

## YOUTH-CENTERED POLICY MATRIX--ANDREW YANG

Andrew Yang is an American businessman and politician. Originally a lawyer, Yang began working in startups and early stage growth companies as a founder & executive during the 2000s. In 2011, he founded Venture for America, a nonprofit focused on creating jobs in cities struggling to recover from the Great Recession. He ran in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries, becoming known for his “Freedom Dividend, a universal basic income (UBI) of \$1,000 a month to every American adult as a response to job displacement by automation, going from a relative unknown to a major competitor in the race who participated in seven of the first eight Democratic debates.

The son of immigrants from Taiwan, Yang was born and raised in New York State. He attended Brown University and Columbia Law School. Although he has not voted in a municipal election since 2001, he has lived in New York City since graduating from college. Yang formally announced his bid for Mayor in January 2021, quickly becoming a frontrunner.

YVote youth leaders Giorgia, Kodi, Leah, Madina, Nuzhat, and Zhen assessed Candidate Yang with regard to how well his platform addresses policy recommendations developed in response to the Youth Ask Youth (yay) census 2020 with Y indicating that the candidate addresses the recommendation, N indicating that the candidate doesn’t address it, and U indicating that the candidate’s response is Unclear, Unaddressed, or Incomplete. The statements shared through this Candidate Assessment Matrix are based on Andrew Yang's campaign website, public speaking events, and articles in Gotham Gazette, New York Magazine, New York Times, NY Daily News, Rolling Stone, and The City. For further information, contact [Sanda@yvoten.org](mailto:Sanda@yvoten.org)

### YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

### YOUR SCHOOLS

#### Policy Recommendations

1. Expand Affordable Housing **Y**
2. Housing and Cash Transfer Programs for Homeless Youth **U**
3. Increase Funding for Sanitation **Y**
4. Expand Participatory Budgeting Initiatives **Y**
5. Divest and Reinvest Funds from NYPD **Y**

1. Get Police out of Schools and Effective implementation of Restorative Justice Initiatives **U**
2. Expand Social-Emotional Learning and Increase Social Workers in Schools and Youth Programs **U**
3. Teach Life Skills and Support “Civics for All initiative” **Y**

## Candidate's Platform

1. **Supportive:** In addition to committing \$4 billion dollars a year to building 30,000 housing units a year, Yang has also decided to roll back mandatory parking minimums, legalize single room occupancy buildings (otherwise known as SRO's and ADUs), overhaul uniform land use review price to quickly approve adorable developments, and launch "New Housing New York plan" (NHNY25). NHNY25 aims to use hotels that will no longer serve as hotels to create 25,000 more housing units. (<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/long-term-permanently-affordable-housing>) (<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2021/04/28/andrew-yang-affordable-housing-plan>)
2. **Unclear:** While Yang has tweeted about his support for cash transfer programs, his policies do not indicate the integration of that approval into application. Under Yang's policy on LGBTQ+ youth, he has indicated that he will support providing a basic income for youth who live independently. Details on this process however remain unclear as Yang only intends on supporting 500K New Yorkers indicating the most need while meeting the "criteria " to attain this funding. Furthermore the program is not targeted at youth. New Yorkers will be given an amount that results in \$2K a year in additional income while coming from philanthropic donations from public and private institutions. The details behind this

1. **Unclear:** The Yang Campaign has stated he will work with the "school safety work force, school administrators and teachers, and school safety experts" to hash out a vision for school safety" (<https://gothamist.com/news/three-mayoral-candidates-commit-to-police-free-public-schools-heres-what-that-means>)
2. **Unclear:** Andrew Yang has not indicated a stance on social-emotional learning. Yang has however stated that he will support after-school bridge programming to help struggling students, English language learners, special needs students, and students with learning disabilities to catch up once schools are fully reopened, and will offer Pre-K programs to 3 year-olds (3-K)
3. **Unclear.** The Yang Campaign has indicated support for expanding civics education in schools in order to combat voter misinformation, but has not provided any set course of action in conjunction with this goal. He has also expressed support for lowering the voting age to 16. Yang has previously indicated a commitment to teaching life skills such as financial literacy in k-12 schools during his presidential campaign but has not since reaffirmed these sentiments for his mayoral race. (<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/expanding-democracy-in-new-york-city> )

