



**Survey of Young Americans' Attitudes toward Politics and Public Service
24th Edition: October 29 – November 11, 2013**

**N=2,089 18-29 Year Olds in English and Spanish (with Knowledge Networks¹)
Margin of Error: +/- 2.1% 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	6%
Trade/Vocational school	3%
2-year junior college or community college	10%
4-year college or university	21%
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.....	54%

[If currently enrolled in a 4-year college, ask Q2]

2. In which year of college are you?

(n=444)

First year student/Freshman	24%
Second year student/Sophomore.....	30%
Third year student/Junior	19%
Fourth year student/Senior	19%
Fifth year student or higher.....	8%

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

Yes	68%
No.....	26%
Don't know	4%
Refused	1%

[If respondent was over 18 in 2012, ask Q4-Q5]

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 6th, 2012?

	(n=1,925)
I was registered	67%
I thought about registering, but didn't	4%
I tried to register, but was unable to.....	2%
I was not registered to vote on Nov. 6	18%
Not sure.....	6%

5. Which of the following statements best describes your voting in the last presidential election held on November 6th, 2012?

	(n=1,925)
I voted at a polling place.....	39%
I voted early	9%
I voted by absentee ballot	10%
I planned on voting, but wasn't able to.....	5%
I did not vote in this election.....	33%
I went to the polling place, but wasn't allowed to vote.....	1%

[If respondent was over 18 in 2012 and “Voted” in Q5, ask Q6 and Q7]

6. For whom did you vote for president in 2012?

	(n=1,115)
Barack Obama.....	55%
Mitt Romney	33%
Someone else	4%
Don't remember	1%
Decline to answer.....	6%

7. If you could re-cast your 2012 vote for president today, for whom would you vote?

	(n=1,115)
Barack Obama.....	46%
Mitt Romney	35%
Someone else	13%
Decline to answer.....	7%

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

NET: Democrat	33%
Strong Democrat	16%
Not a very strong Democrat.....	17%
NET: Republican	24%
Strong Republican.....	11%
Not a very strong Republican	13%
NET: Independent	41%
Leans Democrat	10%
Leans Republican.....	8%
Does not lean either way.....	23%
Decline to answer.....	3%

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

NET: Liberal	33%
Liberal	22%
Moderate leaning Liberal	10%
Moderate	26%
NET: Conservative.....	37%
Conservative	26%
Moderate leaning Conservative	11%

10. How likely is it that you will vote in the election for Congress in November 2014?

	Total:
	18-29
Definitely will be voting	34%
Probably will be voting	17%
50-50	21%
Probably won't be voting.....	13%
Definitely won't be voting	13%

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

Yes	22%
No.....	75%
Decline to answer.....	3%

12. All in all, do you think things in the nation are...?

Generally headed in the right direction.....	14%
Off on the wrong track	49%
Not sure what direction country is headed in.	34%
Decline to answer.....	3%

13. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or are you not a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

Supporter.....	11%
Not a supporter.....	45%
Not sure.....	41%
Refused	4%

14. Thinking about national issues for a moment, which issue concerns you the most? (Open-ended question)

NET: Economy	45%
General	21%
Budget/Government spending	11%
Jobs	9%
Taxes	1%
Money issues/financial stability.....	1%
Economic equality/inequality	1%
Health care, general	18%
Immigration.....	4%
Education	4%
Foreign Affairs.....	3%
Government/political corruption.....	2%
Abortion	1%
President Obama/lack of leadership.....	1%
Energy	1%
Moral and religious issues	1%
Civil rights	1%
Environment.....	1%
Other issues.....	13%
Don't know/no answer.....	5%

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of:

15. Barack Obama as president.

Approve.....	41%
Disapprove	54%
Decline to answer.....	5%

16. The Democrats in Congress.

Approve.....	35%
Disapprove	59%
Decline to answer.....	6%

17. The Republicans in Congress.

Approve.....	19%
Disapprove	75%
Decline to answer.....	6%

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

18. Syria.

Approve.....	33%
Disapprove	60%
Decline to answer.....	7%

19. The economy.

Approve.....	33%
Disapprove	61%
Decline to answer.....	6%

20. Iran.

Approve.....	37%
Disapprove	56%
Decline to answer.....	7%

21. Health care.

Approve.....	34%
Disapprove	61%
Decline to answer.....	5%

22. Federal budget deficit.

Approve.....	28%
Disapprove	66%
Decline to answer.....	6%

[SPLIT SAMPLE. N=1,042 answered q23-27 about “The Affordable Care Act.” N=1,047 answered q23-27 about “Obamacare.”]

