

Youth Leadership Initiative
2015 Youth Voter Survey

Do your parents/guardians vote?

RESPONSE	VOTES
Yes, my parents/guardians vote.	65.27%
I don't know if my parents/guardians vote.	15.28%
No, my parents/guardians don't vote.	11.45%
Abstain	4.44%
My parents are not eligible to vote.	2.50%
Write Ins	1.06%

Have you attended a voting location with your parents/guardians?

RESPONSE	VOTES
No, I have not visited a voting location.	48.61%
Yes, I have visited a voting location.	37.97%
Abstain	9.11%
My parent/guardian abstains from voting.	1.98%
My parent/guardian votes using an absentee ballot.	1.33%
Write Ins	0.99%

How often do you discuss political issues in your home?

RESPONSE	VOTES
We discuss political issues once a week or so.	27.71%
We never discuss political issues.	25.91%
We discuss political issues approximately once a month.	23.90%
We discuss political issues everyday.	10.75%
Abstain	7.33%
Write Ins	4.39%

How would you compare your political views to your parents'/guardians'?

RESPONSE	VOTES
My political views are similar to those of my parents/guardians.	41.20%
I am not aware of my parents political views.	23.92%
My political views are more liberal than those of my parents/guardians.	14.36%
Abstain	10.52%
My political views are more conservative than those of my parents/guardians.	8.16%
Write Ins	1.84%

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Which term best describes your political ideology?

RESPONSE	VOTES
Moderate- Both liberal and conservative	28.98%
Abstain	17.34%
Moderately Conservative	16.44%
Moderately Liberal	14.71%
Strongly Conservative	11.18%
Strongly Liberal	8.07%
Write Ins	3.27%

Which political party do your parent(s)/guardian(s) associate their political views with?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I don't know	30.83%
Republican Party	23.11%
Democratic Party	20.17%
Abstain	11.71%
Independent- No Political Affiliation	4.67%
Parents have differing views	4.65%
Libertarian Party	1.34%
Other Party	1.29%
Green Party	1.27%
Write Ins	0.96%

Will you vote in local/state/and federal elections when you reach voting age?

RESPONSE	VOTES
Yes- I will vote in LOCAL, STATE and FEDERAL races	62.84%
Abstain	14.29%
I will ONLY vote in FEDERAL races	8.87%
No, I will not vote in local, state, and federal races.	6.85%
No, I will not vote for religious reasons.	3.64%
Write Ins	3.52%

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Do you think your individual vote makes a difference in an election?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I believe that my vote makes some difference in an election.	35.66%
I believe my vote is very influential in an election.	26.78%
I believe that my vote has very little difference in an election.	16.55%
Abstain	11.78%
My vote does not make any difference in an election.	7.81%
Write Ins	1.43%

My political views most closely align with the following party:

RESPONSE	VOTES
The Democratic Party	23.54%
The Republican Party	22.05%
I don't know enough about my political views to answer this question.	21.20%
Abstain	10.83%
I consider myself an Independent	8.07%
I choose not to associate my views with a political party.	7.74%
The Libertarian Party	3.24%
The Green Party	1.99%
Write Ins	1.34%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The political decisions being made still affect teenagers, even if you don't vote. It's very important to be involved and understand politics." (Charlie Luke)

RESPONSE	VOTES
I agree with this statement.	32.82%
I strongly agree with this statement.	31.79%
Abstain	11.98%
I neither agree or disagree with this statement.	10.84%
I have no opinion on this statement.	7.80%
I disagree with this statement.	2.97%
I strongly disagree with this statement.	1.18%
Write Ins	0.61%

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How do you respond when a peer speaks out on a political issue and you do not agree?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I ask them to explain their response and respectfully share my ideas.	43.07%
I ignore their comment.	21.38%
Abstain	15.96%
I argue with them and try to convince them they are wrong.	10.78%
I feel mad and become frustrated with the person.	6.34%
Write Ins	2.47%