plan are difficult to hold certainty in. (<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/a-basic-income-for-new-york-city>)  
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3. **Supportive:** Yang has indicated his disdain for the Deblasio administration's decision to decrease funding in sanitation and has committed to increasing the department's funding to pre 2020 levels (<https://mobile.twitter.com/andrewyang/status/1375212813883478019?lang=en>)
4. **Supportive:** The Yang Campaign has indicated that he wished to allocate more support and funding to the City Civic Engagement commission, which was established in 2018 to run a citywide participatory budgeting program with guidance from a PB advisory committee. (<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/expanding-democracy-in-new-york-city>)
5. **Unsupportive:** While Yang had initially indicated a desire to divest and reinvest funds from the NYPD, his ideas and policies contradict such sentiments. Yang wishes to promote a system that will encourage officers to document low level offenses that can then ultimately lead to an arrest. There are two issues with this. One being that officers can still lie regarding the incident being documented and two, documentation can be disregarded or "lost" should atrocities be inflicted upon civilians. Yang has also indicated that he wishes for the 250 member additional police to

subway stations become permanent. Furthermore he has indicated that he is not willing to completely alter the current funding of the NYPD.

(<https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2021/05/20/analysis-andrew-yang-believes-he-can-reform-the-nypd/>)(<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/nyc-elections-2021/ny-nyc-mayoral-race-andrew-yang-public-safety-20210527-wjk4srmaiifzzaexxqripoaxt4-story.html> )

**YOUR POCKETS & FUTURE**

**YOUR HEALTH & RELATIONSHIPS**

**Policy Recommendations**

1. Increase Job Access for Young People, Expand SYEP and Support Multilingual and Undocumented Students **Y**
2. Implement work-based learning opportunities **Y**
3. Provide Metrocards and other free transportation services **Y**
4. Support youth to develop and own business cooperative that meet the needs identified by young people **Y**

1. Extend flexibility and Increase funding for youth programs to meet community food needs **Y**
2. Promote safe practices for socialization and exercise **N**
3. Manageable workload and support for remote learning due to COVID-19 **U**

**Candidate's Platform**

1. **Supportive:** Yang wishes to prioritize expanding youth employment opportunities and wants to grow SYEP to serve 175,000 youth so no one has to enter a lottery. (<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/expanding-syep>)
2. **Supportive:** Yang's nonprofit organization,

1. **Supportive:** Yang has indicated support for programming to combat food scarcity and starvation. His measures to combat food inquiry include creation a permanent preposition in the mayor's office dedicating to food equity (the food tsar) to "convene a food policy council with community

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"Venture for America" is known for trying to rebuild local economies through entrepreneurship. Yang aims to implement mentorship to help youth develop their own businesses.

3. **Supportive:** Yang has indicated that he wishes to expand the Fair Fares program for half-priced MetroCards to low-income New Yorkers.

(<https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/10369-what-is-andrew-yang-nyc-mayor-campaign-policy-platform>)

4. **Supportive:** Stated a desire to simplify the enrollment process so young people can participate again without completing a new application. Yang has also stated he will conduct regular outreach to bring in small business employers.

representatives, farmers, distributors, independent restaurant owners, and other stakeholders to serve as a formal source of feedback and advice," encourage the creation of food pantries in senior centers, community kitchens, and school gardens, support the good foods purchasing programs, and renovate cafeterias in attempt to promote healthy eating.

(<https://www.yangforny.com/policies/andrew-yangs-plan-to-ensure-food-equity>)

2. **Not Supportive:** Although Yang has previously indicated there to be a correlation between a healthy lifestyle and exercise during his presidential candidacy, he has not referred to these sentiments in the form of policy during his mayoral candidacy.

2.1 **Not supportive:** While Yang had indicated himself to be a champion of reproductive rights he has stated that the nation has "to get back to the point where no one is suggesting that we be celebrating an abortion at any point in the pregnancy."

