

One Generation: America 20 Years On

STATUS QUO

For decades, we have surrendered to policies that have under-invested in the very systems that shape our future - family, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and the press. Too many children grow up in underfunded schools, families are priced out of basic needs, the aging population is shown little reverence, and truth itself is under threat. The status quo is to blame for the status quo, and we need to think of this in a different way.

This practice of neglect starts at the earliest stages of life and seems to under-value parenting in general - without Paid Family Leave, new Moms and Dads are often unable to properly bond with their newborns. Without a Child Tax Credit, many families struggle to provide even the essentials during these critical years. Privatization in healthcare, housing, broadband has raised costs and limited options. And when local journalism is defunded, misinformation spreads, and when public systems are starved, inequality grows wild.

Like an untended garden, a nation left neglected does not stand still - it decays. Weeds of disinformation, division, and despair take root, crowding out opportunity and weakening the common good.

IMAGINE MORE

This is not inevitable. It's the product of policy, and it can be reversed in a single generation. We are asking that the message be clear - for us all to imagine what we could achieve in just 20 years if we chose to invest in our society. It means making this an important and common talking point.

With financial support from a government that prioritizes people (see companion Blue Paper **Subsidies for Humans**), things would change quickly. Families could bond and thrive from the start. Fully funded public schools would cultivate not just academic success, but mental health, creativity, and civic readiness. From these classrooms would grow, in one generation, the next generation of leaders and innovators. Investing in public health would ease the burden of diseases that touch every household - cancer, diabetes, mental illness - strengthening families and lowering long-term costs. Supporting local journalism would restore trust and transparency, giving democracy the light it needs to grow. We could raise a generation that sees itself not as isolated individuals, but as part of a shared American story - interconnected and committed to collective progress. This isn't a dream. **It's a 20-year strategy for renewal.**

GAME ON

The way forward is simple: we must fund what we want to flourish. And we must shout this from the rooftops. Lean in to it fully, Write policy papers, create and propose legislation that is based on the concept of changing the country, even the world in 20 years' time.

Investments in early life, education, health, media, and democratic trust are not luxuries. They're the soil of a thriving nation. If we don't understand the opportunity we will not act, and if we do not act we risk leaving behind a country overrun by disrepair and disillusionment where potential is choked out before it ever has the chance to bloom.

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when people
MOVE them

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Smart Move: Feature this Blue Paper on your podcast.

Pro Move: Offer a ONE GENERATION scholarship to a local high school grad, essay required!