

THE FUTURIST ISSUE 03

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THE HUMANITY FIRST ISSUE





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 you'll open up the website.

Give it a try here:

This code should take you to yang2020.com.



THE FINE PRINT

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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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for picking up the third issue of *The Futurist*!

Andrew Yang's campaign has taken big strides forward in the last few weeks. His wife, Evelyn, made her official debut with two new online advertisements and an interview with Dana Bash on CNN's *State of the Union*. The campaign released a TV ad in Iowa that cost at least a million bucks. To produce those ads, they hired consulting firm Devine Mulvey, and Logabaugh, who worked on Bernie Sanders' 2016 campaign—a step away from the startup-like operations they have been running. And a new office was opened in Iowa City, adding to his two other offices the state—Davenport and Des Moines. He was featured front and center on the cover of *Newsweek* on the November 8 issue—a huge step up from being considered a "fringe" candidate and a "curiosity."

And Yang has officially filed to appear on the Democratic primary ballot in New Hampshire.

As we continue to cover Andrew Yang's campaign, we invite you to submit questions about his policy proposals and ideas. We hope that you're just as excited as we are about this crazy political journey.

Humanity First,

Adrienne, an Asian girl who likes math

WHO ARE WE?

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Interested in joining our cause? Email or Tweet us!

GETTING INVOLVED

Are you interested in joining the Yang Gang?

Here's how you can help.



Register to Vote

If you're not already registered to vote, this is the time to do it. Some states require voters to be registered to the Democratic Party to vote in the Democratic Primary Election, so you may need to switch your party first.



Sign up to volunteer for Yang's campaign

Want to get more hands-on involvement? Head over to the campaign's volunteer registration page and get on their list.



Join the phone and text banking team

Talk to potential voters around the nation with other members of the Yang Gang. All you need is a computer with earphones and a microphone. The staff will help you get started.



Connect with your local gang

Find other gang members and hang out! Get involved with Yang-related events happening in your area.



Donate to the campaign

Andrew's campaign doesn't take corporate money, and they run on a tight, grassroots-funded budget. You can help by buying merchandise or donating directly to the campaign.



Spread the word

Print out flyers, cards, and posters to pass out or leave in public areas. Talk to the people around you about Yang's policies and their effects on your community. And of course, print some copies of *The Futurist* for others to read!

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POLICY PERSPECTIVE

NORMALIZING NEURODIVERSITY



PHOTO: TWITTER.COM/ANDREWYANG

Andrew Yang's older son, Christopher, blows bubbles at the Iowa Science Center.

Andrew Yang has a son, Christopher, who has autism. Christopher has inspired Andrew's platform, leading Andrew to become the biggest advocate among the candidates running for President on the behalf of non-neurotypical people. **Ori Simon Bechtel** explains the significance of this from a non-neurotypical perspective.

I was diagnosed with autism at four years old. I struggled in school for many years, for a litany of reasons. I was classed as "gifted", so partly because I was supposed to be naturally "smart," my struggles with certain aspects of learning both educational materials and behavioral standards were invalidated, pushed to the side, and dismissed by many figures I was supposed to be able to rely on, including myself. This was because on paper, I wasn't struggling. My grades were fine. But as I'm sure you the reader are probably aware, grades don't tell the whole story.

For many years, I did not have the resources I needed, and when they were

eventually placed in front of me, I felt a certain stigma around using them. I had—and still have, although I'm trying my best to suppress it—this desire to be "normal", i.e. not autistic. Obviously, that wasn't going to happen. But I was sick and tired of being different from everyone else. I had it in my mind—and once again, this is something I'm still trying to shake as I go through college—that using resources dedicated to special needs students was bad, and that it somehow made what I achieved count for less.

In addition, I thought it was personally wrong for me to use them, because I wasn't really "struggling hard enough." I could skate by on just being naturally good at other aspects of learning and school-related things, and get passing grades, and I thought because I was high-functioning enough not to need them to pass, that I shouldn't use them anyway. Furthermore, I thought other people would judge me for using them when I wasn't obviously struggling as much as what others would think was typical of a student with autism. I thought they would think I was somehow abusing the

system and getting an unfair advantage, even though I received medical diagnoses stating that I was autistic.

