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Andrew

2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

YANG

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT HIM, BUT WHY IS HE WORTH YOUR TIME?

WHO IS YANG?

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THIS ANDREW GUY?

When a person considers voting for a presidential candidate, he or she has a mental checklist of what is needed in the Oval Office. Experience in government and relatability used to be the defining traits of what made a certain person "electable" - but things have changed in the past decade. **Erik Williamson** delves into why Andrew Yang's lack of establishment experience might actually be a good thing.

Presidential candidate Andrew Yang has defied expectations and odds throughout his campaign, but many still ask what qualifies him to be President of The United States.

The common perception of what qualifies a person to be president was fundamentally challenged with the election of Donald Trump in 2016. Establishment candidates are not worth what they once were to American citizens: The people have lost a great amount of faith in the political system of the country.

What uniquely qualifies Andrew Yang for the presidency fundamentally comes down to him being an outsider to the establishment. This is highlighted by his

different approaches and views to the persistent and oncoming problems we are facing as a society.

There are various problems that career politicians have been unable to effectively address, including the automation crisis, the role of special-interests in politics, and the growing resentment and tension between various political groups across the US. Given the ineffectiveness of contemporary politicians to enact meaningful change, it stands to reason someone from outside might be needed. This was, however, the same logic that got Donald Trump elected. This was due to him being the *only* person at the time that was considered not part of the establishment. That is no longer the case, and in Andrew Yang, Trump does indeed face a mirror version of himself, an "Anti-Trump," as it were.

This brings up another unique qualifier in that he might be the only one that can feasibly defeat the current president in a general election. As noted by several online and official polls, and by the president himself

indirectly, Yang has considerable potential to defeat Trump. He has already converted Trump supporters: In a YouGov poll conducted in July, 10% of Yang's voter base identified as former Trump voters, and an Emerson poll from September revealed that pollsters favored Yang over Trump by 8 points, higher than Bernie (+5), Harris (+2), and Warren (-2).

With Yang being favored as capable of defeating the big orange machine, can he actually run the country? His own endeavors have shown cunning and perseverance as well as a strong ability to organize and grow. He also did not come from wealthy stock, unlike the current president. Yang

being a self-made man of humble origin not only speaks to his skill but also his character and disposition. It should also be noted that he has experience in the "modern" world which many older politicians notably lack; he understands that the problems of the present (and future) cannot be solved by solutions that may have worked 50 years ago. His data driven approach and straight-forward and direct approach are also unique when contrasted with other politicians: Yang readily cites statistics and published research results to strengthen his case

without repeating pandering platitudes.

Yang's self-made actualization as a businessman, coupled with his exclusion from typical Washington politics means he is far more likely to

do what is in the best interest of citizens rather than investors and financiers. His policy for Democracy Dollars, for example, is a sorely needed weapon against special interests which have dominated political

discourse for decades. On the other hand, other politicians frequently hire lobbyists themselves and take such money for their own campaign needs while claiming to want to end special interests. Perhaps they are less than trustworthy, especially when such platitudes have been spoken ad nauseam for years with no change in sight. Andrew Yang might be the only one qualified to change such a thing while the current president is not motivated to do so.

Andrew Yang's qualifications are what set him apart from his rivals in our current election cycle. He might very well be the first of many new types of candidates coming in to challenge the status quo of the Democratic Party, just as the Tea Party and ultimately Donald Trump did for the GOP in previous years. In the meantime, he continues to stand steadfast despite all odds, and even gain ground against his opponents. His ability to defy the odds might be his greatest asset as a president.

Andrew Yang was born on January 13th, 1975 in Schenectady, New York. His parents were Taiwanese immigrants who met in graduate school, with his father gaining a Ph.D in physics, and his mothers a masters degree in statistics. Andrew also has an elder brother, Lawrence, who is a Psychology professor.

Andrew Yang himself has described issues growing up due to bullying in school based on his Asian heritage. Yang has remarked that this bullying has caused him to relate more to the "underdog." He attended boarding school before graduating from Brown University, and Columbia Law School where he earned a Juris Doctor in 1999.

Yang worked as a corporate attorney for five months before going on to start a business that he admitted was unsuccessful. However, he soon found success working as vice president of a healthcare startup. Yang later founded Venture for America, a non-profit organization to help entrepreneurs which lead to him being recognized by the Obama administration as 2012's "Champion of Change".

In 2017, he announced his run for president to much skepticism, but has continued to defy expectations by steadily gaining traction and popularity.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

YANG'S THREE PILLARS

Andrew Yang is best known for his proposal of a nationwide Universal Basic Income, which he calls the Freedom Dividend, but he has many more proposals that are often overlooked. **@Balshumet** examines the Dividend with his other two flagship proposals, Human Centered Capitalism and Medicare for All.

Despite claims that Andrew Yang is a one-policy candidate, his website contains over 150 separate policy proposals and positions. Out of all of these policies, he highlights his "Big Three": The Freedom Dividend, Medicare for All, and Human Centered Capitalism. The Freedom Dividend is his best-known policy, but to really get to the heart of his campaign, one must examine all of his policies together to see the patchwork as the holistic remedy it is meant to be. With that in mind, there is nowhere better to start than his Human Centered Capitalism. The fundamentals of this position elucidate the main guiding principle behind all of his policies: *Humanity first.*

The principle behind **Human Centered Capitalism** is that how we currently measure economic growth, stability, and progress in America is flawed. Right now, it is mostly a measure of GDP and various statistics about inflation and stock market growth, with very little attention paid to measures of human health, such as life expectancy and mental health. Andrew Yang wants to incorporate measures of human wellness into our understanding of the country, and posits that the best way for us to move forward as a nation is if we make capitalism work for "us", the members of the nation, as opposed to pure profit motivation.