(<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2021/04/10/yang-says-hes-a-champion-of-reproductive-rights-amid-criticisms-over-past-abortion-comments-1372969>)

2.2 **Not supportive:** Yang has indicated a lack of regard for the populations in New York City who originate or are related to various states around the world and for those who prioritize human rights through his neglect of Palestinian rights and overarching support of the Israeli state amid their initiation of crimes against

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humanity and human rights violations.

Yang's lack of care for Palestinian children is an indication of a lack of regard for the health and safety of youth globally.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/12/nyregion/andrew-yang-israel-palestine-attack.html>)

3. **Unclear:** Yang has indicated a desire to reinstate in-person learning. While he wishes to expand the New York Teaching Fellows program and increase student access to technology, his choice to disprove the actions of the largest union of teachers acts as a detriment to the idea of a “manageable workload.. Earlier this year, Yang indicated that the slow pace of schools opening was due to the actions of the UFT and teachers that were reluctant to decrease the social-distancing of 6feet to 3feet in classrooms due to fear of outbreak stemming from overcrowding in the classroom. Yang has also demanded that all teachers that are fully vaccinated should be in schools.

(<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2021/03/18/yang-lays-blame-on-teachers-union-for-sluggish-pace-of-school-reopenings-1368977>)

## OVERVIEW OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

### YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

- Andrew Yang’s policy around housing is an issue that the youth care about. According to the

### YOUR SCHOOLS

- Andrew Yang’s school policies mainly focus on COVID-related issues, but also deal with

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YAY Census, 1/3 of respondents experience homelessness. His affordable housing policies are something that the census covers.

- In our opinion, Andrew Yang is extremely supportive of improving the homes and communities of New York City. From analyzing his home and community policies, Yang will do everything in his power to ensure affordable housing based on his understanding that around 440,000 tenants call public housing home, and 44% of people living in market-rent apartments are burdened.
- Yang's strongest area is bringing down the cost of living in the city and improving the public housing stock. Instead of New Yorkers overpaying for hotel rooms, Yang will take advantage of this and provide a short-term solution with an eye towards providing transitional services that will help New Yorkers keep a roof over their heads.
- Yang's weakest area is the money he plans to spend: \$4 billion a year to build/preserve \$30,000 affordable annually. That's more than Mayor Bill de Blasio's record-high spending and not at all innovative.

technology equity, admission reform, and 3-K

- In our opinion, Yang is somewhat supportive of addressing young people's school-related values, because he addresses some pressing issues, but could be more progressive in his stances (especially regarding admissions reform and desegregation) and more specific in his solutions (regarding bridge programming and technology equity)
- His strongest area is COVID reopening plans because he offered a lot of evidence on how he plans to do this and why it is important. Yang plans to reduce NYC class sizes and add teachings in classrooms that need it, to add social workers and school counselors in schools with under-served and homeless populations.
- His weakest area is technology equity because he doesn't offer specifics on how he plans to expand the program.
- Yang also approves of the presence of specialized high schools and has determined the test to be equitable and fair in application. He wishes to create more specialized high schools, two in every borough. Yang's steadfast appreciation of the SHSAT is alarming and contributes to distrust in his education policies.

### Your Pockets & Future

- Andrew Yang's pocket and future policies heavily focus on ensuring young people who are born from a low income household to be able to have equal access to thrive in comparison to a higher income household.

### Your health & Relationships

- His policies focus on COVID relief and ensuring that there are organizations there to help students or individuals who come from low-income backgrounds.
- We think he should offer more programs to help low income students than easily

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- With Yang's investment, he plans to accommodate 175,000 participants per summer in SYEP by the end of a four-year term so that no participants would be accepted via a lottery.
- The Yang administration ensures that the city will foster deep relationships with employers, small businesses, the critical nonprofit and human services sector, and government to meet the needs of young people through the school year and the summer months.

- rely on his org. And he should uplift pre existing orgs and the work they do.
- Yang's lack of regard for the opinions of teachers and their safety is concerning for teachers and the families and students in school communities.
- The lack of care for international human rights is concerning for the future policy choices Yang will choose to make.