Andrew Yang has once again differentiated himself from the pack of Democrats vying for the nomination by capitalizing on a much-neglected subject in US politics—autism. According to the CDC, 1 out of every 56 children in the United States is autistic. That's nearly 1.5 million autistic minors alone. Them, their families, and the legion of autistic adults represent a major underserved demographic in this nation.

To quote Yang2020.com: "One of my boys is on the autism spectrum—I know how invaluable resources and intervention can be, particularly if adopted early on. Families struggle with this in very personal ways. As a country, we should provide ample resources to parents to be able to intervene to support the development of children with autism or who are exceptional in other ways. These children have something unique to offer."

Andrew has made good on his word by being the only candidate in the field to dedicate a policy plank specifically for autism intervention and destigmatization; establishing a national destigmatization program for non-neurotypical people, and making the Department of Education implement programs to identify and treat autistic children. It is common sense to include this as a policy plank—and yet he is the only one who has done it. Why? I'm honestly baffled. It's not an issue that has much of a downside at all if a candidate was to stand up for it—and it could grab the attention of millions of voters, as many adults are out there fighting for their own autistic children. It's a stand that we as a nation have to take. Autistic and other non-neurotypical people, no matter how high or low functioning, should be able to live up to 100 percent of their full potential, and they should feel good about doing so.



For more of Andrew Yang's policy proposals and ideas, scan the QR Code or visit yang2020.com/policies.

SWITCHING SIDES

THE CONVERSION CONUNDRUM

Several years into an extremely divisive presidency, polarization between different political groups seems worse than ever. Andrew Yang, however, seems to have had the most success in managing to cross the typical left and right boundaries. Yang's ability to appeal to a wider base a positive thing for the campaign, but has also brought its share of challenges. **Erik Williamson** examines the implications and consequences of Yang's wider appeal.

The primary objective of the Democratic Party is to defeat President Trump, and it has always been the goal since his election. There is, however, the question of what defeating Donald Trump actually means. Trump is perhaps one of the most controversial presidents in history, and he appealed to populist sentiments in the 2016 election in order to defeat his more well-established opponent Hillary Clinton. This was a clear sign that something had changed in the political landscape, and the Democratic Party has struggled to adapt.

Three years into the Trump Presidency, and an exhausting and haphazardly-run administration later, the Democrats in general are still struggling to pull anyone from Trump's notoriously loyal base. The Democratic Party's currently fractious and mercurial traits have not helped them establish any clear path to defeating the current President either. One of the few, if not the only, exception to this trend is Andrew Yang.

Over the course of the campaign, small pockets of Trump supporters have been making their way into Yang's camp. This is most apparent on social-media as one vocal Trump supporter previously known on Twitter as @trumpwarrior45 changed their name to @yangwarrior45 and has been seeking to act in the interests of the campaign ever since. In another interview with Fox News' Rob DiRienzo, one converted Trump supporter known on Twitter as @BBoxReality considered himself a "lifelong conservative" but noticed that "things in this country get more and more divided no matter who's in the White House." He joined the Yang Gang because "It makes sense to me it's not immigrants, it's automation that's taking jobs in America."

There are also many Yang supporters who have confessed to voting for Donald Trump in 2016. While these all may be anecdotal, there is also the survey cited by Yang which

supported that 10% of previous Trump voters would vote for him if he were to be the democratic nominee. These factors on their own might not mean much, but when combined a pattern forms, that suggests that Yang appeals to Trump voters and even Republicans more than the majority of other candidates on the Democratic ticket.

This has been seen as a bad quality of Yang's by many progressives, however they may not be considering the fact that his appeal to Republicans can win him the election against Trump. There is also the matter that Yang offers a chance for something almost unthinkable in current politics; the chance for bipartisanship and perhaps healing the rift between progressives and conservatives.

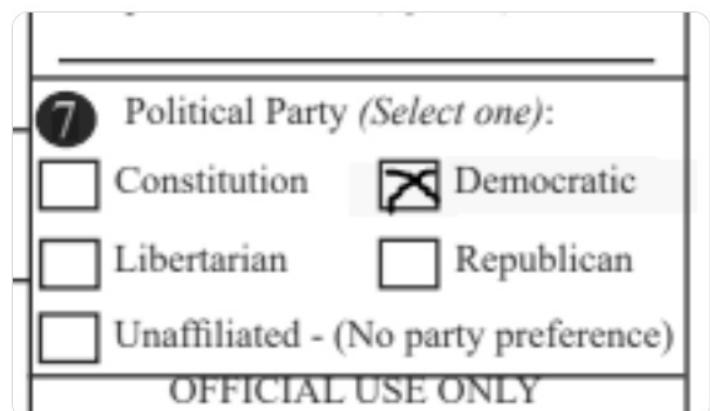
Andrew Yang has been vocal in expressing the idea that Trump is bad for the country, but the reasons for the current president's near-meteoric rise to power are what really matter.



