



# **Student Civic Attitudes Survey**

An online survey of Nebraska high school students  
conducted by and for the Civics Nebraska Partnership

# Table of Contents

Methodology and Limitations.....	2
General Results .....	3
Effects of Civics Programming.....	5
Effects of Education on Civic Attitudes .....	7
Conclusions .....	9
Appendix: Aggregate Survey Results.....	10

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# Methodology and Limitations

The survey was conducted online by the Civics Nebraska Partnership during the spring of 2006 using software developed by SurveyMonkey.com. The opportunity to take the survey was offered to high school students from 17 school districts. Teachers who had participated in the Teaching Appreciating Democracy curriculum project were offered the opportunity to give the survey as an assignment to a class within their school. Of the 17 schools invited to participate, six did so.

The survey was developed, conducted and compiled by staff of the Unicameral Information Office. Questions for the survey were adapted from a similar instrument used by the National Conference of State Legislatures and Rutgers University in 2003. The questions were designed to gauge civic knowledge, civic attitudes, and civic participation.

There are limitations to the data collected through the survey:

- First, because the survey was distributed online to schools choosing to participate, the subjects sampled do not necessarily reflect a demographic sample of Nebraskans at large.
- Second, the sample is small. Only 123 participants from six schools completed the survey.

Therefore, the data collected cannot be generalized to the state's population of youth at large. However, the data does point to interesting trends, particularly with regard to the effects of civics programming and government/civics courses on students.

# General Results

There were two major trends and four general trends that were detected in the data.

The survey results indicated positive effects stemming from student participation and involvement in civics programming and a student's personal educational experience. Those effects will be discussed more in separate sections.

There also were four general trends identified in the survey data that seemed worthy of note.

*1. There appears to be a general lack of interest in or recognition of service in public office as a career option.*

While not surprising, it is disturbing nonetheless that today's students do not view service in public office as a viable career option.

According to the survey results, the following percentages of students were at least "interested" in the following career options:

Business	44%
Medicine (doctor, nurse, pharmacist, etc.)	41%
Law enforcement	39%
Social work	34%
Sales and marketing	31%
Artist	30%
Lawyer	28%
School teacher	26%
Mechanic	24%
Trades (plumber, electrician, carpenter, etc.)	23%
Farming	19%
<b>State representative/lawmaker</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>President of the United States</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Politician</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Member of Congress</b>	<b>7%</b>

*2. Civic knowledge is generally high.*

Students responding in the survey demonstrated a high level of civic knowledge:

- All but one respondent knew that Washington, D.C. is the nation's capital.
- 86.8% of the respondents knew that Dennis Hastert is the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

- 91.2% of the respondents knew that Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman is a Republican.
- 89.4 % of the respondents knew that Republicans hold the majority in both houses of Congress.
- 40.7% of the respondents knew that the Nebraska Legislature is nonpartisan; however, 54.9% said that the majority of Nebraska state legislators are Republicans, which is not incorrect.

It should be noted, however, that because the survey was conducted online, there is no way to verify that the answers given were not researched for the purpose of completing the survey.

*3. Students believe in the importance of voting, but not as much in the importance of contacting your elected representative.*

The survey yielded some good news for advocates of good voting habits, but the results were a mixed bag for champions of representative democracy.

- 84% of the respondents believe it is important for citizens to vote in elections if they are eligible to do so. However, only half that number believe that it is important for citizens to contact their elected representatives when they care about a policy issue or need help in dealing with a government problem.
- 88.6% of the respondents are either registered to vote, plan to register and vote or say they will vote when they reach voting age.
- 80.2% of the respondents believe voting is their responsibility or duty and 77.2% believe that voting can influence the direction of government.
- 62.3% of the respondents believe that making laws is a complicated job that is best left to those who have been elected to office; but 50.9% believe that government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

*4. Most students indicated that they value civic learning and discussion.*

- 86.8% of the respondents said it is important for high schools to teach about civics and government.
- 71.1% of the respondents said they follow what is happening in government and politics at least some of the time. This is despite the fact that only 40.3% of them report that their families talk about government and politics at least some of the time and only 37.7% of them have friends interested in government and politics.

