

SINE INSTITUTE *of* POLICY & POLITICS

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

FUTURE CAUCUS

CLOSEUP
WASHINGTON DC



the Generation Lab

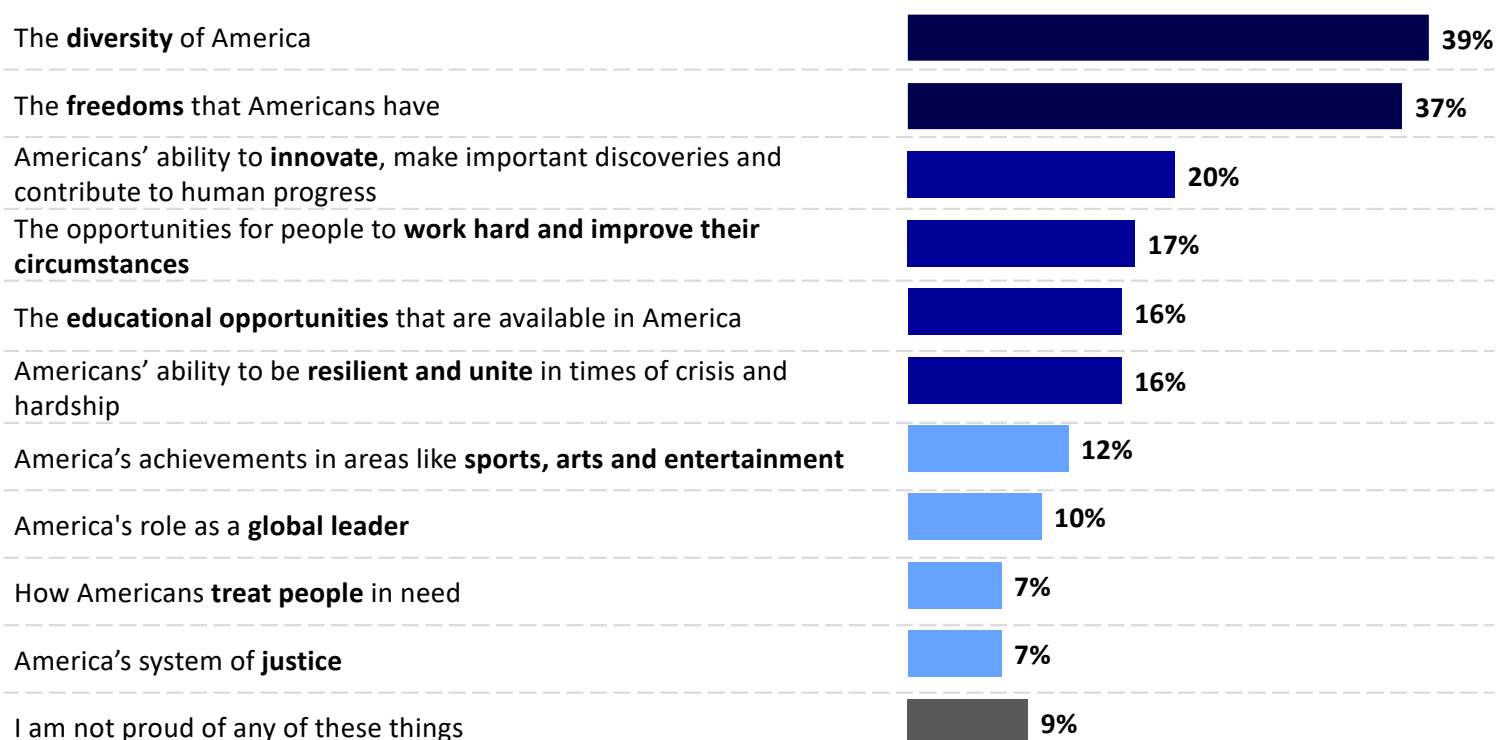
What Makes an American: *Young People's Perspective*

The American Promise at 250

20

Young Americans pinpoint two clear hallmarks of American society: diversity & freedom.

