



NEW SURVEY REVEALS INCREASING SENSE OF POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

In the wake of recent protests and demonstrations, 46 percent of 15- to 34-year-olds believe they can have an impact on the government, up nine points since March.

CHICAGO, May 30, 2018 — Young people largely hold a negative outlook on the current political landscape in America and are dissatisfied with the government’s handling of key issues, according to a new poll of Americans age 15 to 34 by MTV and [The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#). However, compared to the first MTV/AP-NORC Youth Political Pulse survey in March 2018, more young people, especially those ages 15 to 22, feel like their generation can have an impact on the government.

“We found that young people feel pretty negative about the state of the government, but there is some optimism,” said Trevor Tompson, vice president for public affairs research at NORC. “After recent protests and demonstrations, more young people, 34 percent vs. 25 percent, say elected officials care at least a moderate amount about what people like them think. Also, 46 percent believe people like them can affect the government at least a moderate amount, more than the 37 percent who did in March. Their opinions appear to be in reaction to recent events.”

Key findings from the survey include:

- In the wake of recent protests and demonstrations, 46 percent of young people age 15 to 34 believe that people like themselves can affect the government at least a moderate amount, an increase from 37 percent in the March 2018 poll. Among 15- to 22-year-olds, that sentiment rose 15 points, to 48 percent.
- More than two-thirds of 15- to 34-year-olds are disillusioned with the two major political parties and feel a third party is needed.
- Similar to the March 2018 survey, just under half of respondents are optimistic and a slight majority are pessimistic about the future of the U.S. Four in 10 have felt angry or anxious about the state of the country in the past month, while 1 in 10 has felt excited or positive.

Young people give poor marks to the federal government on its handling of many public policy issues, including, foreign relations, the cost of higher education, immigration, health care, income inequality, taxes, sexual harassment and assault, abortion, racism, and others.

About the Survey

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with



funding from MTV and NORC at the University of Chicago. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and MTV collaborated on all aspects of the study. This survey is the second in a multiwave series of polls highlighting the voices of the youngest generation of voters age 15-34. This nationwide poll by MTV and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research surveyed a total of 939 young people, including 148 teens age 15-17, 410 adults age 18-26, and 381 adults age 27-34. Detailed information on the study's methods is available at www.apnorc.org.

About MTV

MTV is a global youth culture brand inspired by music. For more information, check out mtvpress.com. MTV is a unit of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIAB, VIA)

About The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

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The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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