

# Politico: Poll: Half of millennials independent

By [NATALIE VILLACORTA](#) | 3/7/14 6:28 AM EST

Half of millennials identify as independents up from 38 percent in 2004, according to a new poll.

These are the highest levels of political disaffiliation the the Pew Research Center has recorded for any generation in its 25 years of polling.

But more millennials have Democratic leanings — half identify as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party compared with 34 percent who identify as Republican or lean toward the Republican Party, [according to the survey](#).

Millennials hold the most liberal views on many political and social issues, including same-sex marriage and marijuana legalization. Sixty-eight percent support gay marriage, up from 44 percent in 2004. During the same period, the proportion of Gen Xers who support same-sex marriage increased from 40 percent to 55 percent and the portion of Boomers increased from 30 percent to 48 percent. Even more millennials approve of marijuana legalization — 69 percent, up from 34 percent in 2006.

On abortion and gun control, millennials' views do not differ as much from older generations.

Millennials are more approving of Obama than older generations — with almost half —49 percent — approving of how Obama is handling the presidency. Gen Xers and Boomers approve about equally, with 43 percent and 44 percent approving respectively.

Support for bigger government was also highest among millennials (53 percent) compared with Gen Xers (43 percent) and Boomers (32 percent).

Views divide along racial lines — more nonwhite millennials approve of Obama (67 percent) than white millennials (34 percent).

More white millennials describe themselves as independents (51 percent) than nonwhite millennials (47 percent). Almost twice as many nonwhite millennials identify as Democrats (37 percent) as Republicans (9 percent).

The survey of 1,821 adults, including 617 Millennials, was conducted Feb. 14 to 23. The margin of error is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.