



HARVARD Kennedy School
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Survey of Young Americans' Attitudes toward Politics and Public Service
34th Edition: October 31 – November 10, 2017
N=2,037 18-29 Year Olds in English and Spanish (with GfK KnowledgePanel)
Margin of Error: +/- 3.05% at the 95% Level

1. With regard to school, are you currently enrolled at any of the following? Please select all that apply:

High school	5%
Trade/Vocational school	1%
2-year or junior college or community college	8%
4-year college or university	23%
Graduate school	4%
Business school or professional school.....	1%
Not enrolled in college/university, but taking at least one course	2%
Not currently enrolled in any of these.....	56%

2. In which year of college are you?
 [n=465, 4-year college or university students only]

First year student/Freshman	21%
Second year student/Sophomore	20%
Third year student/Junior	22%
Fourth year student/Senior	28%
Fifth year student or higher	9%
Refused	1%

3. We understand that plenty of young people are not registered to vote, but we are wondering if you are registered to vote?

Yes	72%
No.....	24%
Don't know	3%
Refused	1%

The following are questions about voter registration and voting:

4. Which of the following statements best describes your voter registration status for the last presidential election held on November 8th, 2016?

[n=1,857, if respondent was over 18 on November 8, 2016]

I was registered	72%
I thought about registering, but didn't	3%
I tried to register, but was unable to	1%
I was not registered to vote on November 8, 2016	17%
Not sure	6%
Refused	0%

5. Which of the following statements best describes your voting in the last presidential election held on November 8th, 2016 election?

[n=1,857, if respondent was over 18 on November 8, 2016]

I voted at a polling place	39%
I voted by absentee ballot	13%
I voted early	12%
I did not vote in this election	30%
I planned on voting but wasn't able to	5%
I went to polling place but wasn't allowed to vote	1%
Refused	1%

6. When it comes to voting, with which party do you consider yourself to be affiliated?

Net: Democrat	38%
Strong Democrat	19%
Not a very strong Democrat	18%
Net: Republican	22%
Strong Republican	10%
Not a very strong Republican	12%
Independent/Unaffiliated	39%
Lean Democrat	10%
Lean Republican	6%
Do not lean either way	23%
Refused	2%

7. When it comes to most political issues, do you think of yourself as a...?

Net: Liberal.....	37%
Liberal.....	29%
Moderate leaning Liberal.....	9%
Moderate.....	28%
Net: Conservative.....	32%
Conservative.....	24%
Moderate leaning Conservative.....	8%
Refused.....	2%

8. How likely is it that you will vote in the 2018 elections for Congress?

Definitely will be voting.....	34%
Probably will be voting.....	18%
50-50.....	23%
Probably won't be voting.....	13%
Definitely won't be voting.....	11%
Refused.....	1%

9. For whom did you vote for president in 2016?
[n=1,180, if respondent voted in 2016]

Hillary Clinton.....	52%
Donald Trump.....	27%
Gary Johnson.....	6%
Evan McMullin.....	2%
Jill Stein.....	3%
Someone else.....	3%
Don't remember.....	1%
Decline to answer.....	6%

10. Do you consider yourself to be politically engaged or politically active?

Yes.....	24%
No.....	74%
Refused.....	1%

11. Would you say most of your friends are politically engaged, or not?

Yes.....	23%
No.....	75%
Refused.....	3%

12. Overall, how closely do you follow news about national politics?

Net: Closely	47%
Very closely	13%
Somewhat closely	35%
Net: Not Closely	52%
Not very closely	33%
Not at all closely	19%
Refused	1%

13. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are ...

