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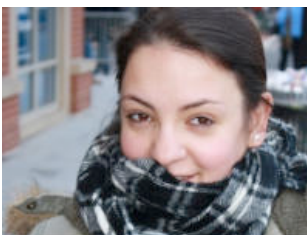


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### Our Democracy Will Be O-K, thanks to my friends.

POSTED BY: **Maya Enista** 8/27/2009 | 558 Views  
SOURCE: [globalgrind.com](http://globalgrind.com)

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Last night at 10 p.m., my friends at the National Conference on Citizenship (NCOC) David Smith, Kristen Cambell and Morgan Corr released the long awaited results of America’s Civic Health Index, an annual report published to opportunities and challenges facing the civic health of our nation.

As a member of NCOC’s Millennial Working Group (and might I add, the aforementioned rockstars – although leading this organization steeped in rich and long-standing history, are also all millennials!), I was a loud voice for the need to shed a positive light on these disheartening statistics – 72% of Americans said they have cut back on time spent volunteering and only 9% of those surveyed had any faith in our banks and financial institutions. It’s been difficult to sugar coat the impact of our economic collapse on the hearts and minds of the American people but I wanted to add my editorial opinion to this important research. I am a young woman, honored to lead a millennial organization that has the opportunity to work, day in and day out, with the most innovative, creative, hardworking and inspiring members of this generation. I just want to reassure our readers, young and old of one important fact...

From where I stand amidst my generation, I promise that America’s Civic Health is resilient and growing. From a new generation of voters that went to the polls last November to young people who are talking to their elected officials. They are leveraging technology and engaging in peer to peer organizing for the issues that matter most in their lives like education, healthcare, unemployment, etc. As the Mobilize.org Democracy 2.0 Declaration (full text below) reads; “We are social networkers, we are multi-taskers, we are communicators and we are opinionated. The informality of our generation breaks down traditional barriers and opens doors for inclusiveness and equality. Most importantly, we are leaders in a society that yearns for leadership.”

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for leadership.

I assure you, this is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. If you haven't yet talked to **Decker Ngongang** of Generation Engage--who is working hard to mobilize community college students to access power in their local government--I suggest you do. If you haven't yet met **Karlo Barrios Marcelo**, who is building bridges between our domestic agenda and international opportunities, I suggest you do. If you haven't yet spoken to our COO, **Ian Storrar**, whose passion and drive for a just and fair democracy are inspiring, I suggest you do.

If you haven't read about the Future Preparedness Index and understood the long-term vision that our generation has when approaching our large problems, I suggest you do. If you haven't talked to **Susan Gordon** of Causes on Facebook about how to leverage technology to make a difference for your cause, large or small, I suggest you do. If you haven't heard the passion and conviction in which **Mary McNaught** talks about the millions of millennial veterans whose voices need to be heard, and whose service MUST be recognized, I suggest you do. If you don't know the amazing work of **Jason Rzepka** or **Michael Skolnik**, and the good that they do with the huge megaphones that they have, I suggest you do. If you haven't heard **Kristen Cambell's** strategy for engaging the next generation of philanthropic leaders, I suggest you do. If you haven't asked **Bennett Gordon** about the Visionaries he's talked to today at the Utne Reader, I suggest you do. If you haven't met **Nick Troiano** and **Chris Golden** who are telling the stories of millennials in service, I suggest you do. If you haven't stood with **David Smith** as he fights for millennial leadership at all levels, I suggest you do. If you haven't heard about New Leaders Council, 80 Million Strong, Advocates for Youth, Mobilize.org or any of the other organizations I'm privileged to work with each day – [then I suggest you find out.](#)

**When you do, you'll know that our Democracy, and society, is in good hands.**

For more information about the Civic Health Index and NCOC, please visit [www.ncoc.net](http://www.ncoc.net) and for more information about Mobilize.org, please visit [www.mobilize.org](http://www.mobilize.org).

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**DEMOCRACY 2.0 DECLARATION**

Democracy is an unfinished project. It's time we upgrade.

We, the Millennial Generation, are uniquely positioned to call attention to today's issues and shape the future based on the great legacy we have inherited. Our founding fathers intended for every generation to build, indeed to innovate, on the American experience. We realize that as young people we are expected to be the leaders of tomorrow, but we understand that as citizens we are called to be the leaders of today.

We are compelled by the critical state of our present democracy to establish a new vision.

In a world often damaged by conflict and intolerance, we must commit to develop common ground through equality and open mindedness.

In a world often damaged by social isolation and materialism, we must commit to community at the family, local, national and global levels.

In a world often damaged by instant gratification, we must commit to creating sustainable solutions.

In a world often damaged by apathy and disillusionment, we must commit to civic participation and inclusion of all voices.

The present state of our democracy impedes opportunity for real change. We must connect the specific issues failing our population with their underlying systemic causes.



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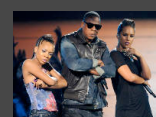
**Barack: You're President Is Black**

Source: You Tube



**Who Dat?: Mariah Carey Had A Twin?**

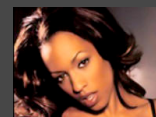
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**Jay Went Ballistic After Lil Mama - Lil Mama'd Him**

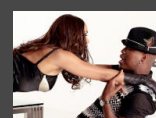
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**Top 10 Male/Female Collabos**

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Our government seems unable or unwilling to adequately address our broadest problems, including economic inequality, America’s role in the world, and the effect of money on the democratic process. But we must remember, our government is only as effective as the sum of its citizens. Low civic participation means the most disadvantaged people in society are neglected and we overlook many potential solutions to our problems.

Our generation is telling a different story. We are uniquely positioned to foster community engagement through social networks of all kinds. It is our responsibility to use information and technology to upgrade democracy, transform communication and advance political engagement and civic participation.

It’s our democracy, it’s time to act.


TAGS - Maya Enista


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