



University of  
Massachusetts  
Lowell

Center for Public Opinion

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<http://www.uml.edu/polls>

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# Citizen Attitudes about Democratic Values and American Democracy

**Survey Conducted by YouGov**

6/27/17-7/6/17

N=1,000 American Adults

Margin of Error: +/-4.3% (adjusted for weights)

National Internet Panel Survey matched to 2010 ACS

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**Survey Analysis by Dr. Joshua J. Dyck**

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## Methodology

This poll was independently funded by the University of Massachusetts Lowell, designed and analyzed by the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion and fielded by YouGov. Data was collected online using YouGov's convenience sample. YouGov interviewed 1,057 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 1,000 to produce the final data set. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, census region, ideology and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, voter registration, non-identification with a major party, ideology, and census region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The sample is representative of the U.S. population with a credibility interval of +/-4.3% when adjusted for weighting.

Please indicate how much you AGREE or DISAGREE with each statement. [Q001-Q006]

Q001 People in the minority should be free to try to win majority support for their opinions.

- 5% Strongly Disagree
- 5 Somewhat Disagree
- 29 Neither agree nor disagree
- 26 Somewhat Agree
- 36 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	7	4	3	3	6	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	7	5	10	3	4
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	17	46	30	16	38	27
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	28	17	31	20	24	33
<b>Strongly agree</b>	45	26	32	51	29	32

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	8	1	12	6	1	1	2
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7	3	7	6	11	2	3
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	25	32	31	31	34	26	25
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	22	30	21	26	19	32	27
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38	34	30	31	35	39	43

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	8	3	2	6	9	2	5
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7	6	3	*	8	5	5	3
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	37	29	17	11	33	20	35	14
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	28	26	24	20	27	35	19	29
<b>Strongly agree</b>	25	31	53	67	27	31	40	50

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	1	13	4	8	5	4	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	5	4	6	5	2	4	10	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	25	54	27	27	36	27	26	29
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	28	20	26	16	23	28	27	25
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38	24	28	48	32	36	34	41

Q002 Public officials should be chosen by majority vote.

4% Strongly Disagree  
 6 Somewhat Disagree  
 16 Neither agree nor disagree  
 29 Somewhat Agree  
 46 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	5	5	3	2	7
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	5	8	3	6	7
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	12	23	15	7	20	18
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	23	34	31	29	29	28
<b>Strongly agree</b>	59	33	40	57	43	40

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	6	2	3	2	5	4	5
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7	5	13	5	3	3	4
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	15	17	14	23	17	17	10
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	26	31	33	28	30	27	27
<b>Strongly agree</b>	46	45	38	42	45	48	54

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	6	3	1	2	3	5	3	4
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	3	9	5	4	6	5	4	6
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	25	10	9	11	14	21	15	11
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	30	29	29	26	31	30	24	27
<b>Strongly agree</b>	36	50	56	56	46	40	53	52

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	5	1	1	7	6	3	3	4
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	11	8	9	11	6	3	5
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	12	24	26	27	21	14	14	18
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	29	34	26	21	35	39	32	26
<b>Strongly agree</b>	51	30	39	37	38	48	48	47

Q003 I believe in free speech for all, no matter what their views might be.

2% Strongly Disagree  
 6 Somewhat Disagree  
 13 Neither agree nor disagree  
 33 Somewhat Agree  
 45 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	1	5	2	3	1	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	8	3	6	8	5	6
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	9	24	10	8	18	11
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	35	29	34	31	32	35
<b>Strongly agree</b>	48	40	47	50	43	45

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	2	4	1	4	2	*
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	8	4	7	9	6	5	5
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	11	15	21	20	14	8	7
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	28	38	31	28	25	37	39
<b>Strongly agree</b>	50	41	38	43	51	48	49

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	4	2	0	*	3	6	1	1
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7	4	8	6	5	4	7	9
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	19	12	7	3	19	12	9	4
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	36	30	32	31	30	40	32	34
<b>Strongly agree</b>	35	52	53	59	43	37	51	52

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	4	5	0	7	2	2	*
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	6	5	8	6	9	3	6	7
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	11	33	10	9	19	13	11	12
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	36	23	26	39	27	35	38	28
<b>Strongly agree</b>	46	34	51	46	39	47	43	53

Q004 No matter what a person's political views are, s/he is entitled to the same legal protections as anyone else.

2% Strongly Disagree  
 3 Somewhat Disagree  
 11 Neither agree nor disagree  
 21 Somewhat Agree  
 63 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	3	2	3	2	2
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	3	3	3	4	3	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	6	20	9	8	15	9
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	19	20	24	15	19	27
<b>Strongly agree</b>	70	54	62	70	62	60

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	4	*	1	4	7	1	0
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	5	1	2	9	2	1	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	8	14	15	16	13	7	8
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	21	21	27	17	13	21	23
<b>Strongly agree</b>	63	63	55	55	65	71	68

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	2	0	*	4	2	1	*
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	2	2	2	4	3	3	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	19	7	3	3	14	11	9	3
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	19	27	20	12	23	19	17	20
<b>Strongly agree</b>	55	62	75	82	55	65	69	75

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	4	*	*	3	1	1	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	1	4	8	6	4	1	4	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	7	29	15	11	14	13	9	10
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	21	25	17	19	26	20	23	14
<b>Strongly agree</b>	68	38	59	63	53	64	63	71

Q005 It is important that people should be allowed to express unpopular opinions without fear of punishment.