Does social media promote civil discussion, compromise and cooperation?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I agree that social media does promote discussion, compromise and cooperation.	40.11%
Abstain	15.94%
I do not believe that social media promotes discussion, compromise and cooperation.	15.72%
I have no views on the role of social media in politics.	15.67%
Social media neither promotes or impedes civil discussion, compromise or cooperation.	10.54%
Write Ins	2.02%

Which, if any, form of social media do you use MOST OFTEN to communicate or learn about political issues?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I do not use social media to communicate/learn about political issues.	28.06%
I use Instagram	16.64%
Abstain	13.98%
I use Facebook.	13.81%
I use Twitter	12.16%
I use another form of social media.	8.14%
Write Ins	3.66%
I use Tumblr	3.55%

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Which forms of traditional media do you MOST OFTEN use to get political information and news?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I get my political news from the television.	40.66%
I get my political news from the internet.	21.57%
Abstain	12.82%
I do not follow politics.	12.36%
I get my political news from the radio.	4.12%
I get my political news from the newspaper.	3.53%
I get my political news from a source not listed.	3.07%
Write Ins	1.86%

Which of the following are you MOST likely to visit for political information?

RESPONSE	VOTES
Fox News	19.90%
CNN- Cable News Network	16.29%
Major Network News- ABC, CBS, NBC	14.09%
Abstain	13.37%
I do NOT follow politics.	13.15%
Late Night Comedy Shows/ Conan/Late Night/Comedy Central, etc.	10.65%
I do not visit any of these sources for political information.	7.78%
MSNBC News	2.50%
Write Ins	2.26%

Do you believe that the source of your political information is biased in its coverage of political information?

RESPONSE	VOTES
No, I don't believe that my source is biased.	25.65%
Abstain	19.73%
I do not follow politics and have no opinion on this topic.	18.52%
Yes, I believe my source is slightly biased towards liberal views.	17.19%
Yes, I believe my source is slightly biased towards conservative views.	10.15%
Yes, I believe my source is highly biased towards liberal views.	3.68%
Yes, I believe that my source is highly biased towards conservative views.	2.67%
Write Ins	2.41%

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How informed do you consider yourself on current political issues? (Terrorism, Taxation, Social issues, etc.)

RESPONSE	VOTES
I am informed on current political issues.	28.65%
I consider myself well informed on current political issues.	19.39%
I am not well informed about current political issues.	17.17%
Abstain	14.08%
I do not know anything about current political issues.	10.51%
I consider myself extremely well-informed about current political issues.	9.35%
Write Ins	0.85%

Our system of government will become stronger and more effective with increased youth civic engagement.

RESPONSE	VOTES
I agree with this statement.	28.33%
I strongly agree with this statement.	20.15%
I neither agree or disagree with this statement.	18.26%
Abstain	14.19%
I have no opinion on this statement.	12.12%
I disagree with this statement.	4.39%
I strongly disagree with this statement.	1.94%
Write Ins	0.62%

How effective has your government class been to your understanding of the voting process? (registration, voting district, elected officials, polls, etc.)

RESPONSE	VOTES
My civics/government class gave me some insight into the voting process.	30.27%
My civics/government class was highly effective in my understanding of the voting process	27.97%
Abstain	15.61%
I have not taken a civics or government course.	11.90%
My civics/government class provided little knowledge of the voting process.	9.16%
No information about the voting process was provided in my civics/government class.	4.06%
Write Ins	1.03%

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How likely is it that you will register and vote as soon as you are eligible?

RESPONSE	VOTES
I definitely will!	37.61%
I am very likely to register and vote.	26.43%
I am unsure about whether I will register and vote.	13.98%
Abstain	11.61%
It is very unlikely that I will vote.	4.22%
I won't vote in future elections.	2.87%
I am not eligible to vote even upon turning 18.	2.13%
Write Ins	1.15%