23. Do you approve or disapprove of [The Affordable Care Act/Obamacare], the comprehensive health reform package that President Obama signed into law in 2010?

A. The Affordable Care Act.

	(n=1,042)
Approve.....	39%
Disapprove	56%
Refused	5%

B. Obamacare

	(n=1,047)
Approve.....	38%
Disapprove	57%
Refused	5%

24. Do you believe that your quality of care will get better, get worse or stay about the same under [The Affordable Care Act/Obamacare]?

A. The Affordable Care Act.

	(n=1,042)
Get better.....	17%
Get worse	44%
Stay about the same	34%

B. Obamacare

	(n=1,047)
Get better.....	18%
Get worse	40%
Stay about the same	37%

25. Do you believe that your amount you pay for care will increase, decrease or stay about the same under [The Affordable Care Act/Obamacare]?

A. The Affordable Care Act.

	(n=1,042)
Increase	50%
Decrease	10%
Stay about the same	36%
Refused	4%

B. Obamacare

	(n=1,047)
Increase	51%
Decrease	11%
Stay about the same	34%
Refused	4%

26. After implementation of [The Affordable Care Act/Obamacare], many Americans will be eligible to purchase private health insurance plans through government run insurance exchanges. If you are eligible, how likely are you to enroll in insurance through an exchange? **[NOTE: If 18 to 25 include the clause “after you are no longer eligible to stay on your parents plan”]**

A. The Affordable Care Act.

	(n=1,042)
NET: Likely to Enroll	20%
Definitely will enroll.....	8%
Probably will enroll.....	12%
50-50	28%
NET: Unlikely to Enroll	47%
Definitely will not enroll.....	27%
Probably will not enroll	20%
Refused	5%

B. Obamacare

	(n=1,047)
NET: Likely to Enroll	22%
Definitely will enroll.....	9%
Probably will enroll.....	13%
50-50	29%
NET: Unlikely to Enroll	45%
Definitely will not enroll.....	27%
Probably will not enroll	17%
Refused	5%

27. How have you heard about [The Affordable Care Act/Obamacare]? Check all that apply:

A. The Affordable Care Act.

	(n=1,042)
News media.....	67%
Friends/ Social media.....	42%
Employer.....	16%
School	13%
Healthcare.gov	12%
Non-governmental org. representative.....	4%
Church.....	4%
None of the above	14%
Refused	4%

B. Obamacare

	(n=1,047)
News media.....	72%
Friends/ Social media.....	43%
Employer.....	19%
School	14%
Healthcare.gov	14%
Non-governmental org. representative.....	9%
Church.....	4%
None of the above	8%
Refused	3%

Methods for Reducing the Deficit

In order to measure the relative preferences for a set of 12 potential ways of reducing the national deficit, two sets of six issues were paired against each other and the following question was asked:

As the president and Congress work to reduce the national deficit they will be faced with a series of tradeoffs. The two options in each pair would reduce the budget deficit by similar amounts, either by reducing spending or increasing revenue. For each pair, please select the option that you most prefer.

Each respondent was shown each individual method for reducing the deficit one time, matched up against another method for reducing the deficit chosen at random, for a total of six rated match-ups per respondent. The 12 methods were split into “Group A,” six methods which policy experts believe would reduce the deficit by approximately \$160 to \$190 Billion by 2020 if enacted today, and “Group B,” six methods that could reduce the deficit by \$70 to \$90 Billion by 2020 if enacted today. There were a total of 60 potential match ups (30 in each group). On average, each of the 60 potential methods for reducing the deficit match ups was shown to n=213 respondents. After weighting procedures were performed, each method for reducing the deficit was matched against each other issue a minimum of 374 times and a maximum of 476 times, though an analysis of the impacts of weighting procedure showed no significant impact due to weighting procedures on the relative strength of the match ups.

The six methods for reducing the deficit tested in “Group A” were to:

- A. Raise the retirement age for Social Security from 65 to 68.
- B. Increase the gas tax by 15 cents per gallon.
- C. Reduce food stamp levels to 2008 levels and limit growth in spending on food stamps to the rate of inflation.
- D. Reduce U.S. Navy fleet to 230 ships (from a projected 320 ships).
- E. Enact the “Buffet Rule,” a requirement that people making over \$1 million a year pay at least 30% of their income in taxes.
- F. Raise Medicare premiums to 35% of costs.

