



Survey of Young Americans' Attitudes toward Politics and Public Service
18th Edition: September 24 – October 4, 2010
N=2,004 18-29 Year Olds in English and Spanish (with Knowledge Networks)
Margin of Error for entire sample: 2.2% at the 95% level
Margin of Error for college students: 5.0% at the 95% level

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
High school	2%	*
Trade/Vocational school	2%	*
2-year junior college or community college.....	13%	2%
4-year college or university	19%	100%
Graduate school	4%	1%
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.....	58%	-

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

2. In which year of college are you?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
First year student/Freshman.....	-	19%
Second year student/Sophomore.....	-	24%
Third year student/Junior	-	28%
Fourth year student/Senior	-	20%
Fifth year student or higher.....	-	10%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Yes	66%	77%
No.....	28%	21%
Don't know	6%	3%

[If respondent was over 18 in 2008, 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 4th, 2008?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=1,735)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=273)
I was registered	64%	80%
I thought about registering, but didn't	4%	3%
I tried to register, but was unable to.....	1%	1%
I was not registered to vote on Nov. 4	22%	11%
Not sure.....	9%	4%

5. Which of the following statements best describes your voting in the last presidential election held on November 4th, 2008?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=1,735)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=273)
I voted at a polling place.....	43%	46%
I voted early	4%	8%
I voted by absentee ballot	10%	18%
I planned on voting, but wasn't able to.....	5%	6%
I did not vote in this election.....	37%	22%
I went to the polling place, but wasn't allowed to vote.....	1%	*

6. How likely is it that you will vote in the 2010 elections for Congress?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Definitely will be voting	27%	35%
Probably will be voting	16%	17%
50/50	21%	23%
Probably won't be voting	18%	15%
Definitely won't be voting	18%	10%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
<u>NET: Democrat</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>39%</u>
Strong Democrat	15%	17%
Not a very strong Democrat	21%	21%
<u>NET: Republican</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>25%</u>
Strong Republican	10%	14%
Not a very strong Republican	12%	11%
<u>NET: Independent</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>36%</u>
Leans Democrat	9%	11%
Leans Republican	7%	8%
Does not lean either way	25%	17%
Decline	1%	1%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
NET: Liberal	37%	48%
Liberal	25%	33%
Moderate leaning liberal	12%	15%
Moderate	27%	19%
NET: Conservative	34%	32%
Moderate leaning conservative	9%	8%
Conservative	25%	24%
Decline to answer.....	2%	2%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Supporter.....	11%	14%
Not a supporter.....	34%	35%
Not sure.....	54%	50%

[If respondent was over 18 in 2008, and “Voted” in Q5, ask]

10. For whom did you vote for president in 2008?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=994)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=195)
Barack Obama.....	57%	56%
John McCain	33%	37%
Someone else	3%	4%
Don't remember	2%	1%
Decline to answer.....	5%	2%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Yes	18%	27%
No.....	80%	72%
Decline to answer.....	2%	2%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Generally headed in the right direction.....	18%	25%
Off on the wrong track.....	39%	40%
Not sure what direction country is headed in.	41%	33%
Decline to answer.....	1%	3%

13. Thinking about national issues for a moment, which issue concerns you most?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
<u>NET: Economy</u>	<u>53%</u>	<u>50%</u>
General	34%	36%
Jobs	7%	6%
Unemployment/Job loss	4%	2%
National Debt/Budget deficit	2%	2%
Employment	2%	1%
Financial stability	1%	1%
Taxes	1%	1%
Government spending	1%	1%
Money issues	1%	-
Recession	*	-
<u>NET: Health Care</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>11%</u>
Health care, general	10%	10%
Universal health care	1%	1%
Medical/health insurance	1%	-
<u>NET: National Security</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>5%</u>
War/Military	3%	5%
Terrorism	1%	*
Iraq	*	*
Afghanistan	*	-
National security	1%	*
Foreign policy/affairs	1%	*
Immigration	7%	5%
Education	4%	6%
Moral issues	3%	2%
Environment	2%	3%
Energy	1%	2%
Gay rights	1%	2%
Abortion	1%	1%
Government/political corruption	1%	*
Loss of Constitutional rights	1%	2%
President Obama/lack of leadership	1%	*
Too much government control	1%	1%
Socialism	*	*
Global warming	*	*
Other issues	4%	3%
Don't know/No answer	3%	3%

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

14. Barack Obama as President

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	49%	51%
Disapprove	48%	46%
Decline to answer.....	3%	2%

15. The Democrats in Congress

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	39%	42%
Disapprove	57%	55%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

16. The Republicans in Congress

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	28%	37%
Disapprove	68%	60%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Controlled by Democrats	53%	56%
Controlled by Republicans.....	42%	40%
Decline to answer.....	6%	4%

[Split sample; half the sample asked Q18 and Q20, half the sample asked Q19 and Q21]

18. If Barack Obama runs for reelection in 2012, in general, are you more likely to vote for Obama, or for the Republican Party’s candidate for president?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=976)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=201)
Obama	31%	31%
Republican	30%	36%
Don’t know	38%	33%
Decline to answer.....	1%	-