TWITTER.COM/OONYKFENG

Trumper4Yang
@Woke2015

Okay guys, it's official... I'm aaa.... I'm aaa.... Ummm... I am officially aaaa... I am now aaa... OKAY, I am now officially A DEMOCRAT! That's right, I said it. I am now a Democrat. Only @AndrewYang could make this 46 year old life-long Republican register Democrat #YangGang



3:05 PM · Oct 30, 2019 · Twitter Web App

580 Retweets 3.2K Likes



IMAGE: TWITTER.COM/WOKE2015

A Trump supporter announces that he has changed his party registration from Republican to Democratic on Twitter.

Yang understands that defeating Trump is only part of the battle, and that there is much more work to be done afterwards. The pragmatism of Yang's view is what seems to be appealing to Trump supporters as he is not interested in simply usurping Republican control of the country for its own sake, but working with anyone in order to better the country.

Yang has also acknowledged that there were reasons people voted for Trump, and that those reasons have not gone away. It is easy to paint the opposition as "deplorable" for their political choices, but much harder to understand those choices and look at the larger picture. While there are no doubt seriously negative elements to Trump's base, the Democrats do themselves no favors by casting them as "lost-causes" and seeing them as nothing more than an enemy to be defeated and forgotten. Whether Trump wins or loses, his base is not going anywhere anytime soon.

Those that see Yang's appeal to conservatives as a negative, and Trump supporters as a monolithic force of evil fail to see that those who have decided to support Yang are going for a completely different message this time. "Humanity First" in contrast to "America First."

The fact that such a message can appeal to those who have been painted as xenophobic and tribal at best, breeds hope that perhaps things are not as dark as they have been portrayed. It shows that perhaps the country can still come together to make moral and rational decisions regardless of petty differences.

OF THE PEOPLE



PHOTO: JOSEPH COLLINS

YANGAPALOOZA

Andrew Yang's campaign hosted a concert and rally in Des Moines, Iowa on November 1, before the Liberty and Justice Celebration. Attendee **Lillith W.** tells us what she thought of the event.

Yangapalooza was fun, exciting, wet and cold. Hundreds of Yang Gang members from across the country came out to Des Moines Iowa, in spite of the crappy weather. The entertainment was on fire. Kyle Christensen, one of the recipients of Andrew Yang's pilot Freedom Dividend, rocked out on the stage. Chef Zoot debuted a song he had written the night before. Weezer was good—though it is not my style of music, I still enjoyed it. Them playing Spice Girls' "No Scrubs" was awesome. (I was a big Spice Girls fan back in the day.) All the speakers were inspirational.

It was cool to see Andrew Yang appear on stage and sing with Weezer. Evelyn Yang made her appearance. She barely got a few words in when everyone started singing "Happy Birthday" to her. The pure look of joy on her face showed how much she appreciates the Yang Gang. Evelyn is a very beautiful woman—her speech may have been short, but it was good and shows how much she loves the Yang Gang.

Andrew Yang's speech, like all of his, was awesome and though some don't like his cursing, I do enjoy it, it shows how genuine he is. After his speech, Andrew and Evelyn lead a march across the bridge. Andrew spoke for a few minutes and then took as many selfies as he could before heading to the Liberty And Justice celebration.

The real MVPs of the event were all the volunteers, many of whom had been out since 7:30 am. The excitement and fun that the Yang Gang brought made you forget how cold it was. Meeting everyone from different backgrounds was cool. I could imagine how much bigger it would have been had the weather been just a little nicer. All in all, it was a good day.

#MYYANGSTORY

#MyYangStory is a popular Twitter hashtag that aggregates the experiences of how Yang supporters decided to join the Yang Gang. We're bringing these experiences to you.