The six methods for reducing the deficit tested in “Group B” were to:

- A. Cut federal K-12 funding by 25%.
- B. Cut foreign economic aid in half.
- C. Increase the gas tax by 6 cents per gallon.
- D. Reduce social security benefits, except for workers who earn below the 30th percentile of earnings.
- E. Significantly reduce the Earned Income Tax Credit, and offset to payroll taxes for low-income workers with children, and the Child Tax Credit.
- F. Reduce spending related to the nuclear arsenal by reducing U.S. nuclear warheads from approximately 2,000 to approximately 1,550.

Q28-Q39 show the aggregate results of these match-ups, with the percentage shown representing the aggregate percentage of times that an issue was rated as more important than the issue it was matched up against. They are displayed in rank order.

A full table of the results of each individual match-up is available.

Group A

28. Raise the retirement age for Social Security from 65 to 68.

NET: Prefer this option 41%

Strongly prefer this option 11%

Somewhat prefer this option 30%

NET: Prefer other option 52%

Strongly prefer other option 22%

Somewhat prefer other option 30%

Refused 7%

29. Increase gas tax by 15 cents per gallon.

NET: Prefer this option 32%

Strongly prefer this option 9%

Somewhat prefer this option 23%

NET: Prefer other option 61%

Strongly prefer other option 27%

Somewhat prefer other option 34%

Refused 7%

30. Reduce food stamp levels to 2008 levels and limit growth in spending on food stamps to the rate of inflation.

NET: Prefer this option 58%

Strongly prefer this option 28%

Somewhat prefer this option 29%

NET: Prefer other option 36%

Strongly prefer other option 15%

Somewhat prefer other option 21%

Refused 6%

31. Reduce U.S. Navy fleet to 230 ships (from a projected 320 ships).

NET: Prefer this option 51%

Strongly prefer this option 19%

Somewhat prefer this option 33%

NET: Prefer other option 41%

Strongly prefer other option 24%

Somewhat prefer other option 17%

Refused 7%

32. Enact the “Buffet Rule,” a requirement that people making over \$1 million a year pay at least 30% of their income in taxes.

NET: Prefer this option 69%

Strongly prefer this option 41%

Somewhat prefer this option 28%

NET: Prefer other option 24%

Strongly prefer other option 9%

Somewhat prefer other option 15%

Refused 7%

33. Raise Medicare premiums to 35% of costs.

NET: Prefer this option 28%

Strongly prefer this option 7%

Somewhat prefer this option 22%

NET: Prefer other option 64%

Strongly prefer other option 24%

Somewhat prefer other option 40%

Refused 7%

Group B

34. Cut federal K-12 funding by 25%.

NET: Prefer this option	22%
Strongly prefer this option	6%
Somewhat prefer this option	15%
NET: Prefer other option	71%
Strongly prefer other option	31%
Somewhat prefer other option	40%
Refused	8%

35. Cut foreign economic aid in half.

NET: Prefer this option	71%
Strongly prefer this option	40%
Somewhat prefer this option	31%
NET: Prefer other option	22%
Strongly prefer other option	8%
Somewhat prefer other option	14%
Refused	7%

36. Increase the gas tax by 6 cents per gallon.

NET: Prefer this option	44%
Strongly prefer this option	14%
Somewhat prefer this option	30%
NET: Prefer other option	49%
Strongly prefer other option	22%
Somewhat prefer other option	27%
Refused	7%

37. Reduce Social Security benefits, except for workers who earn below the 30th percentile of earnings.

NET: Prefer this option 33%

Strongly prefer this option 7%

Somewhat prefer this option 26%

NET: Prefer other option 60%

Strongly prefer other option 26%

Somewhat prefer other option 33%

Refused 7%

38. Significantly reduce the Earned Income Tax Credit, and offset to payroll taxes for low-income workers with children, and the Child Tax Credit.

NET: Prefer this option 38%

Strongly prefer this option 10%

Somewhat prefer this option 28%

NET: Prefer other option 54%

Strongly prefer other option 22%

Somewhat prefer other option 32%

Refused 8%

39. Reduce spending related to the nuclear arsenal by reducing U.S. nuclear warheads from approximately 2,000 to approximately 1,550

NET: Prefer this option 70%

Strongly prefer this option 39%

Somewhat prefer this option 31%

NET: Prefer other option 23%

Strongly prefer other option 8%

Somewhat prefer other option 15%

Refused 7%

40. In May 2013, Edward Snowden, a contractor for the National Security Agency, started releasing classified documents to the media that demonstrated what he believed was an unethical collection of private data from US citizens by the US intelligence community. Based on what you know at this time, which of the following words best describes your view of Edward Snowden?