Please select the **two** items that make you most proud to be an American.

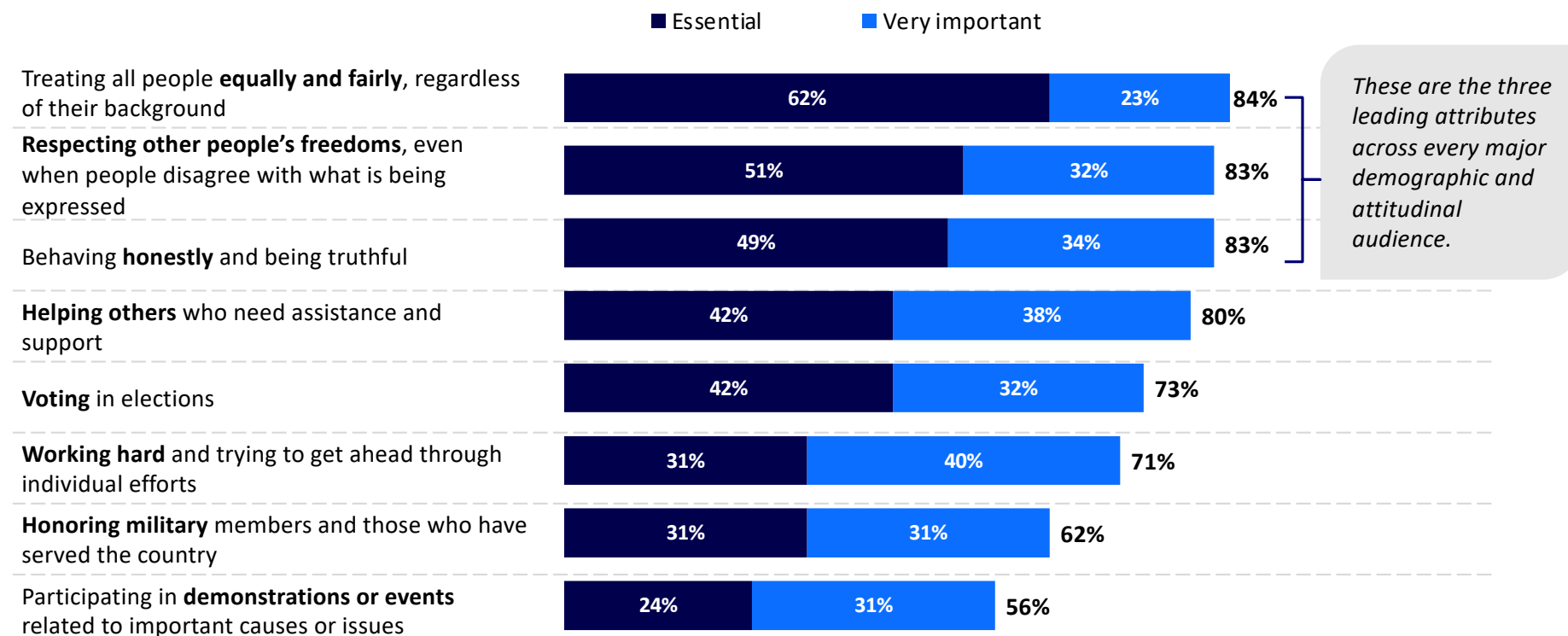


Consensus on these two principles is so strong that they are the leading attributes across gender, race, education, sexual orientation, and area type.

The only exception is partisanship: for Republicans, freedom is preeminent followed by hard work, resilience & unity and innovation.

