



HARVARD Kennedy School
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Survey of Young Americans’ Attitudes toward Politics and Public Service
36th Edition: October 3 – October 17, 2018
N=2,003 18- to- 29-Year-Olds in English and Spanish (with GfK KnowledgePanel)
Margin of Error: +/- 3.18% at the 95% Level

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

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
High school.....	5%	3%	7%
Trade/Vocational school.....	2%	1%	2%
2-year or junior college or community college	9%	9%	9%
4-year college/university	22%	24%	20%
Graduate school	4%	5%	3%
Business school or professional school	1%	1%	1%
Not enrolled in college/university, but taking at least one course.....	2%	2%	2%
Not currently enrolled in any of these	56%	57%	57%
Refused.....	1%	*	*

[If Q1 = “4-year college/university”, ask]

2. In which year of college are you? (n=298)

First year student/Freshman.....	22%	21%	21%
Second year student/Sophomore	16%	10%	21%
Third year student/Junior.....	26%	25%	28%
Fourth year student/Senior.....	22%	26%	21%
Fifth year student or higher	11%	15%	7%
Refused.....	3%	4%	2%

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

Yes.....	71%	96%	55%
No	23%	2%	38%
Don’t know	4%	*	6%
Refused.....	2%	2%	1%

4. Did any individual or group encourage you to register or help you register to vote?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Yes	28%	30%	28%
No	67%	68%	68%
Don't know	3%	1%	4%
Refused	3%	2%	1%

[If respondent was over 18 on November 8th, 2016, ask Q5-Q6]

5. Which of the following statements best describes your voter registration status for the last presidential election held on November 8th, 2016? (n=1,889)

I was registered.....	68%	92%	54%
I thought about registering, but didn't.....	4%	2%	6%
I tried to register, but was unable to	1%	2%	1%
I was not registered to vote on November 8, 2016	20%	4%	32%
Not sure.....	5%	1%	6%
Refused.....	3%	*	2%

6. Which of the following statements best describes your voting in the last presidential election held on November 8th, 2016? (n=1,889)

I voted at a polling place.....	40%	56%	30%
I voted early	11%	18%	6%
I voted by absentee ballot	11%	16%	7%
I planned on voting but wasn't able to	3%	2%	4%
I did not vote in this election	32%	6%	51%
I went to the polling place but wasn't allowed to vote.....	1%	*	1%
Refused.....	3%	1%	1%

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

Net: Democratic party	41%	55%	32%
Strong Democrat.....	52%	64%	37%
Not a very strong Democrat.....	46%	33%	63%
Net: Republican party	21%	23%	21%
Strong Republican	44%	60%	33%
Not a very strong Republican	54%	39%	65%
Net Independent/Unaffiliated	35%	21%	45%
Leans Democrat.....	23%	35%	20%
Leans Republican	15%	18%	16%
Does not lean either way	55%	47%	62%
Refused.....	3%	1%	2%

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

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Net: Liberal	38%	50%	31%
Liberal	28%	39%	21%
Moderate leaning Liberal.....	10%	11%	10%
Moderate.....	26%	18%	33%
Net: Conservative	29%	28%	33%
Conservative	22%	23%	23%
Moderate leaning Conservative	7%	5%	10%

[If Q6 = “I voted at a polling place,” “I voted early,” “I voted by absentee ballot,” ask]

[Rotate items = “Hillary Clinton” and “Donald Trump”]

9. For whom did you vote for in 2016? (n=1,265)

Hillary Clinton.....	53%	60%	43%
Donald Trump.....	28%	26%	33%
Someone else	12%	10%	14%
Don’t remember.....	1%	1%	1%
Decline to answer	5%	3%	9%
Refused.....	1%	1%	*

10. How likely is it that you will vote in the upcoming elections for Congress?

Definitely will be voting.....	40%	100%	-
Probably will be voting.....	15%	-	26%
50-50.....	16%	-	29%
Probably won’t be voting	13%	-	24%
Definitely won’t be voting.....	12%	-	21%
Refused.....	3%	-	-

[If Q10= “Definitely,” “Probably,” or “50-50,” ask]

11. How do you plan to vote in the November election? (n=1,481)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
At a polling place.....	57%	64%	48%
By absentee ballot.....	18%	21%	15%
At a place set up for early voting.....	9%	10%	7%
I do not plan on voting.....	2%	*	6%
Don't know	12%	3%	24%
Refused	1%	1%	1%

