35TH SURVEY OF YOUNG AMERICANS’ ATTITUDES TOWARD POLITICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

PRESENTED BY:
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TEDDY LANDIS, ’20, HPOP STUDENT CHAIR

7 THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUNG AMERICANS IN 2018
Young Americans are deeply concerned about the state of our democracy and institutions. They blame politicians, big money and the media. The intensity is real. And in November, they will take out their frustrations in voting booths from coast to coast.

Incumbents beware.
Fear for America is real. The cause is clear.
At this moment, would you say you are more hopeful or fearful about the future of American democracy?

Hopeful: 34%
Fearful: 64%

For each of the following, please rank how much you see them as responsible for existing problems in American politics and society today:

[Graph showing percentage of very or somewhat responsible for each issue among Democrats and Republicans]
Youth vote will play a much more significant role in 2018 midterms.
Interest in voting in the upcoming midterms outpacing 2014 and the 2010 wave.

% who say they will “definitely” vote in 2018 midterms

- Spring 2010: 13%
- Spring 2014: 15%
- Spring 2018: 24%
- Spring 2010: 35%
- Spring 2014: 31%
- Spring 2018: 36%
- Spring 2010: 28%
- Spring 2014: 41%
- Spring 2018: 51%
Once in a generation attitudinal shifts about efficacy of political engagement now underway.
Young Americans vote when they believe their efforts have tangible results.

Engagement after 9/11, which eventually led to the nomination and election of President Obama, was driven largely by this change in attitude.

After the Obama election, recession and gridlock, young Americans began again to question the efficacy of political involvement. 2016 was a game-changer. Politics matters again.

Political involvement rarely has any tangible results.

[4-point scale]

- Spring 2000: Agree 51%, Disagree 48%
- Fall 2001: Agree 43%, Disagree 56%

[5-point scale]

- Spring 2013: Agree 27%, Disagree 28%
- Spring 2014: Agree 25%, Disagree 29%
- Spring 2015: Agree 27%, Disagree 29%
- Spring 2016: Agree 26%, Disagree 27%
- Spring 2017: Agree 33%, Disagree 22%
- Spring 2018: Agree 36%, Disagree 22%

Young Americans vote when they believe their efforts have tangible results.
Democratic control now preferred by +41. Margin was +32 in our Fall poll.
Job Approval
25%

Highest:
- Economy, 34%
- Tax reform, 31%

Lowest:
- Gun violence, 24%
- Race relations, 21%
DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

of Congress preferred 69%-28%.

(but Democrats should not celebrate too soon, despite alignment on many issues, in our Fall poll only 1/3 believed the party cared about “people like them”)

College administrators and the military top list of most trusted institutions.
Before Cambridge Analytica news broke, 26% trusted Facebook to do the right thing all or most of the time.

Top 5 (of 22) most trusted: Your college administration (61%), the military, Amazon, Google and SCOTUS.

Bottom 5: POTUS (22%), Federal government, Congress, media, Wall Street.
In the post-Parkland reality, the gun debate symbolizes many of the ills plaguing Washington. Current signs point to it further accelerating youth activism and voting.
SPRING 2013 POLL / POST-NEWTOWN

- 49% SUPPORT STRICTER GUN LAWS
- 41% SUPPORT ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN
- 38% FAVORABLE - 38% UNFAV. OF NRA

SPRING 2018 POLL / POST-PARKLAND

- 64% SUPPORT STRICTER GUN LAWS
- 58% SUPPORT ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN
- 31% FAVORABLE - 53% UNFAV. OF NRA
- 77% OF LV’S CONSIDER GUNS MOST/IMPORTANT
- 47% SUPPORT AMENDING 2ND AMENDMENT
A majority believe that military conflict across multiple fronts, on the ground and in cyberspace, is likely in the next five years.
64% see U.S. military engaging directly with North Korea, 61% with cyber-terrorists, 54% with Iran, 43% with Russia in the next 5 years.

10% say there’s a good chance they’d join the military under these conditions.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teddy Landis, Student Chair</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amal Abdi</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustin Chiang</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td>Erik Fliegauf</td>
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<td>Myer Johnson-Potter</td>
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<td>Katherine Liu</td>
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<td>Olivia McGinnis</td>
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<td>Laura Thorsett</td>
<td>2018</td>
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