A patriot	22%
A traitor	22%
Not sure	52%
Refused	4%

41. If you found yourself in a position similar to that of Edward Snowden, would you release the classified documents to the media, or would you not release the documents?

Release	15%
Would not release	31%
Not sure	50%
Refused	4%

[SPLIT SAMPLE. n=1,103 were asked this question about collecting data “from you.” n=986 were asked about collection of data in general]

42. (A) In the ongoing debate about privacy, what personal information, if any, do you approve of the U.S. government collecting **from you** to aid national security efforts?

	(n=1,103)
Social network activity	19%
Web browsing history	15%
Email	14%
GPS location	14%
Telephone calls	13%
Text messages	11%
None	61%

(B) In the ongoing debate about privacy, what personal information, if any, do you approve of the U.S. government collecting to aid national security efforts?

	(n=986)
Social network activity	30%
Web browsing history	24%
GPS location	19%
Telephone calls	18%
Email	17%
Text messages	15%
None	55%

43. Do you, or someone in your household, currently have student loan debt?

Yes	42%
No	48%
Don't know	7%
Refused	4%

44. Do you personally view the issue of student debt for young people in the United States to be...

A major problem	57%
A minor problem.....	22%
Not a problem	4%
Don't know	14%
Refused	3%

45. How important a role did (or does) your financial circumstances play in your decision whether or not to pursue a college education?

Net: Important	70%
Very important	41%
Somewhat important	29%
Net: Not important.....	25%
Not very important.....	12%
Not at all important	13%
Refused	4%

46. Who do you think is most responsible for the rising amount of student debt in the U.S.?

Colleges and universities	42%
Federal government	30%
Students.....	11%
State governments	8%
Other	4%
Refused	5%

47. Has the recent government shutdown made you more likely to vote, less likely to vote, or made no difference in your likelihood to vote in the 2014 elections for Congress?

More likely to vote	30%
Less likely to vote	9%
No difference	57%
Refused	4%

If you could choose to recall and replace various elected officials today, would you recall:

48. Your member of Congress.

Yes	45%
No	45%
Refused	9%

49. All members of Congress.

Yes	52%
No	40%
Refuse	8%

50. Barack Obama.

Yes	47%
No	46%
Refused	7%

51. Some people say that since college football and basketball is a multi-billion dollar industry in America today, NCAA athletes should be paid for their efforts:

Other people say that the opportunity to receive an education and get the exposure to win a major professional contract is compensation enough and NCAA athletes should not be paid. Which statement comes closest to your own view?

Student athletes should not be paid.....	65%
Student athletes should be paid.....	30%
Refused	5%

Below is a list of statements about politics and public service. Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

52. I have control over my personal technology privacy.

NET: Agree.....	32%
Strongly agree	9%
Somewhat agree	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	29%
NET: Disagree	34%
Strongly disagree	12%
Somewhat disagree	23%
Decline to answer	5%

53. I am willing to give up some personal freedom and privacy for the sake of national security.

NET: Agree.....	30%
Strongly agree	7%
Somewhat agree	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%
NET: Disagree	39%
Strongly disagree	21%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Decline to answer	5%

54. Compared to your parents, would you say that:

Politics is more important to you personally	12%
Politics is less important to you personally	28%
Politics has about the same level of importance	36%
Don't know	20%
Refused	4%

55. Compared to your parents, would you say that:

Your views of politics are more partisan	8%
Your views of politics are less partisan	16%
Your views are more or less the same	37%
Don't know	34%
Refused	5%

56. In general, which do you think is the better way to solve important issues facing the country – through political engagement or through community volunteerism?

Political engagement	21%
Community volunteerism	33%
Not sure	42%
Refused	4%

57. Do you have health insurance?

Yes, my employer provides it	27%
Yes, I am under 26 and covered by parents ..	35%
Yes, I have an individual or family plan	12%
No, I am not enrolled in health insurance	22%
Refused	4%

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

58. Facebook.

Yes 79%
No..... 21%

59. Twitter.

Yes 35%
No..... 65%

60. Instagram.

Yes 30%
No..... 70%

61. Pinterest.

Yes 25%
No..... 75%

62. Google+.

Yes 37%
No..... 63%

63. Snapchat.

Yes 16%
No..... 84%

64. Tumblr.

Yes 10%
No..... 90%

65. Foursquare.

Yes 5%
No..... 95%

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

Catholic.....	19%
Protestant.....	13%
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian	14%
LDS/Mormon.....	3%
Jewish.....	1%
Muslim	*
No religious preference.....	23%
Another religion.....	10%
Decline to answer.....	13%
Not sure.....	4%

