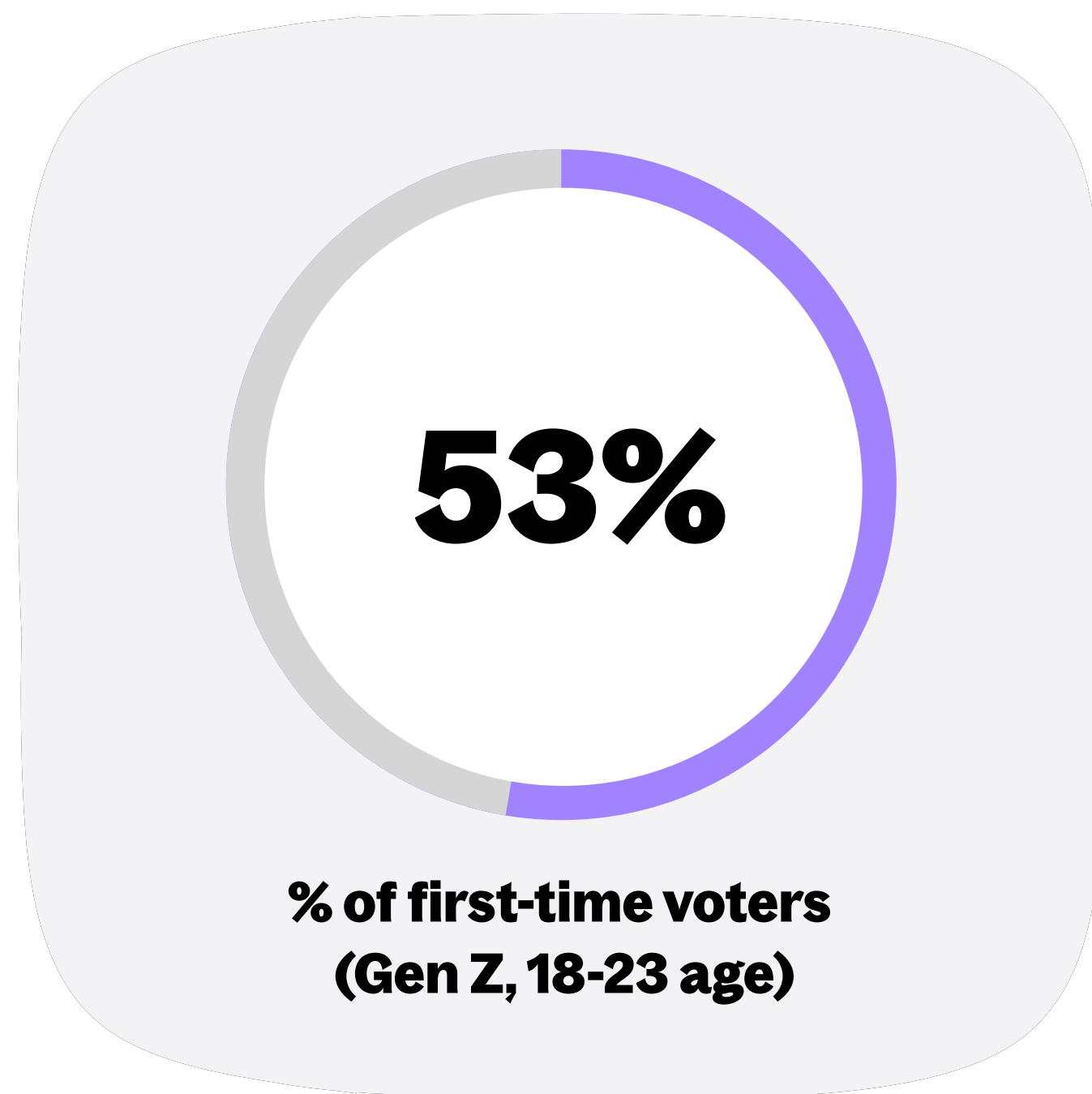


Female



Will Gen Zers Vote This Year?

How many first voters, Gen Zers, and Millennials are going to vote this time?



Hily Users Say

"I'm voting for the first time this year" — Alex, 22

Do you believe that your vote makes a difference?

"I mean, I don't know if my one vote will really change things, but it feels like I at least have to try, right? Especially with everything going on."

What has impacted your political views?

"My parents are pretty conservative, but my friends are all over the place politically. Social media's a mess too, so it's been kinda confusing figuring out where I stand. I guess I'm still figuring it all out."

How would you best navigate political differences in a relationship?

"Honestly, it'd probably be tough. I mean, I'm open to hearing other perspectives, but there are some things I just couldn't compromise on. I guess it depends on the person and how willing we both are to have those hard conversations."



Hily Users Say

"Voting is important because it's a way to make your voice heard"— Sofia, 18

What has impacted your political views?

"The people you grow up with have a significant influence. Over time, I started doing my own research to figure out what I truly believe in. Social media also plays a role, especially with political content constantly popping up on platforms like TikTok and Instagram."

How important is it for you to find a partner with similar political values?

"It's somewhat important to me because if you don't agree on certain topics, it can change your life together based on who you vote for. You need to come to a mutual agreement, and that's hard when you're on opposite sides."

Abortion right is probably the most essential issue for me to agree with my partner on. You have to agree because if one person believes you shouldn't have the right, and the other thinks the opposite, that's life-changing."

How to navigate political conversations in a relationship?

"There are two options: talk about it early so you don't waste energy on someone it won't work with, or wait until you're comfortable enough to have a civil conversation without hurting each other. But don't wait too long. It's better to discuss politics at the start or after you know each other better and can handle differences. It's better to know early so you can decide if it'll work or not."

I try to avoid getting upset and set ground rules first. I tell them it's not a debate and to be open-minded so it doesn't turn into a fight. Setting those rules helps keep the conversation respectful. It's important to communicate, understand each other's views, and not hold grudges over differing opinions."

"I've always known my vote matters, and if I vote, it adds one more win"— Emma, 20

When it comes to dating, how important is it for you to find someone who has political values?

"It's somewhat important for me to find someone with similar political views, mainly so we can watch the news together and discuss politics without clashing. I don't expect them to be politically engaged right away, but eventually, I'd like to have those conversations as our relationship progresses."

When it comes to discussing political views, do you think it's better to bring them up early or wait?

"I prefer to wait until I get to know the person better. If I really like someone, I focus on them first. Once we've built a connection, I'll ask about their political views. It doesn't take years—just a few months or weeks."

What has impacted your political views?

"My family has had the biggest impact on my political views, but now that I'm 20, I follow my own beliefs more than theirs. It's time for me to vote for who I want, not who they want."

Methodology

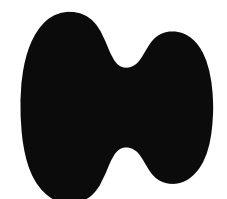
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About Hily

Hily is a dating app designed to make dating fun and enjoyable.

By allowing everyone to date as they are and encouraging curiosity and a sense of adventure, the app helps people make new connections and explore themselves through dating. With features like icebreakers, compatibility checks, messaging, and video calls, Hily helps users connect in genuine ways. Released in 2017, Hily has become one of the top 10 dating apps in US app stores, with over 34 million users worldwide.



Hily, 2024

Contact us: pr@hily.com