Generally headed in the right direction.....	14%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure what direction the country is headed in	31%
Refused	2%

14. At this moment, would you say that you are more hopeful or fearful about the future of America?

Fearful	67%
Hopeful	31%
Refused	2%

15. Thinking about national issues for a moment, which issue concerns you most?
[Open-ended, coded responses below]

Net: Foreign Affairs	22%
War/Military	7%
Terrorism.....	6%
Foreign Affairs - General.....	4%
North Korea	3%
National Security	2%
Net: Economy	15%
Economy - General	7%
Jobs	2%
National debt/budget deficit.....	2%
Taxes	2%
Money issues/Financial stability.....	1%
Economic inequality	1%
President Trump/Ineffective leadership.....	10%
Health care	7%
Immigration/Refugee Issues	7%
Racial issues.....	5%

Net: Environment and Energy.....	5%
Environment (General)	2%
Global Warming.....	3%
Equality/Equal rights	2%
Violence	2%
Political partisanship.....	2%
Education	1%
Abortion	1%
Government/Political corruption	1%
Moral issues	1%
Ignorance.....	1%
Gun control/Second amendment rights.....	1%
Women’s issues	1%
Social justice	1%
Gay rights.....	1%
Religion	1%
Crime/murder rates	1%
Cost of education/student debt.....	1%
Poverty	1%
Safety/Security	1%
Other issues.....	4%
None	2%
Don’t know	3%
Refused	3%

16. A. Do you support or oppose? Single Payer Health Care (also referred Medicare for all) where the federal government would cover all the health care expenses of individuals? [n=998, Split Sample A/B]

Net: Support	56%
Strongly support.....	31%
Somewhat support.....	24%
Net: Oppose	21%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don’t know	22%
Refused	1%

17. B. Do you support or oppose? Senator Bernie Sanders’ Single Payer Health Care plan (also referred to as Medicare for all) where the federal government would cover all the health care expenses of individuals?
[n=1,039, Split Sample A/B]

Net: Support	52%
Strongly support.....	29%
Somewhat support.....	23%
Net: Oppose	23%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don’t know	24%
Refused	1%

18. Do you support or oppose race-based affirmative action programs designed to increase the number of African American and Hispanic students on college campuses?

Net: Support	46%
Strongly support.....	23%
Somewhat support.....	23%
Net: Oppose	28%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don’t know	24%
Refused	2%

19. Do you approve or disapprove of some professional athletes’ decision to kneel during the National Anthem?

Approve.....	53%
Disapprove	45%
Refused	2%

20. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming?

Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities.....	64%
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Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by natural changes that have nothing to do with emissions.....	16%
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Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.....	17%
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Refused	3%
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21. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of Donald Trump as president?

Approve.....	25%
Disapprove	72%
Refused	3%

22. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the Democrats in Congress?

Approve.....	40%
Disapprove	56%
Refused	4%

23. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the Republicans in Congress?

Approve.....	23%
Disapprove	72%
Refused	4%

24. What is your preference for the outcome of the 2018 Congressional elections, a Congress controlled by Democrats, or a Congress controlled by Republicans?

Democrats control	57%
Republicans control	38%
Refused	5%

Now thinking specifically about Donald Trump, do you approve or disapprove of the way he is handling:

25. Climate change

Approve.....	24%
Disapprove	72%
Refused	4%

26. The economy

Approve.....	34%
Disapprove	62%
Refused	4%

27. Health care

Approve.....	26%
Disapprove	71%
Refused	4%

28. The Islamic State / ISIS / ISIL

Approve.....	32%
Disapprove	64%
Refused	4%

29. Race relations

Approve.....	22%
Disapprove	74%
Refused	4%

30. North Korea

Approve.....	25%
Disapprove	72%
Refused	3%

31.	Tax reform	
	Approve.....	29%
	Disapprove	67%
	Refused	4%
32.	Gun violence	
	Approve.....	30%
	Disapprove	66%
	Refused	4%
33.	Response to hurricanes	
	Approve.....	34%
	Disapprove	62%
	Refused	4%
34.	Do you believe that Donald Trump generally reflects the views of the Republican party, or not?	
	Yes, his views reflect the party	27%
	No, his views do not reflect the party	35%
	Not sure.....	36%
	Refused	2%

On which of the following platforms do you have an account?