# Effects of Civics Programming

One would expect that participation or involvement in civics programming – such as Boys and Girls State, We the People, and Student Vote – would lead to more favorable dispositions regarding general civic involvement and participation. The survey results seem to reinforce that notion.

Of the survey's respondents, 62.3% indicated they had participated in a civic education program either as part of school or outside of the classroom. The distribution of participation by program was as follows:

Student Vote	35.2%
We the People	15.5%
Boys/Girls State	12.7%
Capitol Forum	12.7%
Mock Trial	12.7%
Project Citizen	12.7%
Unicam Youth	2.8%
CloseUp	1.4%

A significant portion of those indicating that they have participated in other programs listed Congressman Osborne's Youth Leadership Forum.

The above figures regarding individual civics programs are for general interest only and cannot readily be generalized to the state's youth population given the localized nature of the survey responses.

There are several interesting trends in the data regarding the effects of civics programming on students.

*Those students having participated in civics programs are more likely to feel responsible for civic involvement.*

- 70.4% of those who have participated in civics programming at least generally believe they are personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society, as compared to 53.5% of those who have not participated.

*Students having participated in civics programs are more likely to value voting.*

- 94% of those who have participated in civics programming believe that voting in elections when eligible to do so is an important part of citizenship, while only 67% of those who have not participated place a similar value on voting.

*Students who have participated in civics programs may be less cynical about government.*

- 46.5% of those who have participated in civics programming at least generally believe that government is run for the benefit of all, compared to only 21% of those who have not participated in such programs.

*Students who have participated in civics programs place a greater value on the role of political parties.*

- 47.9% of those who have participated in civics programming at least generally believe that political parties are an important way for people with similar views to make their opinions known, as compared to 30.3% of those who have not participate in such programs.

*Students who have participated in civics programs may be more likely to volunteer.*

- 78.9% of those who have participated in civics programming indicated they had participated in a volunteer activity sometime during the last 12 months, as opposed to only 51.2% of those who have not participated in a civics program.

*Students who have participated in civics programs have a more positive perception of public officials.*

- 59.1% of those who have participated in civics programming at least generally believe that most people elected to public office work to serve the best interests of the public, as compared to 41.9% of those who have not participated in such programs.

*Students who have participated in civics programs have a greater appreciation for conflict and compromise as part of the policy making process.*

- 73.3% of those who have participated in civics programming at least generally believe that debate, disagreement and compromise are natural and important parts of the lawmaking process, while only 53.5% of those who have not participated in such programs hold a similar view.

*Participation in civics programs seem to have little effect on a student's perception of an elected official's responsiveness.*

- When it comes to the question of whether students generally believe that elected officials care about what citizens think and take those opinions into account when making decisions, the difference between those students who have participated in civics programming and those who have not is negligible.

# Effects of Education on Civic Attitudes

In the survey, 55.3% of the respondents indicated that their interest in politics and issues had increased at least some as the result of their education. Only 8.8% said that their interest had decreased. The data was then analyzed according to those whose interest had increased, versus those whose interest had either declined or stayed the same.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education are more likely to feel more responsible for getting involved.*

- 74.6% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe they are personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society, as compared to 51% of those whose education has not increased their interest.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education are more likely to value voting.*

- 94% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues believe that voting in elections when eligible to do so is an important part of citizenship, while only 73% of those whose education has not increased their interest place a similar value on voting.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education place a greater value on the role of political parties.*

- 47.6% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe that political parties are an important way for people with similar views to make their opinions known, as compared to 33.3% of those whose education has not increased their interest.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education have a more positive perception of public officials.*

- 61.9% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe that most people elected to public office work to serve the best interests of the public, as compared to 41.2% of those whose education has not increased their interest.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education have a greater appreciation for conflict and compromise as part of the policy making process.*

- 79.3% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe that debate, disagreement and compromise are natural and

important parts of the lawmaking process, while only 49% of those whose education has not increased their interest hold a similar view.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education have a greater trust in elected officials to deal with issues.*

- 74.6% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe that making laws is a complicated job best left to those elected to office, as compared to 47.1% of those whose education has not increased their interest.