2% Strongly Disagree  
 4 Somewhat Disagree  
 12 Neither agree nor disagree  
 29 Somewhat Agree  
 53 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	3	1	3	2	2
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	2	5	7	4	4	6
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	9	20	8	12	14	8
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	31	24	31	25	30	31
<b>Strongly agree</b>	55	48	54	57	50	53

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	1	3	4	3	1	0
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7	2	8	5	1	4	2
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	10	13	17	17	17	7	5
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	27	31	25	30	23	31	35
<b>Strongly agree</b>	53	53	47	45	56	58	57

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	2	1	0	4	1	1	*
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	5	6	1	2	2	11	1	4
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	20	6	5	5	19	9	8	3
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	30	30	27	25	31	21	33	30
<b>Strongly agree</b>	42	56	66	68	44	58	58	62

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	0	*	1	3	1	1	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	5	9	2	10	3	5	1
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	7	34	15	13	15	10	11	10
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	57	32	56	46	28	28	31	28
<b>Strongly agree</b>	56	32	56	46	44	58	51	58

Q006 The media should be able to report the news without government censorship.

2% Strongly Disagree  
 7 Somewhat Disagree  
 16 Neither agree nor disagree  
 20 Somewhat Agree  
 55 Strongly Agree

	Party ID (leaned)			Ideology		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Liberal	Moderate	Cons.
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	2	2	1	3	2
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	4	12	7	6	8	7
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	9	26	17	10	19	18
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	17	17	26	11	20	27
<b>Strongly agree</b>	67	43	49	72	50	47

	Gender		Age				
	Men	Women	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	1	3	4	*	1	1
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	8	6	6	12	7	5	6
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	13	19	21	18	22	10	16
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	18	23	21	18	14	21	25
<b>Strongly agree</b>	59	51	49	48	56	63	53

	Education				Income			
	High School or less	Some College	College Degree	Post-Grad	Less than \$30K	\$30K-\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K +
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	2	2	1	*	4	1	2	1
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	10	7	3	3	10	9	5	4
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	27	12	5	2	18	14	17	6
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	23	19	18	14	23	20	20	19
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38	59	73	81	45	56	57	70

	Race				Region			
	White	Black	Latino	Other	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	3	1	*	0	1	1	2	3
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	5	10	13	7	9	5	9	4
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	12	38	16	23	20	16	16	13
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	22	17	17	13	21	23	21	16
<b>Strongly agree</b>	58	35	53	58	49	55	52	64

We would like to know how stringently you think certain groups adhere to democratic principles in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. For each group, please indicate whether you think that the group will defend that principle no matter what, or whether they are unlikely to defend the principle if it seen as against their interest. [Q007-Q018]

**Democrats**

Principle	Will defend no matter what	Unlikely to defend if not in their interest
Freedom of speech	59	41
Freedom of religion	54	46
Freedom of the press	58	42
The right to peacefully assemble	61	39
Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures	56	44
Separation of powers with an independent judiciary	51	49

**Republicans**

Principle	Will defend no matter what	Unlikely to defend if not in their interest
Freedom of speech	59	41
Freedom of religion	56	44
Freedom of the press	46	54
The right to peacefully assemble	54	46
Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures	50	50
Separation of powers with an independent judiciary	49	51

**Democrats by Party ID**

Principle	Will defend no matter what			Unlikely to defend if not in their interest		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Freedom of speech	83	51	37	17	49	63
Freedom of religion	78	48	31	22	52	69
Freedom of the press	80	48	38	20	51	62
The right to peacefully assemble	84	47	44	16	53	56
Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures	77	44	39	23	56	61
Separation of powers with an independent judiciary	73	43	30	27	57	70

**Republicans by Party ID**

Principle	Will defend no matter what			Unlikely to defend if not in their interest		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Freedom of speech	41	56	83	59	44	17
Freedom of religion	37	47	85	63	53	15
Freedom of the press	28	40	72	72	60	28
The right to peacefully assemble	33	48	84	67	52	16
Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures	31	46	77	69	54	23
Separation of powers with an independent judiciary	27	45	79	73	55	21



Now we would like to ask you some questions about some issues that have been in the news.

[Q701-704 – randomly assign equal # of respondents to a/b/c group; different randomization for each question]

**CONTROL GROUP (N=319)**

Q701a Do you think that controversial figures should be allowed to speak on college campuses, or do you think that there are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit them from speaking?

- 48% Controversial figures should be allowed to speak on college campuses
- 52 There are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit them a controversial figure from speaking

**TREATMENT 1 (N=330)**

Q701b Do you think that controversial figures **like conservative activist Ann Coulter** should be allowed to speak on college campuses, or do you think that there are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit them from speaking?