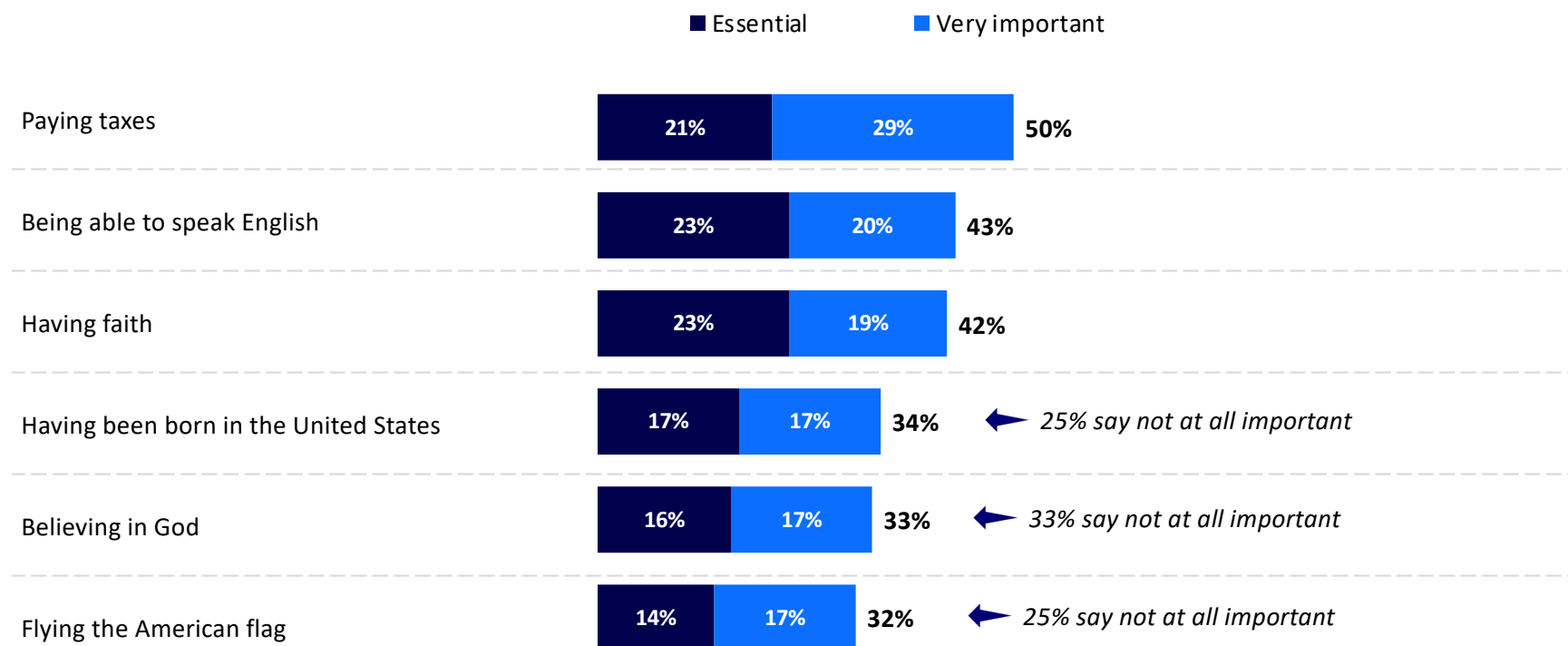
Above all, being an American means treating people with fairness, showing respect amidst disagreement and being honest.

