Survey of Young Americans’ Attitudes Toward Politics and Public Service: 17th Edition
Institute of Politics, Harvard University

Key Findings & Highlights Presented at The Brookings Institution
March 9, 2010
Overview

Our national survey of Millennials (18-29 Americans) was conducted between January 29 and February 22, 2010. All fieldwork was conducted by Knowledge Networks. N=3,117 web-enabled interviews were completed in English (91%) and Spanish (9%). The margin of error is +/- 2.3% at the 95% confidence level.

Areas probed include:

- Political preferences and activity, including voting in the 2010 midterms;
- Opinions of President Obama and Congress;
- Trust in American and international institutions;
- Political ideology and world view;
- The personal effects of the current economy; and
- The use of social networking tools such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.
Key Findings & Highlights

More detailed analysis and information available at iop.harvard.edu
#1
President Obama’s Job Performance Stable Since November

#2
Republicans Eying Midterms

#3
U.S. Military Most Trusted Institution Surveyed
Approval Ratings

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

-- % who “Approve” --

Barack Obama: 58% (November 2009), 56% (February 2010)
Democrats in Congress: 48% (November 2009), 42% (February 2010)
Republicans in Congress: 35% (November 2009), 32% (February 2010)
Now thinking specifically about President Barack Obama, do you approve or disapprove of the way he is handling:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>November 2009</th>
<th>February 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal deficit</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Midterm Elections

How likely is it that you will vote in the 2010 elections for Congress?
-- % who say “Definitely will be voting” --

Democrats: 35%
Republicans: 41%
Independents: 13%
Obama Voters ('08): 44%
McCain Voters ('08): 53%
Trust

How often do you trust … to do the right thing?
-- % who say “All of the time/Most of the time” --

- U.S. Military: 53%
- Supreme Court: 45%
- President: 44%
- United Nations: 40%
- Federal govt.: 29%
- Congress: 25%
- Traditional media: 17%
- Cable news: 17%
- Wall Street Executives: 11%
#4
Economic Anxiety is Palpable

#5
Majority Concerned About Keeping Their Head Above Water

#6
Nearly Half of Undergraduates Concerned About Staying in College
Personal Financial Situation

How would you rate your personal financial situation these days? -
-- % who say “Very/Fairly Bad” --

- 18-24: 47%
- 25-29: 42%
- 2-yr College: 51%
- 4-yr College: 39%
- Democrat: 44%
- Republican: 37%
- Independent: 59%
- White: 43%
- African American: 38%
- Hispanic/Eng: 50%
- Hispanic/Span: 67%
- Male: 48%
- Female: 43%
“The American Dream”

In general, when I am my parent's age, I believe that I will be better off financially, worse off financially, about the same or not sure?

- Better off: 46%
- Same: 24%
- Worse off: 11%
- Not sure: 18%
Economic Concerns

Given the current economy, how concerned are you with the following?

-- % who say “Very/Somewhat” concerned --

Meeting your bills and obligations: 60%
Affording a place to live: 58%
Affording health care: 56%
Ability to live in the city or town that you want to: 46%
Staying in college*: 45%

* Asked only among college students
Which of the following two statements comes closer to your point of view?

Statement A: The President and the Congress should worry more about boosting the economy even though it may mean larger budget deficits now and in the future.

Statement B: The President and Congress should worry more about keeping the budget deficit down, even though it may mean it will take longer for the economy to recover.

WSJ/NBC - 10/09 (18+)
IOP - 02/10 (18-29)
#7
Millennials Remain Committed to Community Service

#8
Honor of Political Engagement is Questioned

#9
Millennials’ Emerging Ideology Shaped by Social Justice and Role of the U.S. Military
For more information:

Esten Perez  
Director of Communications  
esten_perez@harvard.edu

John Della Volpe  
Director of Polling  
john_della_volpe@harvard.edu