[If NOT “No Religious Preference” in 66, ask Q67]

67. How important is religion in your own life?

	(n=1,344)
Very important	45%
Somewhat important	36%
Not very important	15%
Not sure.....	4%

[If “Catholic, Fundamentalist/Evangelical, LDS/Mormon, Protestant, or another religion, or not sure” in Q66 ask Q68]

68. Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian?

	(n=1,309)
Yes	37%
No.....	48%
Not sure.....	9%
Decline to answer.....	1%

69. Switching topics, which of these best describes your phone service at this time?

Cell phone	85%
Landline phone service	19%
VOIP phone service	3%
None of these	5%

[If currently enrolled in a 4-year college, ask Q69-Q74]

70. Is your college/university...?

	(n=444)
Public	67%
Private	28%
Refused	5%

71. Is the college/university that you currently attend...?

	(n=444)
In an urban or city area	50%
In a suburban area next to a city	24%
In small town or rural area	21%
Refused	5%

72. How many undergraduate students are enrolled in your college/university? Your best estimate is fine.

	(n=444)
Less than 1,000	6%
1,000 - 4,999	27%
5,000 - 9,999	24%
10,000 - 19,999	19%
20,000 or more	18%
Decline to answer.....	5%

73. Where do you live while attending college?

	(n=444)
In an on-campus dormitory	25%
In fraternity/sorority housing	1%
In a campus-owned apartment	7%
In an apartment/house that is not campus-owned (not with parents)	34%
At home, with my parents	23%
Somewhere else	5%
Refused	4%

74. Are you a...?

	(n=444)
Full-time student	83%
Part-time student	13%
Refused	4%

75. What is your gender?

Male	50%
Female	50%

76. What is your race and ethnicity?

White, Non-Hispanic	59%
Black, Non-Hispanic	13%
Hispanic	20%
Other, Non-Hispanic	7%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	2%

77. What is your current education level?

Less than high school.....	11%
High school.....	30%
Some college.....	38%
Bachelor or higher.....	20%

78. What is your household income?

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

79. Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, never married, or living with a partner?

Married.....	20%
Widowed.....	*
Divorced.....	2%
Separated.....	1%
Never married	64%
Living with partner	12%

80. Age:

18.....	8%
19.....	8%
20.....	9%
21.....	9%
22.....	9%
23.....	8%
24.....	7%
25.....	7%
26.....	7%
27.....	8%
28.....	9%
29.....	11%

81. Are you the head of your household?

Yes	43%
No	56%

82. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household at least 50% of the time? Please remember to include babies, or small children, include unrelated individuals (such as roommates), and also include those now away traveling or in a hospital.

1	9%
2	24%
3	25%
4	22%
5	11%
6	6%
7	2%
8	1%
9	*
10	*

83. How many members are there in each age group in your household? (Average number)

0-12 months old	0.09
2-5 years old	0.17
6-12 years old	0.18
13-17 years old	0.24
18 years or older	2.65

84. Which statement best describes your current employment status?

NET: Working.....	61%
As a paid employee	56%
Self-employed	4%
NET: Not Working	39%
On temporary layoff from a job	2%
Looking for work	19%
Disabled	1%
Other	18%

85. Are your living quarters...?

Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	59%
Rented for cash	36%
Occupied without payment of cash rent	5%

86. Which best describes the building where you live?

A one-family house detached from any other house	64%
A one-family house attached to one or more houses	8%
A building with two or more apartments	24%
A mobile home	4%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	*

87. Do you have Internet access in your home?

Yes	95%
No.....	5%

88. What region do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	21%
South	36%
West	25%

89. Do you live in a metro or non-metro area?

Non-metro (rural).....	14%
Metro.....	86%

90. What region do you live in? (Based on state of residence)

New England	5%
Mid-Atlantic	13%
East-North Central	15%
West-North Central.....	7%
South Atlantic	21%
East-South Central	6%
West-South Central	9%
Mountain	7%
Pacific	17%

ⁱA complete Field Report from GfK (Knowledge Networks) is available upon request. Included in the report are details on cooperation rates, KN methodology, survey administration, survey sampling and sample weighting.