*Students whose interest in politics is greater because of their education seem to have a greater disposition toward compromise.*

- 79.3% of those whose education increased their interest in politics and issues at least generally believe that people disagree on specific issues and that the political system must struggle to work out differences between various values and interests. This is in contrast to 54.9% of those who hold a similar view even though their education has not increased their interest in politics and issues.

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# Conclusions

It is important to remember that the students who participated in the survey were from classrooms that participated in the Teaching Appreciating Democracy project. Teachers who use these lessons in their classrooms are more likely to promote active civic involvement among their students. This may affect the data. Also, because of the small sampling size, the data cannot be generalized to the broader population. However, one can detect certain trends in the data that suggest possible future courses of action.

*First, there is a need to promote the notion of public service to students.*

The survey responses, despite having been gathered from students in schools that have active civics/government programs, indicate a lack of interest in serving in elected office as a part of a future career. This may be, in part, due to Nebraska's populist culture that emphasizes the importance of the "citizen lawmaker." However, it may also be due to public perceptions of public service generally. In any event, it is certain that there is work to be done on this issue. How could Civics Nebraska play a role in developing strategies for increasing the interest of young people in public service?

*Second, civics programs work. There is a need to promote greater utilization of civics programs through the schools.*

The survey responses indicate that those students who have participated in one or more civics programs have a more positive disposition toward civic affairs generally. Participation in civics programs, while beneficial, can be difficult due to cost, resources, and geography. What can Civics Nebraska do to assist the education community and civics program providers with increasing the level of participation in these programs?

*Third, a student's educational experience is a factor in how they perceive and view government and politics.*

This observation is not anything particularly revolutionary or enlightening. It is, however, a reminder that as standards for social studies content are reviewed periodically, appropriate weight and emphasis should be given to the study of civics and government in a meaningful and engaging way. What role can Civics Nebraska play into the future to assist the education community to accomplish this?

These survey results and conclusions will hopefully serve as a primer for more discussion among Civics Nebraska and its partners.

# Appendix: Aggregate Survey Results

1. Please select your school from the list below.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Bruning-Davenport		0.8%	1
Elm Creek		8.3%	10
Southeast Consolidated		11.7%	14
Sutherland		25.8%	31
Valentine		9.2%	11
West Point		30.8%	37
Wilcox-Hildreth		10.8%	13
Other (please specify)		2.5%	3
Total Respondents			120
(skipped this question)			3

2. What grade are you in?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Freshman		0%	0
Sophomore		2.5%	3
Junior		28.8%	34
Senior		68.6%	81
Total Respondents			118
(skipped this question)			5

3. What gender are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Male		50.8%	60
Female		49.2%	58
Total Respondents			118
(skipped this question)			5