- 54% Controversial figures like Ann Coulter should be allowed to speak on college campuses
- 46 There are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit a controversial figure like Ann Coulter from speaking

**TREATMENT 2 (N=323)**

Q701c Do you think that controversial figures **like liberal activist Michael Moore** should be allowed to speak on college campuses, or do you think that there are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit them from speaking?

- 54% Controversial figures like Michael Moore should be allowed to speak on college campuses
- 46 There are legitimate reasons why a college might prohibit a controversial figure like Michael Moore from speaking

Q701 Group	Allow Free Speech			Limit Free Speech		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Control	49	41	53	51	59	47
Treatment 1 (Ann Coulter)	44	54	72	56	46	28
Treatment 2 (Michael Moore)	59	44	56	41	56	44

Q702a Do you think that it is appropriate for a sitting president to openly criticize members of the judicial branch of government, or do you think that it is inappropriate?

- 40% It is appropriate for a sitting President to criticize members of the judicial branch
- 60 It is inappropriate for a sitting President to criticize members of the judicial branch

Q702b *As you may know, a federal judge recently issued an emergency hold against President Trump’s immigration executive order. After the ruling was announced, President Trump used Twitter to criticize the decision, referring to the judge as “this so-called judge” and stating that “if something happens, blame him and the court system.”*

Do you think that it was appropriate for President Trump to openly criticize members of the judicial branch of government, or do you think that it was inappropriate?

- 29% It was appropriate for President Trump to criticize members of the judicial branch
- 71 It was inappropriate for President Trump to criticize members of the judicial branch

Q702c *As you may know, during his 2012 State of the Union address, President Barack Obama criticized the Supreme Court’s decision on Citizens United. Obama stated, “last week the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that, I believe, will open the floodgates for special interests, including foreign corporations, to spend without limit in our elections.”*

Do you think that it was appropriate for President Obama to openly criticize members of the judicial branch in front of the nation, or do you think that it was inappropriate?

- 51% It was appropriate for President Obama to criticize members of the judicial branch
- 49 It was inappropriate for President Obama to criticize members of the judicial branch

Q702 Group	Appropriate to Criticize Judicial Branch			Inappropriate to Criticize Judicial Branch		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep
Control	22	50	62	78	50	38
Treatment 1 (Trump)	12	32	47	88	68	53
Treatment 2 (Obama)	74	49	30	26	51	70

Q703a If members of a group hold a rally to protest, and some of the participants in the rally chant derogatory terms, do you think they should have the right to hold another rally, or do you think that their right to hold rallies should be forfeited?

- 63% They should have the right to hold another rally
- 37 Their right to hold rallies should be forfeited

Q703b If members of the group *Black Lives Matter* held a rally to protest police brutality, and some of the participants chanted derogatory terms for police officers, do you think they should have the right to hold another rally, or do you think that their right to hold rallies should be forfeited?

- 69% They should have the right to hold another rally
- 31 Their right to hold rallies should be forfeited

Q703c If members of the *Alt-Right* held a rally and some of the participants chanted derogatory terms for minorities, do you think they should have the right to hold another rally, or do you think that their right to hold rallies should be forfeited?

- 61% They should have the right to hold another rally
- 39 Their right to hold rallies should be forfeited

Q703 Group	Right to Hold Another Rally			Forfeit Right to Hold Another Rally		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Control	73	58	54	27	41	46
Treatment 1 (Black Lives Matter)	83	67	49	17	33	51
Treatment 2 (Alt-right)	66	50	65	34	50	35

Q704a If a journalist runs a story with unnamed sources criticizing a well-known elected official, should the elected official be able to force the journalist to name their sources, or should the journalist be allowed to protect their sources?

- 34% The elected official should be able to force the journalist to name their sources
- 66 The journalist should be allowed to protect their sources

Q704b If a journalist runs a story with unnamed sources, stating that the Trump administration had colluded with Russia to influence the election, should the Trump administration be able to force the journalist to name their sources, or should the journalist be allowed to protect their sources?

- 33% The Trump administration should be able to force the journalist to name their sources
- 67 The journalist should be allowed to protect their sources

Q704c If, during the Obama Administration, a journalist ran a story with unnamed sources, claiming that President Obama had ordered the NSA to gather intelligence on U.S. citizens, should the Obama administration have been able to force the journalist to name their sources, or should the journalist have been allowed to protect their sources?

- 27% The Obama administration should be able to force the journalist to name their sources
- 73 The journalist should be allowed to protect their sources

Q704 Group	Force Journalists to Reveal Sources			Journalists Should be Allowed to Protect Sources		
	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Control	29	27	48	71	73	52
Treatment 1 (Trump Admin)	13	36	52	87	64	48
Treatment 2 (Obama Admin)	30	34	19	70	66	81

Summary of Experiments Group	Democrats			Republicans		
	Base support	Control – T1	Control – T2	Base support	Control – T1	Control – T2
Q701 – Allow controversial figures to speak on college campuses	49	-5	+10	53	+19	+3
Q702 – Appropriate for President to criticize judges	78	+10	-52	38	+15	+32
Q703 – Freedom of assembly even if shouting derogatory terms	73	+10	-7	54	-5	+11
Q704 – Freedom of the Press; protection of sources	71	+16	-1	52	-4	+29