This issue's story is by **Beau M.**, a voter who supported the election of Donald Trump during the 2016 election cycle.

When reflecting on my political journey over the past year, nothing surprises me more than a life-long conservative and avid supporter of Trump's presidential bid, converting to Andrew Yang's campaign. How can two political outsiders with vastly different policies, rhetoric, and visions for the country, be appealing to many of the same voters? To answer that question, we must analyze the narratives that both Yang and Trump represents.

In 2016, conservatives around the country were fed up with Washington and the media. Their communities were in shambles, their jobs disappearing, their family members committing suicide and overdosing at record levels. These were real problems that still exist to this day, and no one was giving them the attention they deserved.

Whenever media pundits cried foul at Trump's hardline stances on illegal immigration, citing it as a dog-whistle to the racist Republican party, this was no different a story than they had heard in 2012... and 2008... and so on. In short, voters were watching the party bend to media that would never appreciate them, so why listen to that media?

Trump's rise was not built upon innovative policy prescriptions—and honestly, how much different is a wall from a "secure border fence"?—it was built upon the media's inability to grapple with real problems. When Trump offered plans, the Democratic Party ran in the opposite direction and the media called those plans innately bigoted. It turns out, people will side with a vision, even a decrepit one, if it means a chance to throw eggs on the media pundits and two-faced politicians of the world.

And now Yang, the man peeling off 10% or more of previous Trump voters in a head-to-head election.

As I said before, I'm a life-long conservative... So, when I stumbled upon Joe Rogan's podcast with Yang, it wasn't the Freedom Dividend that threw me into the so-called "Yang Gang" at full force. It was one, simple tagline.

"I'm laser-focused on solving the problems that got Donald Trump elected."

That tagline immediately sparked my interest. Yang wasn't calling Trump the problem, nor his voters. He was calling *the problems* the problem. He spoke to the loss of jobs in a way I had never heard before. He wanted to give a floor to every single American. The more of his ideas I heard, the more I realized he was the candidate that could heal a broken nation. He sounded like a guy honestly trying to improve our lives.

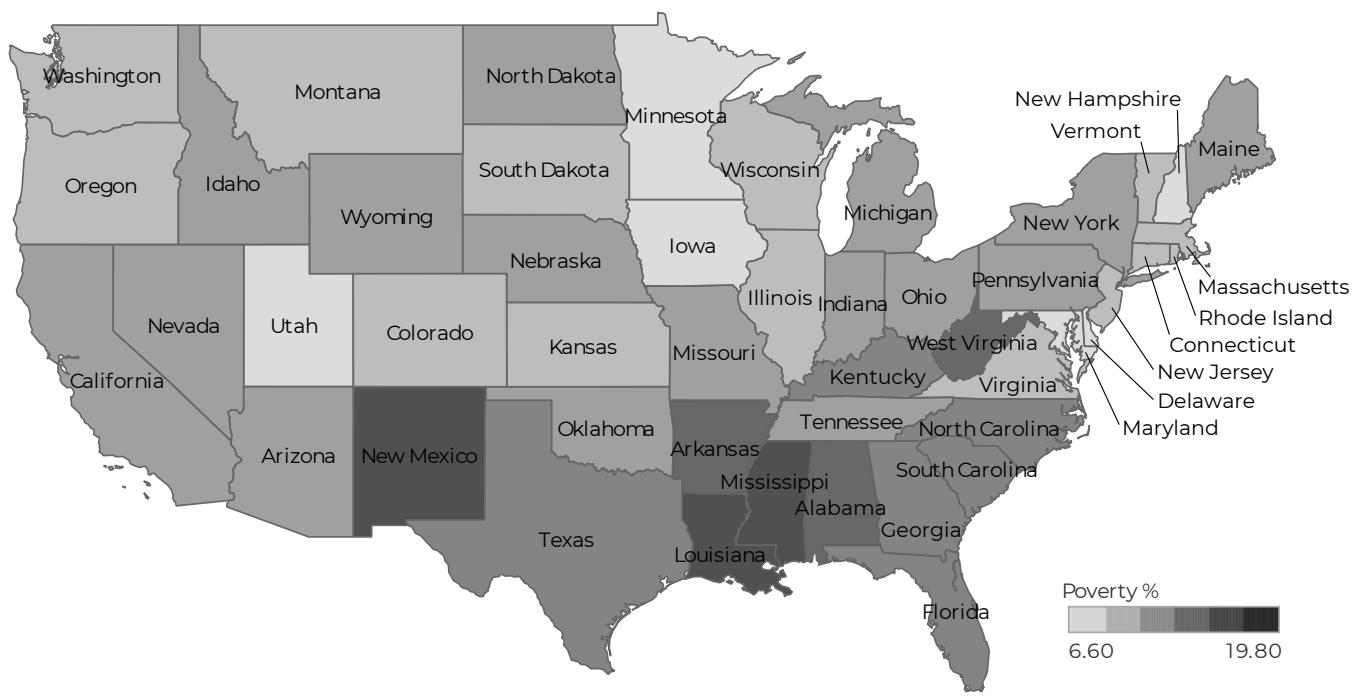
He didn't need a punching bag to rally his base of support. He didn't need to blame one subset of Americans for the ills of another subset. Yang said in his closing remarks at the October debate that the fourth industrial revolution will cause problems that all Americans will face, regardless of political identity.