4. Please click the button below to indicate how interested you think you might be in a career in each of the following:						
	Very Interested	Interested	Not Interested	Not at All Interested	Not Sure	Response Average
School teacher	7% (8)	19% (22)	24% (27)	36% (41)	14% (16)	3.31
Medicine (doctor, nurse, pharmacist, etc.)	20% (23)	21% (24)	25% (29)	25% (28)	9% (10)	2.81
Politician	0% (0)	10% (11)	26% (30)	47% (54)	17% (19)	3.71
Mechanic	8% (9)	16% (18)	25% (29)	42% (48)	9% (10)	3.28
Farming	7% (8)	12% (14)	31% (35)	45% (51)	5% (6)	3.29
Law enforcement	7% (8)	32% (36)	28% (32)	24% (27)	10% (11)	2.97
State representative/lawmaker	1% (1)	10% (11)	30% (34)	45% (51)	15% (17)	3.63
Sales and marketing	6% (7)	25% (28)	28% (32)	33% (38)	8% (9)	3.12
Member of Congress	1% (1)	6% (7)	33% (38)	49% (56)	11% (12)	3.62
Business	11% (13)	33% (38)	25% (28)	19% (22)	11% (13)	2.86
Trades (plumber, electrician, carpenter, etc.)	6% (7)	17% (19)	28% (32)	41% (47)	8% (9)	3.28
Social work	5% (6)	29% (33)	26% (30)	30% (34)	10% (11)	3.10
President of the United States	3% (3)	7% (8)	29% (33)	49% (56)	12% (14)	3.61
Artist (music, theater, etc.)	8% (9)	22% (25)	23% (26)	35% (40)	12% (14)	3.22
Lawyer	6% (7)	22% (25)	28% (32)	29% (33)	15% (17)	3.25
Total Respondents						114
(skipped this question)						9

5. Have you taken any courses that have to do with civics or American government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes		99.1%	113
No		0.9%	1
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

6. As a result of your education, would you say that your interest in things like politics and issues has:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Increased a good deal		23.7%	27
Increased some		31.6%	36
Stayed the same		36%	41
Decreased some		5.3%	6
Decreased a good deal		3.5%	4
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

7. If you had a chance to meet a state legislator, member of Congress, or Governor in person at your school, you would:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Want to do it		55.3%	63
Not want to do it		8.8%	10
Not care one way or the other		36%	41
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

8. Have you ever participated in a civic education program either as part of school or outside of the classroom?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes		62.3%	71
No		37.7%	43
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

9. Please check all of the programs you have participated in:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Boys State/Girls State		12.7%	9
Capitol Forum		12.7%	9
CloseUp		1.4%	1
Mock Trial		12.7%	9
Project Citizen		12.7%	9
Student Vote		35.2%	25
Unicam Youth		2.8%	2
We the People		15.5%	11
Other (please specify)		52.1%	37
Total Respondents			71
(skipped this question)			52

10. Please indicate how interested you think you might be in the following activities now that you have participated in a civics education program.				
	More likely	Less likely	Unsure	Response Total
Getting involved in my community	75% (53)	10% (7)	15% (11)	71
Running for office	17% (12)	46% (33)	37% (26)	71
Voting	90% (64)	7% (5)	3% (2)	71
Volunteering with a political campaign	24% (17)	48% (34)	28% (20)	71
Serving on a jury	49% (35)	25% (18)	25% (18)	71
Contacting my elected representatives	34% (24)	39% (28)	27% (19)	71
Total Respondents				71
(skipped this question)				52

11. The nation's capital is in:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Atlanta, Georgia		0%	0
Washington, D.C.		99.1%	113
Boston, Massachusetts		0%	0
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania		0%	0
New York City, New York		0.9%	1
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

12. Who won last year's American Idol competition?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Bo Bice		11.4%	13
Ami Johnson		3.5%	4
John Edwards		3.5%	4
Ereka Vetrini		1.8%	2
Carrie Underwood		79.8%	91
Total Respondents			114
(skipped this question)			9

13. In what state does the TV show "That 70s Show" take place?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Wisconsin		65.8%	75
Hawaii		0.9%	1
North Dakota		2.6%	3
California		29.8%	34
Puerto Rico		0.9%	1
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

14. Who is the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Tom DeLay		6.1%	7
George W. Bush		5.3%	6
<b>Dennis Hastert</b>		<b>86.8%</b>	<b>99</b>
Nancy Pelosi		1.8%	2
Newt Gingrich		0%	0
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

15. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe that I am personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society.		16.7%	19
<b>I generally believe that I am personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society.</b>		<b>47.4%</b>	<b>54</b>
I generally believe that making things better for society is a job for other people and government.		16.7%	19
I strongly believe that making things better for society is a job for other people and government.		2.6%	3
I have no opinion.		16.7%	19
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