35.	Facebook	
	Yes	80%
	No.....	18%
	Refused	2%
36.	Twitter	
	Yes	42%
	No.....	53%
	Refused	5%
37.	Instagram	
	Yes	59%
	No.....	37%
	Refused	4%

38.	Pinterest	
	Yes	40%
	No.....	54%
	Refused	6%

39.	Snapchat	
	Yes	54%
	No.....	41%
	Refused	5%

40.	LinkedIn	
	Yes	31%
	No.....	63%
	Refused	6%

Below is a list of statements about America. Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

41.	We are and always will be a nation of immigrants.	
	Net: Agree	65%
	Strongly agree	38%
	Somewhat agree	27%
	Neither agree nor disagree	23%
	Net: Disagree	8%
	Somewhat disagree	6%
	Strongly disagree	3%
	Refused	4%

42.	We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs.	
	Net: Agree	34%
	Strongly agree	14%
	Somewhat agree	20%
	Neither agree nor disagree	30%
	Net: Disagree	32%
	Somewhat disagree	17%
	Strongly disagree	15%
	Refused	4%

43. It's in our national interest to help others realize the blessings of a free society, so that when we look back we will say we've done our duty.

Net: Agree	50%
Strongly agree	18%
Somewhat agree	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	33%
Net: Disagree	13%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	3%
Refused	4%

44. We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth.

Net: Agree	29%
Strongly agree	10%
Somewhat agree	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	38%
Net: Disagree	29%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	12%
Refused	4%

45. We need a new spirit of community, a sense that we are all in this together, or the American Dream will continue to wither.

Net: Agree	67%
Strongly agree	34%
Somewhat agree	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%
Net: Disagree	7%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%
Refused	4%

46. America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle...make kinder the face of the Nation and gentler the face of the world.

Net: Agree	47%
Strongly agree	17%
Somewhat agree	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	38%
Net: Disagree	11%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	3%
Refused	4%

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

47. I feel comfortable sharing my political opinions at my college without fear of censorship or negative repercussions.
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]

Net: Agree	42%
Strongly agree	16%
Somewhat agree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	24%
Net: Disagree	29%
Somewhat disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	10%
Refused	4%

48. Recently, some of my relationships have suffered because of disagreements over politics.

Net: Agree	19%
Strongly agree	5%
Somewhat agree	14%
Neither agree nor disagree	30%
Net: Disagree	47%
Somewhat disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	31%
Refused	4%

49. Providing an opportunity for college students to hear highly controversial speakers adds value to the educational experience.

Net: Agree	49%
Strongly agree	16%
Somewhat agree	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	34%
Net: Disagree	14%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	5%
Refused	4%

50. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have an obligation to regulate fake news.

Net: Agree	48%
Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	33%
Net: Disagree	16%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	7%
Refused	3%

51. Donald Trump cares about people like me.

Net: Agree	19%
Strongly agree	7%
Somewhat agree	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	21%
Net: Disagree	57%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	44%
Refused	3%

52. The Democratic party cares about people like me.

Net: Agree	34%
Strongly agree	8%
Somewhat agree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	34%
Net: Disagree	29%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	15%
Refused	4%

53. The Republican party cares about people like me.

Net: Agree	21%
Strongly agree	6%
Somewhat agree	15%
Neither agree nor disagree	30%
Net: Disagree	45%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	29%
Refused	4%

54. In general, do you think gun control laws should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

More strict	61%
Less strict	9%
Kept as they are now	28%
Refused	2%

55. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the National Rifle Association?

Net: Favorable	34%
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable.....	21%
Net: Unfavorable	40%
Somewhat unfavorable18%	
Very unfavorable	22%
Never heard of it	23%
Refused	2%

56. Do you or an immediate family member own a gun? (multiple responses)

Yes, I do	19%
Yes, family member does	35%
No.....	52%
Refused	3%

57. Do you believe the greatest threat to America comes from forces inside, or outside, our country?

Inside.....	67%
Outside	31%
Refused	3%

58. What do you believe is the greatest threat to America today?
[Open-ended, coded responses below]

Net: Domestic Threats	42%
President Trump.....	12%
Ourselves/Ignorance	9%
Racism.....	5%
Lack of community/civility/divisions.....	5%
Politics/Government	5%
Gun violence/Violence.....	2%
Liberals/Activism.....	2%
Crime/Drugs/Violence	2%
Net: Foreign Threats	20%
ISIS/Terrorism	16%
North Korea/Nuclear War/War.....	4%
Other (Mentions with 1% or less).....	14%
Don't know	1%
Refused	25%

How serious a threat to America do you consider each to be?