19. If Barack Obama were the Democratic Party's candidate and Newt Gingrich were the Republican Party's candidate, who would you be more likely to vote for: Obama, the Democrat, or Gingrich, the Republican?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=1,028)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=183)
Obama	44%	47%
Gingrich	14%	15%
Don’t know	39%	32%
Decline to answer.....	3%	7%

20. If Barack Obama were the Democratic Party's candidate and Sarah Palin were the Republican Party's candidate, who would you be more likely to vote for: Obama, the Democrat, or Palin, the Republican?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=976)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=201)
Obama	48%	58%
Palin	23%	26%
Don’t know	28%	15%
Decline to answer.....	2%	-

21. If Barack Obama were the Democratic Party's candidate and Mitt Romney were the Republican Party's candidate, who would you be more likely to vote for: Obama, the Democrat, or Romney, the Republican?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=1,028)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=183)
Obama.....	43%	46%
Romney.....	18%	23%
Don't know.....	37%	26%
Decline to answer.....	3%	6%

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

22. Health care

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	47%	48%
Disapprove.....	50%	49%
Decline to answer.....	3%	2%

23. The federal budget deficit

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	36%	35%
Disapprove.....	61%	62%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

24. Afghanistan

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	44%	49%
Disapprove.....	52%	49%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

25. The economy

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Approve.....	39%	42%
Disapprove.....	58%	55%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

26. Iran		
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>4-Year</u>
	<u>18-29</u>	<u>College</u>
Approve.....	43%	48%
Disapprove	53%	49%
Decline to answer.....	4%	4%

27. Gulf oil spill		
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>4-Year</u>
	<u>18-29</u>	<u>College</u>
Approve.....	49%	54%
Disapprove	48%	44%
Decline to answer.....	3%	3%

28. Immigration		
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>4-Year</u>
	<u>18-29</u>	<u>College</u>
Approve.....	37%	39%
Disapprove	59%	58%
Decline to answer.....	4%	3%

Switching gears now, next we will focus on issues related to immigration. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

29. Immigration from the first half of the 20th century (1900s) into this country has done more good than harm.

	<u>Total:</u>	<u>4-Year</u>
	<u>18-29</u>	<u>College</u>
NET: Agree.....	41%	45%
Strongly agree	20%	21%
Somewhat agree	21%	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	34%	27%
NET: Disagree	22%	23%
Somewhat disagree	11%	15%
Strongly disagree	12%	8%
Decline to answer.....	3%	4%

30. Recent immigration into this country has done more good than harm.

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
<u>NET: Agree</u>	28%	33%
Strongly agree	11%	10%
Somewhat agree	17%	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	33%	28%
<u>NET: Disagree</u>	35%	34%
Somewhat disagree	18%	22%
Strongly disagree	17%	12%
Decline to answer.....	3%	5%

31. Recent immigration into this country – from Latin America – has done more good than harm.

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
<u>NET: Agree</u>	26%	30%
Strongly agree	11%	9%
Somewhat agree	15%	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	38%	32%
<u>NET: Disagree</u>	33%	34%
Somewhat disagree	17%	21%
Strongly disagree	16%	13%
Decline to answer.....	3%	5%

32. Recent immigration into this country – from Asia – has done more good than harm.

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
NET: Agree.....	29%	36%
Strongly agree	11%	12%
Somewhat agree	18%	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	44%	37%
NET: Disagree	24%	23%
Somewhat disagree	13%	16%
Strongly disagree	11%	7%
Decline to answer.....	3%	4%

33. How serious a problem do you think the issue of ILLEGAL immigration is for the country right now?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
NET: Serious	78%	78%
Very serious	38%	38%
Somewhat serious	40%	40%
NET: Not serious.....	20%	20%
Not too serious	16%	18%
Not at all serious	4%	2%

34. What should be the main focus of the U.S. government in dealing with the issue of ILLEGAL immigration? (Originally asked by: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll)

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Developing a plan that would allow illegal immigrants who have jobs to become legal U.S. residents	47%	46%
Developing a plan for stopping the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S. and for deporting those already here*	50%	51%
Decline to answer.....	3%	3%

* Though a double-barreled response, this question was asked in order to compare the results of our poll with national polling on this issue; the findings are not part of our final report and analysis.

35. As you may know, the proposed bi-partisan DREAM Act in Congress would make it possible for illegal immigrant students who arrived in the U.S. as minors the opportunity to gain permanent residency as long as they attend college or serve in the U.S. military. Do you favor or oppose the DREAM Act?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
NET: Favor	64%	68%
Strongly favor	24%	24%
Somewhat favor	40%	44%
NET: Oppose	31%	29%
Somewhat oppose	20%	17%
Strongly oppose	11%	12%
Decline to answer.....	4%	4%

36. As you may know, the state of Arizona recently passed a law that gives the police the power to question someone they have already stopped, detained, or arrested about their legal status in the country. The law requires people to produce documents verifying their status if asked. Do you think this law goes too far in dealing with the issue of ILLEGAL immigration, doesn't go far enough, or is about right?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Too far.....	36%	39%
Not far enough	20%	14%
About right.....	41%	44%
Decline to answer.....	3%	3%