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

Yes	24%	44%	10%
No	73%	54%	89%
Refused	3%	2%	1%

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

Yes	23%	35%	15%
No	73%	64%	83%
Refused	4%	1%	2%

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

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Net: Closely	48%	75%	30%
Very closely	12%	26%	3%
Somewhat closely	35%	49%	27%
Net: Not Closely	50%	24%	69%
Not very closely	32%	19%	42%
Not at all closely	18%	5%	27%
Refused	3%	*	1%

15. How closely are you following the midterm elections?

Net: Closely	39%	69%	18%
Very closely	10%	23%	1%
Somewhat closely	28%	47%	17%
Net: Not Closely	58%	30%	81%
Not very closely	36%	24%	46%
Not at all closely	22%	6%	35%
Refused	3%	1%	1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	17%	18%	17%
Off on the wrong track.....	48%	58%	42%
Not sure what direction the country is headed in	32%	23%	38%
Refused	4%	*	3%

[If Q16 = Empty, skip Q18-Q19]

17. Thinking about national issues for a moment, which issue concerns you the most? Please enter the general topic here:

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Immigration/Refugee Issues	11%	10%	11%
Net: Jobs and Economy.....	10%	11%	8%
Economy	7%	7%	6%
Jobs	3%	4%	2%
President Trump/Ineffective Leadership	7%	8%	5%
Health Care	6%	7%	5%
Environment/Global Warming	5%	7%	4%
Racial Issues	5%	3%	2%
Political Partisanship	4%	*	*
Gun Control/Second Amendment	3%	4%	2%
Education	3%	4%	3%
Equality/Equal Rights.....	2%	4%	3%
Foreign Policy - General.....	2%	2%	2%
War/Military	2%	1%	2%
Budget/Government Spending	2%	2%	2%
National Security	1%	2%	1%
Terrorism	1%	*	2%
Money Issues/Financial stability	1%	1%	2%
Taxes.....	1%	1%	1%
Economic Equality/Inequality	1%	3%	2%
Government Aid Programs.....	1%	2%	2%
Violence.....	1%	2%	1%
Russia.....	1%	1%	1%
Criminal Justice	1%	1%	1%
Abortion.....	2%	2%	1%
Moral Issues.....	1%	1%	1%
Other	7%	9%	9%
Don't Know/ No Answer	7%	1%	6%

18. Please briefly summarize your position:
Open-ended responses. Results available upon request.
19. What is the next most important issue facing America?
Open-ended responses. Results available upon request.

[If Q18 = Empty, skip Q19]

20. Please briefly summarize your position:
Open-ended responses. Results available upon request.
21. What issue, if any, do you believe is not being adequately addressed by political candidates and parties this fall?
Open-ended responses. Results available upon request.

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

22.	Donald Trump as President			
		All	Likely Voters	All Others
	Approval.....	26%	25%	27%
	Disapprove.....	68%	72%	67%
	Refused.....	5%	2%	5%
23.	The Democrats in Congress			
	Approve.....	41%	47%	37%
	Disapprove.....	53%	51%	56%
	Refused.....	7%	3%	7%
24.	The Republicans in Congress			
	Approve.....	25%	22%	28%
	Disapprove.....	68%	75%	65%
	Refused.....	7%	3%	7%
25.	What is your preference for the outcome of the Congressional elections, a Congress controlled by Democrats, or a Congress controlled by Republicans?			
	Controlled by Democrats.....	55%	66%	48%
	Controlled by Republicans.....	37%	32%	41%
	Refused.....	9%	2%	11%

[If Q25 = “Controlled by Democrats,” ask]

26.	Would you say your preference is more FOR the Democrats or AGAINST the Republicans? (n=1,146)			
	For the Democrats.....	65%	65%	64%
	Against the Republicans.....	34%	35%	34%
	Refused.....	1%	*	2%

[If Q25 = “Controlled by Republicans,” ask]

27.	Would you say your preference is more FOR the Republicans or AGAINST the Democrats? (n=696)			
	For the Republicans.....	58%	61%	57%
	Against the Democrats.....	38%	35%	41%
	Refused.....	4%	3%	3%

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

[Randomize Q28-Q36]

28.	The economy			
		All	Likely Voters	All Others
	Approve	36%	35%	37%
	Disapprove.....	58%	64%	57%
	Refused	6%	1%	6%
29.	Health care			
	Approve	26%	25%	27%
	Disapprove.....	68%	73%	67%
	Refused	6%	1%	6%
30.	The Islamic State / ISIS / ISIL			
	Approve	32%	33%	32%
	Disapprove.....	62%	66%	61%
	Refused	6%	2%	7%
31.	Race relations			
	Approve	23%	23%	24%
	Disapprove.....	71%	76%	70%
	Refused	6%	2%	6%
32.	Immigration			
	Approve	25%	25%	27%
	Disapprove.....	69%	72%	68%
	Refused	6%	3%	5%
33.	Tax reform			
	Approve	30%	29%	32%
	Disapprove.....	63%	70%	61%
	Refused	7%	2%	8%