59.	Russia	
	Net: Serious.....	60%
	Very serious	20%
	Somewhat serious	40%
	Net: Not serious.....	28%
	Not very serious	23%
	Not a threat.....	5%
	Don't know	9%
	Refused	3%
60.	China	
	Net: Serious.....	41%
	Very serious	11%
	Somewhat serious	31%
	Net: Not serious.....	45%
	Not very serious	36%
	Not a threat.....	9%
	Don't know	10%
	Refused	4%
61.	North Korea	
	Net: Serious.....	77%
	Very serious	40%
	Somewhat serious	37%
	Net: Not serious.....	13%
	Not very serious	12%
	Not a threat.....	2%
	Don't know	6%
	Refused	4%

62. Islamic State / ISIS / ISIL

Net: Serious	81%
Very serious	46%
Somewhat serious	35%
Net: Not serious	11%
Not very serious	9%
Not a threat.....	1%
Don't know	5%
Refused	4%

63. Iran

Net: Serious	57%
Very serious	18%
Somewhat serious	39%
Net: Not serious	30%
Not very serious	25%
Not a threat.....	5%
Don't know	9%
Refused	4%

64. Refugees

Net: Serious	36%
Very serious	9%
Somewhat serious	27%
Net: Not serious	54%
Not very serious	30%
Not a threat.....	24%
Don't know	7%
Refused	4%

65.	Undocumented immigrants	
	Net: Serious	35%
	Very serious	13%
	Somewhat serious	22%
	Net: Not serious	57%
	Not very serious	30%
	Not a threat.....	26%
	Don't know	5%
	Refused	3%
66.	White nationalists	
	Net: Serious	64%
	Very serious	33%
	Somewhat serious	31%
	Net: Not serious	26%
	Not very serious	19%
	Not a threat.....	7%
	Don't know	7%
	Refused	3%
67.	Hackers / Cyber-terrorists	
	Net: Serious	83%
	Very serious	40%
	Somewhat serious	43%
	Net: Not serious	9%
	Not very serious	8%
	Not a threat.....	1%
	Don't know	4%
	Refused	3%

68. Climate change
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Net: Serious | 65% |
| Very serious | 34% |
| Somewhat serious | 31% |
| Net: Not serious | 27% |
| Not very serious | 17% |
| Not a threat..... | 9% |
| Don't know | 5% |
| Refused | 4% |
69. For you personally, is the idea of the American Dream alive or dead?
- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Alive..... | 53% |
| Dead | 44% |
| Refused | 3% |
70. How concerned are you about the state of race relations in America today?
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Net: Concerned | 79% |
| Very concerned | 39% |
| Somewhat concerned | 40% |
| Net: Not Concerned | 19% |
| Not very concerned..... | 13% |
| Not at all concerned | 6% |
| Refused | 3% |
71. How much, if at all, do you believe that people of your own racial background are under attack in America?
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Net: A lot/Little | 58% |
| A lot | 29% |
| A little | 29% |
| Net: Not Much/At All | 39% |
| Not much..... | 21% |
| Not at all..... | 18% |
| Refused | 3% |

72. How much confidence do you have that the U.S. midterm elections in 2018 will be free from Russian interference?

Net: Confident	46%
A lot of confidence that 2018 will be free from Russian interference	14%
Some confidence	31%
Net: Not Confident	50%
Not much confidence	37%
No confidence	13%
Refused	4%

73. How would you rate your personal financial situation these days?

Net: Good	66%
Very good	10%
Fairly good	55%
Net: Bad	32%
Fairly bad	23%
Very bad	8%
Refused	3%

74. In general, when I am my parent's age, I believe that I will be...

Better off financially than they are now	39%
About the same as they are now	32%
Worse off financially than they are now	14%
Not sure	12%
Refused	2%

75. Since the last election would you say you are more or less motivated to get involved in politics and public service, or has your attitude not changed?