16. People often disagree about what it takes to be a good citizen. For each item please check whether or not you think someone must do it to be considered a good citizen.				
	Yes	No	No opinion	Response Average
Vote in elections if they are eligible	<b>84% (96)</b>	8% (9)	8% (9)	<b>1.24</b>
Obey the laws	<b>89% (101)</b>	4% (5)	7% (8)	<b>1.18</b>
Volunteer their time to help others	<b>68% (77)</b>	17% (19)	16% (18)	<b>1.48</b>
Donate money to help others	<b>42% (48)</b>	38% (43)	20% (23)	<b>1.78</b>
Pay attention to government decisions and political happenings	<b>61% (70)</b>	22% (25)	17% (19)	<b>1.55</b>
Contact your state legislator or member of Congress when you care about a public policy issue or need help in dealing with a government problem	<b>42% (48)</b>	35% (40)	23% (26)	<b>1.81</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>				<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)				9

17. Have you spent time participating in any volunteer activity, or haven't you had time to do this? By volunteer activity I mean not just belonging to a service organization, but actually working in some way to help others for no monetary pay.

		Response Percent	Response Total
<b>Yes, have done it in the last 12 months</b>		<b>68.4%</b>	<b>78</b>
Yes, but have not done it in the last 12 months		13.2%	15
No, have not done it in the last two years		18.4%	21
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

18. Have you contacted or visited a public official to express your opinion or ask for assistance?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes, within last 12 months		25.4%	29
Yes, but not within last 12 months		3.5%	4
<b>No, haven't done it</b>		<b>71.1%</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

19. Have you worked on a campaign for a political candidate, political party, or any organization that supports political candidates?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes, within last 12 months		4.4%	5
Yes, but not within last 12 months		3.5%	4
<b>No, haven't done it</b>		<b>92.1%</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

20. Which statement best describes your plans for voting in the next election?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I am registered and will vote.		31.6%	36
<b>I am not registered, but I plan to register and vote.</b>		<b>41.2%</b>	<b>47</b>
I am not registered and do not plan to register or vote.		2.6%	3
I will not be old enough to register and vote at the next election, but I wish I could.		15.8%	18
I do not care to register and vote.		1.8%	2
I have not decided.		7%	8
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

21. Please check as many of the following reasons that apply to why you do not vote or may choose not to vote.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
It's hard to get reliable information about the candidates.		30.8%	4
<b>I'm not interested in politics.</b>		<b>61.5%</b>	<b>8</b>
I don't have time/It's inconvenient.		38.5%	5
There's often no difference between the two candidates.		15.4%	2
I'm not informed enough to make a decision.		38.5%	5
I am turned off by the process or negative political advertising.		15.4%	2
I can make more of a difference by volunteering in my local community.		7.7%	1
I dislike politics and government/I don't trust politicians.		46.2%	6
My one vote isn't going to make a difference.		15.4%	2
None of the above.		15.4%	2
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>13</b>
(skipped this question)			110

22. Please check as many of the following reasons why you vote, plan to vote, or want to vote.			
		Response Percent	Response Total
<b>It's my responsibility or duty.</b>		<b>80.2%</b>	<b>81</b>
I don't want to be thought of as a slacker.		17.8%	18
It's a way to influence the direction of government.		77.2%	78
It's a way to affect how specific issues will be decided.		69.3%	70
It makes me feel good.		44.6%	45
Most of my friends or family are voters.		36.6%	37
None of the above		3%	3
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>101</b>
(skipped this question)			22