34.	Gun violence			
		All	Likely Voters	All Others
	Approve	29%	29%	29%
	Disapprove.....	65%	70%	64%
	Refused.....	6%	2%	6%
35.	North Korea			
	Approve	33%	33%	34%
	Disapprove.....	60%	64%	60%
	Refused.....	6%	3%	6%
36.	Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court			
	Approve	26%	26%	26%
	Disapprove.....	68%	72%	67%
	Refused.....	6%	2%	7%
37.	Which of the following comes closest to your view regarding re-electing President Trump in 2020?			
	I am sure to vote for him in 2020	11%	16%	8%
	There is a good chance			
	I will vote for him.....	8%	6%	9%
	It is possible I will vote for him.....	9%	6%	11%
	It is unlikely I will vote for him.....	9%	7%	10%
	I will never vote for him.....	59%	64%	58%
	Refused.....	5%	2%	4%
38.	At this moment, would you say that you are more hopeful or fearful about the future of America?			
	Hopeful.....	36%	33%	38%
	Fearful	59%	65%	57%
	Refused.....	5%	2%	4%

[Rotate Q39 and Q40]

39. If Democrats win a majority of the House seats in November, will you have more hope, or more fear about the future of America – or will it not make a difference?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
More hope.....	42%	58%	32%
More fear	23%	23%	25%
Not make a difference.....	30%	17%	40%
Refused	5%	2%	4%

40. If Republicans maintain their current majority in the House after November, will you have more hope, or more fear about the future of America – or will it not make a difference?

More hope.....	19%	19%	19%
More fear	43%	59%	33%
Not make a difference.....	33%	20%	44%
Refused	5%	2%	4%

Have you participated in any of the following activities in the past 12 months?

[Randomize Q41-Q44]

41.	Volunteered for community service			
		<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
	Yes	27%	38%	20%
	No	68%	59%	77%
	Refused	5%	2%	3%
42.	Participated in a political demonstration, rally or march			
	Yes	9%	18%	3%
	No	87%	81%	93%
	Refused	4%	1%	3%
43.	Voted in a primary			
	Yes	32%	61%	12%
	No	64%	38%	85%
	Refused	4%	1%	3%
44.	Posted about a political cause or campaign on social media			
	Yes	18%	34%	8%
	No	77%	64%	89%
	Refused	5%	3%	3%

Which of the following, if any, do you support?

[Randomize Q45-Q47 and split Sample A(without a definition)]

45. A) Socialism (n=1,001)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Yes	31%	39%	27%
No	59%	55%	63%
Refused	11%	6%	10%

B) Socialism (any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods) (n=1,002)

Yes	24%	28%	21%
No	70%	70%	72%
Refused	6%	3%	6%

46. A) Capitalism (n=1,001)

Yes	43%	48%	42%
No	47%	47%	48%
Refused	10%	6%	9%

B) Capitalism (an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market) (n=1,002)

Yes	54%	65%	46%
No	41%	34%	49%
Refused	5%	2%	5%

47. A) Democratic Socialism (n=1,001)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Yes	39%	53%	30%
No	53%	42%	62%
Refused	9%	4%	8%

B) Democratic Socialism (a political philosophy that advocates achieving socialist goals within a democratic system) (n=1,002)

Yes	37%	48%	30%
No	57%	50%	64%
Refused	6%	3%	6%

48. If a candidate for Congress described themselves as a Democratic Socialist, would that make you more likely to vote for him/her, less likely to vote for him/her – or does it not make a difference either way?

More likely	15%	25%	8%
Less likely	31%	33%	30%
No difference	49%	39%	57%
Refused	6%	2%	5%

Do you support or oppose...

[Randomized Q49-54]

49. Single Payer Health Care (also referred Medicare for all) where the federal government would cover all the health care expenses of individuals?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Net: Support	55%	67%	49%
Strongly support	35%	45%	28%
Somewhat support	20%	21%	20%
Net: Oppose	21%	23%	21%
Somewhat oppose	8%	7%	9%
Strongly oppose	13%	16%	12%
Don't know	19%	8%	26%
Refused	5%	2%	4%

50. Requiring U.S. corporations with more than \$1 Billion in revenue to allow their workers to elect 40 percent of the membership of their board of directors?