It felt great to see every talk show in America get the 2016 election so wrong, but it will feel even better to solve those unidentifiable problems in 2020.

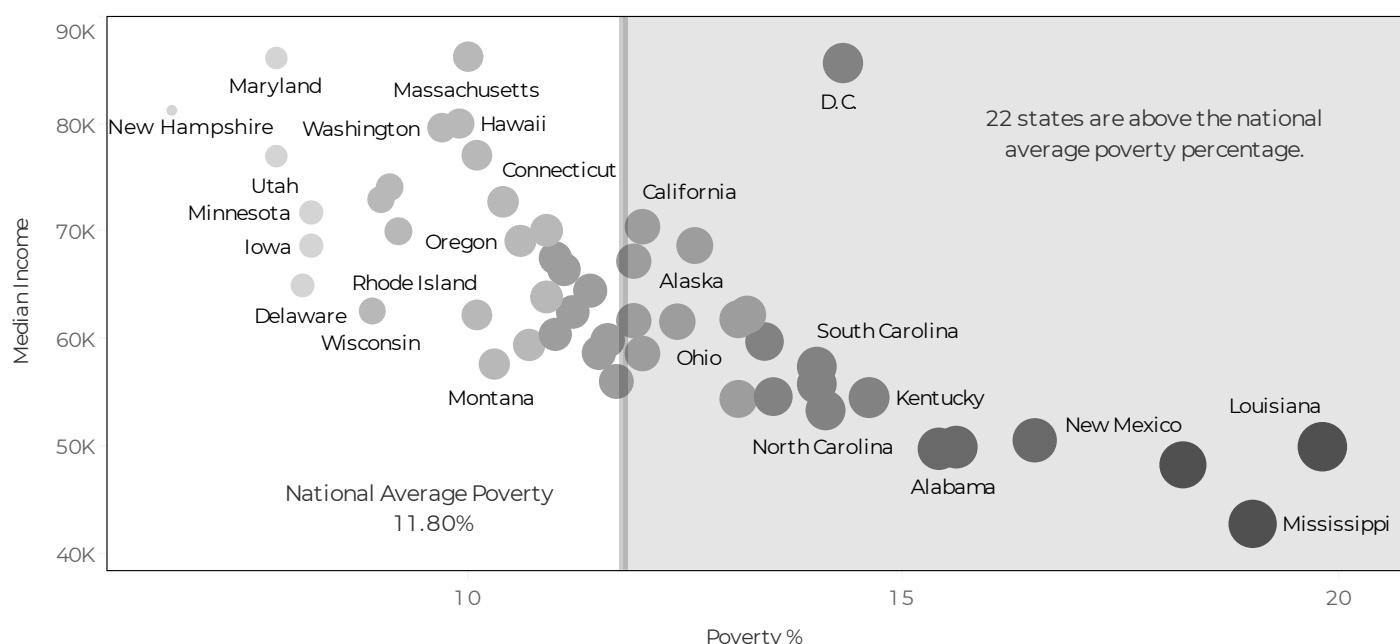
Beau M., 19, Louisiana

POVERTY IN THE US

Poverty % (2016-2018)



Median Income vs Poverty (2018)



RESOURCES



PHOTO: TWITTER.COM/ANDREWYANG

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