37. As you may know, there is a proposal to build an Islamic cultural center and mosque in downtown New York City, a few blocks from the site of the World Trade Center. From what you've read and heard, do you agree more with:

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Those who object to the building of this center.....	41%	42%
Those who think the center should be allowed to be built.....	25%	32%
Not sure.....	32%	24%
Decline to answer.....	2%	2%

38. The tax cuts that were passed in 2001 will expire this year if they are not continued. Which of the following best describes what you think Congress should do about the tax cuts? (Originally asked by: GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media) **[Options rotated]**

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Allow the tax cuts for people earning more than \$250,000 to expire, but continue them for other people	44%	45%
Continue the tax cuts for everyone	38%	36%
Allow the tax cuts to expire for everyone.....	14%	15%
Decline to answer.....	4%	4%

39. Nearly 50 years ago, in his inaugural address, President Kennedy said to the American people, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” Can you, yourself, at this time, think of anything you could do for your country?

[Responses to this question will be released in January 2011]

40. In the next few years, nearly one-third of middle and senior management in the state and federal government will retire. How interested are you personally in working for either the state or federal government?

[Responses to this question will be released in January 2011]

41. How confident are you that you know where to find more information / assistance in finding state and federal government job information?

[Responses to this question will be released in January 2011]

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Catholic.....	22%	23%
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian	13%	14%
Protestant.....	11%	14%
Jewish.....	2%	2%
LDS/Mormon.....	2%	3%
Muslim	*	*
No religious preference.....	20%	24%
Another religion	13%	11%
Decline to answer.....	11%	4%
Not sure.....	4%	2%

[If “Catholic, Fundamentalist/Evangelical, LDS/Mormon, Protestant, or another religion, or not sure” in Q42, ask]

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u> (n=1,306)	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=256)
Yes	34%	34%
No.....	47%	52%
Not sure.....	12%	7%
Decline to answer.....	6%	5%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Cell phone	80%	94%
Landline phone service	35%	23%
VOIP phone service	3%	2%
None of these	5%	2%

45. Do you have health care coverage?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Yes	64%	79%
No.....	29%	15%
Not sure.....	6%	4%
Declined to answer.....	1%	2%

[If currently enrolled 4-year college, ask Q46-Q50]

46. Is your college/university...?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
Public	-	71%
Private	-	27%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
In an urban or city area	-	52%
In a suburban area next to a city	-	26%
In small town or rural area	-	19%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
Less than 1,000	-	4%
1,000 - 4,999	-	26%
5,000 - 9,999	-	21%
10,000 - 19,999	-	24%
20,000 or more	-	24%
Decline to answer.....	-	1%

49. Where do you live while attending college?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
In an on-campus dormitory	-	26%
In fraternity/sorority housing	-	2%
In a campus-owned apartment	-	6%
In an apartment/house that is not campus-owned (not with parents)	-	35%
At home, with my parents	-	24%
Somewhere else	-	6%

50. Are you a...?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u> (n=383)
Full-time student	-	88%
Part-time student	-	12%

51. What is your gender?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Male	51%	55%
Female	50%	45%

52. What is your race and ethnicity?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
White, Non-Hispanic	60%	61%
Black, Non-Hispanic	13%	13%
Hispanic	19%	14%
Other, Non-Hispanic	6%	10%
2 or more races, Non-Hispanic	2%	2%

53. What region do you live in?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Northeast.....	18%	20%
Midwest.....	22%	26%
South.....	36%	33%
West.....	25%	22%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Non-metro (rural).....	14%	12%
Metro.....	86%	88%

55. Age:

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
18.....	5%	10%
19.....	9%	19%
20.....	10%	21%
21.....	7%	15%
22.....	9%	8%
23.....	9%	7%
24.....	10%	6%
25.....	6%	4%
26.....	7%	1%
27.....	9%	2%
28.....	10%	2%
29.....	11%	5%

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

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Married.....	26%	8%
Widowed.....	*	-
Divorced.....	1%	*
Separated.....	2%	1%
Never married.....	56%	83%
Living with partner.....	15%	9%

57. Do you have Internet access in your home?

	<u>Total:</u> <u>18-29</u>	<u>4-Year</u> <u>College</u>
Yes.....	78%	93%
No.....	22%	7%

Weighting Methodology

For this survey, a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults (18 to 29 years old) was selected. 2,004 respondents completed the survey, with 148 interviews conducted in Spanish. Responses were weighted to merge the Spanish-speakers with the overall panel, ensuring correct proportional fitting of Spanish-speaking members relative to other English-speaking Hispanic and non-Hispanic panel members. Data was also weighted to reflect known population density by gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, census region, metropolitan area, and Internet access. These adjustments, while minor, allow for us to draw conclusions about the population of 18-29 year olds, based on our sample.

A word about the sub-samples. The college sub-sample is exclusively those students who reported that they were enrolled in a four-year degree program at the college level. The non-college sample is not currently enrolled in a four-year program but does represent varied educational backgrounds including high school students, community college and 2-year-college students, graduate programs students, students enrolled in other degree granting programs, and students not enrolled in any form of education at the time of the survey.