Yang's view states that "The focus of our economy should be to maximize human

welfare." This commitment underlies all of policies, from free marriage counseling to his proposal to have your personal data as a property right.

Both Medicare for All and the Freedom Dividend are practical applications of his concept of Human Centered Capitalism. In particular, **Medicare for All** is founded on a dedication to human welfare and a desire to maximize the utility of business. Both employees and employers are encumbered by the employer provided system we have now.

Andrew Yang's single-payer policy provides a public option that is expected to out-compete private insurance companies without outright declaring them illegal, allowing the forces of the free market to benefit the American people. He recognizes the lack of mobility provided by our current system and how that disincentivizes everything from moving to a better job to starting your own business. It also creates a negative pressure on employers to avoid hiring to avoid paying "benefits," the hidden cost of hiring that has contributed to the gig economy and the insecure piece-work therein. When his public option healthcare policy is combined with the Freedom Dividend, it works in concert to create more economic freedom and mobility.

His most asked - and subsequently spoken about - policy is his **Freedom Dividend**. At \$1,000 per month, his proposed cash benefit is provided without precondition to every American over 18 years of age, and represents a form of Universal Basic Income, commonly known as UBI. The main purpose of the Dividend is to promote human welfare and dignity. The cash infusion, funded partially by a Value-Added Tax, is meant to give every American a piece of our country's

economic prosperity and recognize the value provided by persons not currently compensated in our system, such as stay-at-home-parents and caregivers. More importantly, the infusion acts as an economic stimulus that will drive our economy into the 21st century as automation of many US jobs accelerates. Not only would the infusion of cash be less effective without a no cost medical option provided through Medicare for All, neither of these policies would be in effect without Yang's dedication to Human Centered Capitalism and its focus on human welfare, making the interconnected nature of his approach to policy creation much more apparent.

The singular focus on Yang's Freedom Dividend does this diverse and principled candidate a disservice, not just to the breadth of his dedication to the American people, but to the real effects of his Freedom Dividend that cannot be measured alone.

While we're on the subject of Yang's expansive policies, these three pillars discussed aren't even his most interesting or effective proposals. His commitment to democratic or political reform is notable, most especially represented by his Democracy Dollars policy, a program to give individual voters \$100 every year specifically to fund political campaigns they support to overwhelm lobbyist money in politics. Then there's Yang's commitment to social justice reform - this includes not only a reduction in the War on Drugs through the legalization of marijuana and the decriminalization of opioids, but the reduction of our system's usage of cash bail and the banning of private prisons. The breadth and depth of his proposals are unparalleled.

#MY YANG STORY

#MyYangStory is a Twitter hashtag that aggregates the experiences of how Yang supporters decided to join the Yang Gang.

My Yang Story is something I think I share with a lot of people. In the last few years polarization has intensified, and stress is rampant as more and more Americans live paycheck to paycheck or worse cannot get work at all. Things can look pretty bleak, and looking to politics for an answer to these problems seems absurd given the current sociological climate we

find ourselves in.

I didn't care about Trump winning again, I was ready to just sit back and watch us eat each other. I did not believe legislation or policies could make a personal difference in my life. I did not believe any politician actually cared about anything but special-interests and tribal talking points.

Andrew Yang changed my mind. He's the only one running who has broken away from the cookie-cutter policies of the DNC. He's the only one acknowledging that the 90's were twenty years ago. He seems to be the only one

that cares about more than the party-line. He is the only one offering practical solutions to problems that both parties have let fester for far too long. He is definitely the only one not playing into the rampant tribalism that both parties have been using to galvanize their respective bases to the detriment of this country.

Andrew Yang may not be the perfect candidate, but in my estimation he is a damn sight better than more of the same. That is my Yang story.

Erik Williamson, 31, Florida

RESOURCES

LONG-FORM VIDEO INTERVIEWS



AARP Forum Interview

youtube.com/watch?v=NXQ3DEFIleg

July 19, 2019

25 minutes



The Hill Interview with Krystal Ball

youtube.com/watch?v=i0GTulhxZmM

September 22, 2019

30 minutes

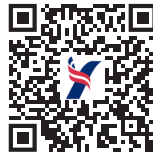


Daily Wire Interview with Ben Shapiro

yang.video/ben-shapiro

April 7, 2019

1 hour



New Hampshire Rally

youtube.com/watch?v=E7DP_Q8eDt4

August 16, 2019

50 minutes



MSNBC Climate Forum with Ali Velshi

youtube.com/watch?v=D7hiD-TLZDE

September 19, 2019

1 hour



The Rubin Report with Dave Rubin

yang.video/rubin-report

June 7, 2019

2 hours



Des Moines Register Editorial Board Interview

youtube.com/watch?v=697sxx6mCuM

July 18, 2019

1 hour



The Breakfast Club with Charlamagne Tha God

yang.video/breakfast-club

March 8, 2019

45 minutes

TECH TIPS

Wondering what those funky-looking squares do?

They're called QR Codes! They're a little like barcodes, but they contain more information and you can scan them with your smartphone in three easy steps.

1. Open the camera app on your smartphone.
2. Point the camera at the QR Code.
3. When a link pops up on your camera, tap on the link and your phone will open up the website.



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We're all just passionate volunteers with a cause. While we strive to provide the most accurate information possible, we also encourage you to do a bit of your own research as well. We just want to help Make America Think Harder.