Please rate how important you consider each to be in terms of being an American



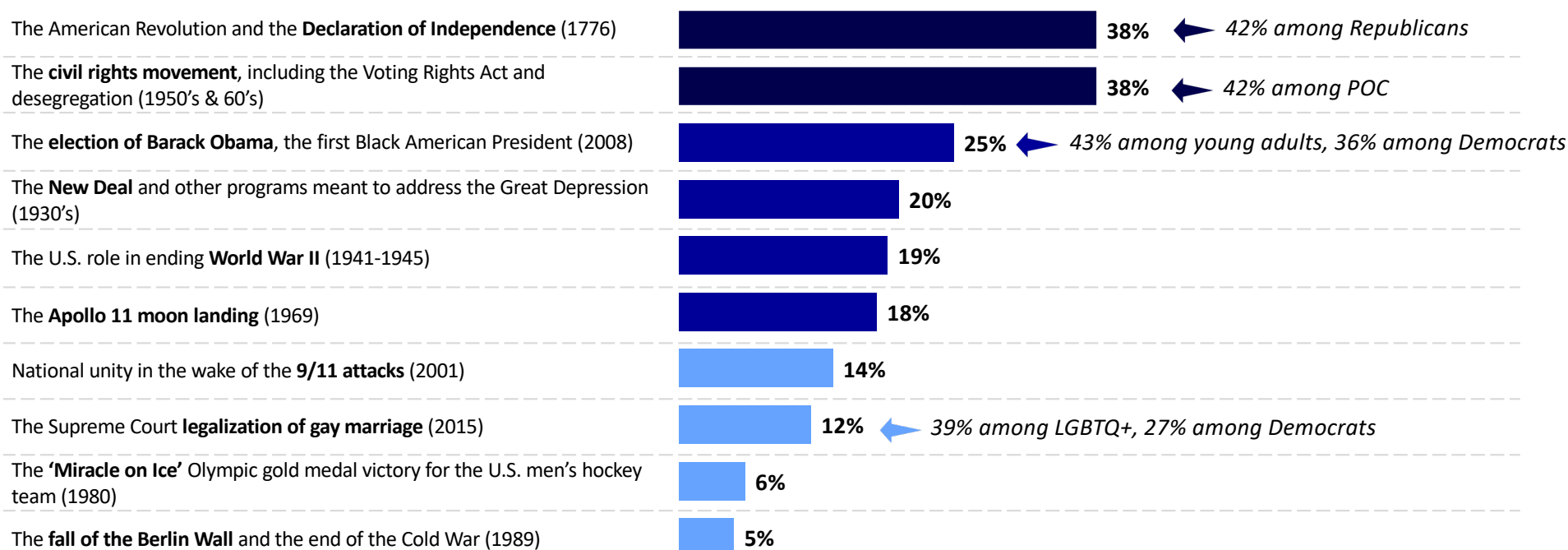
By comparison, young people place lower priority on other traditional attributes when it comes to defining what it means to be an American.

Please rate how important you consider each to be in terms of being an American



Notably, the Declaration of Independence & the civil rights movement stoke the greatest feelings of pride for young Americans.

*Please select the **two** items that make you most proud to be an American.*



Images that make young Americans feel most proud focus largely on service, taking action, and building relationships.

Rate how each one captures what makes you feel special or proud about being an American (mean ratings on a 10-point scale).



Mean = 7.6

49% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 7.4

45% (9-10 rating)



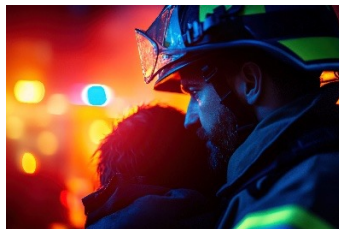
Mean = 7.4

40% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 7.4

42% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 7.3

38% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 7.2

43% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 6.9

34% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 6.8

35% (9-10 rating)

** 1= This does NOT at all capture why I feel proud to be an American; 10 = This closely captures why I feel proud to be an American*

Other images have some, but less traction in expressing young Americans' feelings of pride.

*Rate how each one captures what makes you feel special or proud about being an American
(mean ratings on a 10-point scale).*



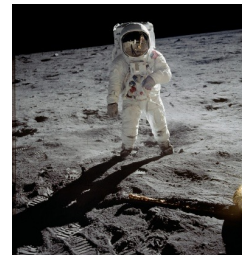
Mean = 6.7

32% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 6.6

36% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 6.5

33% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 5.9

27% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 5.7

25% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 5.7

19% (9-10 rating)



Mean = 5.6

26% (9-10 rating)

** 0 = This does NOT at all capture why I feel proud to be an American; 10 = This closely captures why I feel proud to be an American*