23. How much power do you think each of the following groups has?					
	Too much power	Too little power	Right amount	Don't know	Response Average
Political parties	40% (46)	2% (2)	<b>42% (48)</b>	16% (18)	<b>2.33</b>
Congress	29% (33)	2% (2)	<b>64% (73)</b>	5% (6)	<b>2.46</b>
Young people	0% (0)	<b>67% (76)</b>	27% (31)	6% (7)	<b>2.39</b>
The Governor	13% (15)	5% (6)	<b>69% (79)</b>	12% (14)	<b>2.81</b>
Special interest groups	32% (37)	5% (6)	<b>37% (42)</b>	25% (29)	<b>2.55</b>
The Nebraska Legislature	13% (15)	6% (7)	<b>63% (72)</b>	18% (20)	<b>2.85</b>
Business and corporations	<b>44% (50)</b>	8% (9)	35% (40)	13% (15)	<b>2.18</b>
Ordinary people	2% (2)	<b>53% (60)</b>	37% (42)	9% (10)	<b>2.53</b>
Senior citizens	18% (20)	28% (32)	<b>36% (41)</b>	18% (21)	<b>2.55</b>
Labor unions	18% (20)	15% (17)	<b>41% (47)</b>	26% (30)	<b>2.76</b>
The President	38% (43)	2% (2)	<b>54% (62)</b>	6% (7)	<b>2.29</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>					<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)					9

24. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe the process of making laws has too much conflict.		8.8%	10
I generally believe the process of making laws has too much conflict.		10.5%	12
<b>I generally believe that conflict is unavoidable in the process of making laws because there are so many competing interests.</b>		<b>47.4%</b>	<b>54</b>
I strongly believe that conflict is unavoidable in the process of making laws because there are so many competing interests.		18.4%	21
I have no opinion.		14.9%	17
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

25. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe that making laws is a complicated job best left to those elected to office.		16.7%	19
<b>I generally believe that making laws is a complicated job best left to those elected to office.</b>		<b>45.6%</b>	<b>52</b>
I generally believe the country would be better off if the public decided issues directly by voting on them.		16.7%	19
I strongly believe the country would be better off if the public decided issues directly by voting on them.		8.8%	10
I have no opinion.		12.3%	14
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

26. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	I strongly believe that Americans agree on what is right, so it should be easy to pass the laws people want.	6.1%	7
	I generally believe that Americans agree on what is right, so it should be easy to pass the laws people want.	12.3%	14
	<b>I generally believe that people disagree on specific issues, so the political system must struggle to work out differences between various values and interests.</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>56</b>
	I strongly believe that people disagree on specific issues, so the political system must struggle to work out differences between various values and interests.	19.3%	22
	I have no opinion.	13.2%	15
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

27. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	I strongly believe that government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.	20.2%	23
	<b>I generally believe that government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>35</b>
	I generally believe that government is run for the benefit of all.	28.9%	33
	I strongly believe that government is run for the benefit of all.	7.9%	9
	I have no opinion.	12.3%	14
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

28. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	I strongly believe that political parties do more harm than good in politics.	15.8%	18
	I generally believe that political parties do more harm than good in politics.	21.1%	24
	<b>I generally believe that political parties are an important way for people with similar views to make their opinions known.</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>40</b>
	I strongly believe that political parties are an important way for people with similar views to make their opinions known.	6.1%	7
	I have no opinion.	21.9%	25
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

29. In general, how often do you follow what is happening in government and politics?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Regularly	16.7%	19
	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>62</b>
	Once in a while	13.2%	15
	Almost never	15.8%	18
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

30. What are your primary sources of information about government and politics?				
	Frequent source	Occasional source	Not a source	Response Average
Television	<b>62% (71)</b>	34% (39)	4% (4)	<b>1.41</b>
Internet	29% (33)	<b>46% (52)</b>	25% (29)	<b>1.96</b>
Radio	22% (25)	<b>58% (66)</b>	20% (23)	<b>1.98</b>
Magazines	13% (15)	<b>49% (56)</b>	38% (43)	<b>2.25</b>
E-mail	2% (2)	21% (24)	<b>77% (88)</b>	<b>2.75</b>
Newspaper	<b>47% (54)</b>	41% (47)	11% (13)	<b>1.64</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>				<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)				9