Net: Support	40%	53%	31%
Strongly support	17%	26%	10%
Somewhat support	23%	27%	21%
Net: Oppose	16%	18%	16%
Somewhat oppose	10%	10%	10%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	6%
Don't know	39%	27%	48%
Refused	5%	2%	5%

51. Creating a citizen-financed campaign system, funded by taxpayer revenue, that would give each registered voter \$50 to send to their favorite candidate during presidential election years, and lesser amounts in other years. Candidates would volunteer to take part in this program, and if they accepted citizen financing, would not be allowed to accept funds from other sources.

Net: Support	24%	35%	16%
Strongly support	8%	14%	4%
Somewhat support	15%	21%	12%
Net: Oppose	33%	35%	33%
Somewhat oppose	10%	10%	11%
Strongly oppose	23%	25%	22%
Don't know	38%	29%	46%
Refused	5%	1%	5%

52. Eliminating tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities for students from families that make up to \$125,000 per year and making community college tuition-free for all income levels?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Net: Support	56%	62%	54%
Strongly support	36%	43%	32%
Somewhat support	21%	20%	22%
Net: Oppose	20%	25%	18%
Somewhat oppose.....	9%	11%	8%
Strongly oppose.....	11%	14%	10%
Don't know.....	18%	11%	23%
Refused.....	5%	2%	5%

53. Building a militant and powerful labor movement in the United States rooted in the multi-racial working class?

Net: Support	37%	47%	31%
Strongly support	15%	22%	10%
Somewhat support	22%	25%	21%
Net: Oppose	19%	23%	16%
Somewhat oppose.....	11%	12%	10%
Strongly oppose.....	8%	12%	6%
Don't know.....	39%	28%	48%
Refused.....	5%	2%	5%

54. A federal jobs guarantee that would provide funding so that every American would be guaranteed a job paying at least \$15 an hour and offering paid family/sick leave and health benefits?

Net: Support	56%	63%	52%
Strongly support	31%	39%	27%
Somewhat support	24%	24%	25%
Net: Oppose	20%	24%	18%
Somewhat oppose.....	9%	8%	10%
Strongly oppose.....	11%	16%	9%
Don't know.....	18%	10%	24%
Refused.....	6%	3%	6%

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

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Net: Good	64%	71%	61%
Very good	9%	15%	6%
Good	54%	56%	55%
Net: Bad	30%	27%	33%
Fairly bad.....	23%	20%	26%
Very bad	7%	7%	8%
Refused.....	6%	2%	6%

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

Better off financially than they are now	39%	42%	36%
About the same as they are now	29%	26%	31%
Worse off financially than they are now	14%	18%	11%
Not sure.....	15%	11%	18%
Refused.....	4%	2%	3%

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

Catholic.....	20%	20%	20%
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian.....	13%	12%	14%
Protestant	11%	15%	9%
LDS/Mormon.....	1%	1%	1%
Jewish	2%	2%	2%
Muslim.....	1%	1%	1%
Another religion.....	6%	6%	7%
No religious preference	27%	33%	25%
Not sure.....	5%	3%	7%
Decline to answer	8%	6%	10%
Refused.....	4%	1%	4%

[If not “No religious preference” or “decline to answer” in Q57, ask]

58. How important is religion in your own life? (n=1,170)

Very important.....	43%	46%	41%
Somewhat important.....	34%	35%	33%
Not very important.....	17%	17%	17%
Not sure.....	5%	2%	7%
Refused.....	2%	0%	2%

[If “Catholic, Fundamentalist/Evangelical, LDS/Mormon, Protestant, Another Religion, or Not sure in Q57, ask]

59. Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian? (n=1,122)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>	<u>All Others</u>
Yes	32%	35%	31%
No	49%	53%	47%
Not sure.....	12%	6%	16%
Decline to answer	5%	4%	5%
Refused.....	2%	2%	1%

60. Switching topics, which of these best describes your phone service at this time?
Multiple responses allowed.

Cell phone.....	90%	94%	89%
Landline phone service.....	11%	12%	10%
VOIP phone service.....	1%	2%	1%
None of these	4%	2%	5%
Refused.....	5%	2%	4%

[If “Currently enrolled in a college, ask Q61-Q65]