More motivated	29%
Less motivated	20%
Attitude not changed	47%
Refused	3%

76. Based on the current state of the economy, how easy or difficult do you think it will be for students in your class to find a permanent job upon graduation?
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]

Net: Easy	43%
Very easy	7%
Somewhat easy.....	36%
Net: Difficult	54%
Somewhat difficult.....	44%
Very difficult.....	10%
Refused	4%

77. Which one of these best describes your religious preference?

Catholic	22%
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian	14%
Protestant.....	10%
Jewish.....	2%
LDS/Mormon	2%
Muslim	1%
Another religion	6%
No religious preference.....	28%
Not sure.....	4%
Decline to answer.....	8%
Refused	3%

78. How important is religion in your own life?
[n=1,250, with a religious preference]

Very important	47%
Somewhat important	33%
Not very important.....	17%
Not sure.....	3%
Refused	1%

79. Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian?
[n=1,191, if Christian]

Yes	33%
No.....	50%
Not sure.....	10%
Decline to answer.....	6%
Refused	1%

80. Is your college/university...?
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]
- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Public | 71% |
| Private | 27% |
| Refused | 2% |
81. Is the college/university that you currently attend...?
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]
- | | |
|---|-----|
| In an urban or city area | 51% |
| In a suburban area next to a city | 26% |
| In a small town or rural area | 21% |
| Refused | 2% |
82. How many undergraduate students are enrolled in your college/university? Your best estimate is fine.
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Less than 1,000 | 5% |
| 1,000 - 4,999 | 22% |
| 5,000 - 9,999 | 17% |
| 10,000 - 19,999 | 25% |
| 20,000 or more | 28% |
| Refused | 2% |
83. Where do you live while attending college?
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]
- | | |
|--|-----|
| In an on-campus dormitory | 28% |
| In fraternity/sorority housing | 2% |
| In a campus-owned apartment | 4% |
| In an apartment/house that is not
campus-owned (not with parents) | 34% |
| At home, with my parents | 27% |
| Somewhere else | 3% |
| Refused | 2% |
84. Are you a ...
[n=465, 4-year college or university students only]
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Full-time student | 82% |
| Part-time student | 26% |
| Refused | 2% |

85.	Age	
	18-24	55%
	25-29	45%
86.	Education (Categorical)	
	Less than high school.....	11%
	High school	29%
	Some college.....	38%
	Bachelor's degree or higher.....	23%
87.	Race / Ethnicity	
	White, Non-Hispanic	55%
	Hispanic	22%
	Black, Non-Hispanic.....	14%
	Other, Non-Hispanic	7%
	2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	2%
88.	Gender	
	Male	49%
	Female.....	51%
89.	Housing Type	
	A one-family house detached from any other house	68%
	A building with 2 or more apartments	20%
	A one-family house attached to one or more houses	9%
	A mobile home.....	3%

90. Household Income

Less than \$50,000	35%
Less than \$5,000	4%
\$5,000 to \$7,499	1%
\$7,500 to \$9,999	1%
\$10,000 to \$12,499	2%
\$12,500 to \$14,999	1%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	3%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	4%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	5%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	6%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	34%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	8%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	11%
\$75,000 to \$84,999	7%
\$85,000 to \$99,999	8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	11%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	6%
\$150,000 or more.....	14%
\$150,000 to \$174,999	6%
\$175,000 to \$199,999	3%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	3%
\$250,000 or more	2%

91. Marital Status

Never married	65%
Married.....	18%
Living with partner	14%
Divorced.....	1%
Separated.....	1%
Widowed.....	0%

92. Region 9 - Based on State of Residence

New England.....	4%
Mid-Atlantic.....	13%
East-North Central	15%
West-North Central.....	6%
South Atlantic	20%
East-South Central	5%
West-South Central.....	12%
Mountain.....	7%
Pacific	17%