31. How often does your family talk about politics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Regularly	9.6%	11
	Sometimes	30.7%	35
	<b>Once in a while</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>36</b>
	Almost never	28.1%	32
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

32. How do your parents generally view politics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Positively	7.9%	9
	Negatively	8.8%	10
	<b>With mixed views</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>61</b>
	Neither positively nor negatively	11.4%	13
	Don't know	18.4%	21
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

33. What is your friends' level of interest in politics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Very interested	3.5%	4
	Somewhat interested	34.2%	39
	<b>Not too interested</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>42</b>
	Not at all interested	14.9%	17
	Don't know	10.5%	12
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

34. How do most of your friends view politics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Positively	5.3%	6
	Negatively	11.4%	13
	<b>With mixed views</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>57</b>
	Neither positively nor negatively	10.5%	12
	Don't know	22.8%	26
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

35. How important is it for high schools to teach about civics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Very important	34.2%	39
	<b>Important</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>60</b>
	Not important	3.5%	4
	Not at all important	3.5%	4
	Not sure	6.1%	7
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

36. How would you rate the amount of time high schools spend on civics and government?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Too much time	16.7%	19
	Too little time	18.4%	21
	<b>The right amount of time</b>	<b>56.1%</b>	<b>64</b>
	Not sure	8.8%	10
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

37. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe Americans are well represented by the special interest groups they belong to.		8.8%	10
<b>I generally believe Americans are well represented by the special interest groups they belong to.</b>		<b>31.6%</b>	<b>36</b>
I generally believe special interest groups do more harm than good.		27.2%	31
I strongly believe special interest groups do more harm than good.		8.8%	10
I have no opinion.		23.7%	27
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

38. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe most people elected to public office work to serve the best interests of the public.		5.3%	6
<b>I generally believe most people elected to public office work to serve the best interests of the public.</b>		<b>47.4%</b>	<b>54</b>
I generally believe most people elected to public office work to serve their own interests.		27.2%	31
I strongly believe most people elected to public office work to serve their own interests.		3.5%	4
I have no opinion.		16.7%	19
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

39. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe legislators spend too much time bickering and arguing.		7%	8
I generally believe legislators spend too much time bickering and arguing.		10.5%	12
<b>I generally believe debate, disagreement, and compromise are natural and important parts of the lawmaking process.</b>		<b>42.1%</b>	<b>48</b>
I strongly believe debate, disagreement, and compromise are natural and important parts of the lawmaking process.		23.7%	27
I have no opinion.		16.7%	19
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

40. Which statement best reflects your views?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
I strongly believe that elected officials don't care about what I think.		6.1%	7
I generally believe that elected officials don't care about what I think.		22.8%	26
<b>I generally believe that elected officials care about what citizens think and take those opinions into account when making decisions.</b>		<b>45.6%</b>	<b>52</b>
I strongly believe that elected officials care about what citizens think and take those opinions into account when making decisions.		7%	8
I have no opinion.		18.4%	21
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>114</b>
(skipped this question)			9

41. Is Nebraska's Governor a:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Republican		91.2%	103
Democrat		4.4%	5
Independent		4.4%	5
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>113</b>
(skipped this question)			10

42. Nebraska's state legislature:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Is nonpartisan	40.7%	46
	<b>Has a majority of Republicans</b>	<b>54.9%</b>	<b>62</b>
	Has a majority of Democrats	4.4%	5
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>113</b>
(skipped this question)			10

43. The majority of members in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House are:			
		Response Percent	Response Total
	Democrats	8.8%	10
	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>101</b>
	Independents	1.8%	2
<b>Total Respondents</b>			<b>113</b>
(skipped this question)			10

44. Enter your first name only in the blank below and print this page as proof for your teacher that you completed the survey. Your name will not be submitted as part of the survey.	
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>103</b>
(skipped this question)	20