61. Is your college/university...? (n=439)

Public	75%	74%	77%
Private	21%	25%	20%
Refused.....	3%	2%	3%

62. Is the college/university that you currently attend...? (n=439)

In an urban or city area.....	48%	48%	49%
In a suburban area next to a city.....	31%	32%	30%
In a small town or rural area.....	17%	17%	17%
Refused.....	5%	3%	4%

63. How many undergraduate students are enrolled in your college/university? Your best estimate is fine. (n=439)

Less than 1,000	4%	4%	4%
1,000 - 4,999.....	27%	29%	27%
5,000 – 9,999	20%	17%	23%
10,000 – 19,999	19%	21%	17%
20,000 or more.....	26%	28%	25%
Refused.....	4%	1%	4%

64. Where do you live while attending college? (n=439)

	All	Likely Voters	All Others
In an on-campus dormitory.....	19%	20%	19%
In fraternity/sorority housing.....	1%	3%	0%
In a campus-owned apartment.....	4%	5%	3%
In an apartment/house that is not campus-owned (not with parents).....	24%	26%	25%
At home, with my parents.....	44%	43%	44%
Somewhere else	4%	3%	6%
Refused	3%	0%	3%
65. Are you a ...?			
Full-time student.....	74%	77%	74%
Part-time student.....	21%	21%	22%
Refused	5%	3%	4%
66. What is your gender?			
Male	49%	48%	49%
Female	51%	52%	51%
67. Age (Category)			
18-24.....	55%	49%	59%
25-29.....	45%	51%	41%
68. What is your race and ethnicity?			
White, Non-Hispanic	54%	59%	51%
Black, Non-Hispanic	14%	14%	14%
Other, Non-Hispanic.....	7%	5%	9%
Hispanic	22%	19%	24%
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic.....	2%	3%	2%
69. What is your current education level?			
Less than high school	10%	6%	13%
High school.....	28%	22%	32%
Some college.....	37%	40%	35%
Bachelor's degree or higher	24%	32%	19%

70.	Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, never married, or living with a partner?			
		All	Likely Voters	All Others
	Married	18%	18%	19%
	Widowed.....	0%	0%	0%
	Divorced	1%	1%	1%
	Separated	1%	0%	1%
	Never married.....	66%	65%	66%
	Living with partner.....	14%	16%	13%
71.	Are you head of your household?			
	Yes.....	41%	44%	38%
	No	59%	56%	62%
72.	Which statement best describes your current employment status?			
	As a paid employee.....	64%	72%	60%
	Self-employed.....	5%	6%	4%
	On temporary layoff from a job.....	*	*	*
	Looking for work.....	13%	8%	17%
	Retired	*	*	*
	Disabled.....	2%	2%	2%
	Other	15%	12%	17%
73.	Are your living quarters...?			
	Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	62%	68%	56%
	Rented for cash.....	36%	30%	41%
	Occupied without payment of cash rent	3%	2%	3%
74.	Which best describes where you live?			
	A one-family house detached from any other house	68%	72%	65%
	A one-family house attached to one or more houses.....	8%	7%	10%
	A building with 2 or more apartments.....	20%	20%	20%
	A mobile home	3%	1%	5%
	Boat, RV, van, etc.....	*	*	1%

75.	What region do you live in?			
		All	Likely Voters	All Others
	Northeast.....	18%	17%	18%
	Midwest.....	21%	22%	21%
	South.....	37%	35%	37%
	West.....	25%	26%	23%
76.	Do you live in a metro or non-metro area?			
	Non-Metro.....	12%	11%	13%
	Metro.....	88%	89%	87%
77.	What region do you live in? (Based on state of residence)			
	New England.....	4%	6%	3%
	Mid-Atlantic.....	13%	11%	15%
	East-North Central.....	14%	15%	14%
	West-North Central.....	7%	7%	6%
	South Atlantic.....	19%	20%	19%
	East-South Central.....	5%	5%	5%
	West-South Central.....	12%	11%	14%
	Mountain.....	7%	8%	6%
	Pacific.....	18%	18%	17%
78.	Education (Highest Degree Received)			
	7th or 8th grade.....	1%	0%	1%
	9th grade.....	1%	0%	1%
	10th grade.....	2%	2%	2%
	11th grade.....	3%	1%	5%
	12th grade, (no diploma).....	3%	2%	3%
	High school diploma or equivalent (GED).....	28%	22%	32%
	Some college, no degree.....	24%	26%	23%
	Associate degree.....	13%	14%	13%
	Bachelors degree.....	18%	24%	14%
	Masters degree.....	5%	6%	4%
	Professional or Doctorate degree.....	2%	2%	1%