Political Attitudes Survey 2022

The Salvatori Center
Methodology

- Our survey was based on questions developed for a 2016 survey of a similar nature created by Melanie Wolfe ‘20 and Joe Noss ‘20
- We worked in a group and with Professor Thomas to refine our questions and update them to make them relevant to the most prominent topics of 2021
- The survey was shared via SurveyMonkey and sent to the entire student bodies of CMC and Scripps
  - Although we would have liked to distribute the questions to all of the 5Cs, we faced issues with the administrations
- We asked 25 questions, most of which were closed, but 1 question asked participants to select three items from a list of 17 current political issues

Disclaimer: the survey did not make use of a random sample.
Demographics

Total sample size: 241
Number of CMC respondents: 165
Number of CMC students who completed the survey: 141
Percent of CMC student body: 13%
Number of Scripps respondents: 76
Percent of Scripps student body: 8%

We had a nearly equal distribution of classes across CMC respondents, with 36 freshman, 44 sophomores, 27 juniors, and 34 seniors responding from CMC.

For CMC, about 17% of respondents were international students.
SECTION I: Political Leanings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Political Outlook”</th>
<th>“Political Party”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Very liberal</td>
<td>A. Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Liberal</td>
<td>B. Independent</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Centrist</td>
<td>C. Republican</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Conservative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Very Conservative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

69% of respondents identify as “Democrat”

26% of respondents identify as “Independent”

5% of respondents identify as “Republican”

25% of respondents identify as “very liberal”

0% of respondents identify as “very conservative”
“How would you describe the political outlook of your campus?”

A. Very liberal
B. Liberal
C. Centrist
D. Conservative
E. Very Conservative
51% of CMC respondents viewed CMC's campus as “liberal” or “very liberal”

66% of CMC respondents identify as “liberal” or “very liberal”

42% of CMC respondents viewed CMC’s campus as “centrist”

27% of CMC respondents identify as “centrist”
“What is your outlook of the other party?”

A. They are open to compromise
B. They are open to some compromise
C. They are not very open to compromise
D. They are not open to any sort of compromise
97% of respondents identifying as “very liberal” found the other party to either be “not very open to compromise” or “not open to any sort of compromise”

63% of respondents identifying as “centrist” identified the other party to be either “not very open to compromise” or “not open to any sort of compromise”
2020 Democratic Primary

“Presidential Candidate Preference during the 2020 Democratic Primary?”

A. Joe Biden
B. Bernie Sanders
C. Elizabeth Warren
D. Pete Buttigieg
E. Amy Klobuchar
F. Andrew Yang
G. Michael Bennet
H. Deval Patrick
I. Tom Steyer
J. Michael Bloomberg
K. Tulsi Gabbard
76% of respondents who identify as “very liberal” supported Bernie Sanders in the 2020 Democratic Primary.

31% of respondents who identify as “liberal” supported Bernie Sanders in the 2020 Democratic Primary.
SECTION II: Abortion and Religion
Question XII

“What is your stance on abortion?”

A. Pro-life
B. Pro-choice
C. Pro-life, but we should allow abortion in special cases, such as rape, incest, or when the mother’s life is at risk
D. Pro-choice, but only up to the first trimester
E. Undecided
A Pro-Choice Campus

“What is your stance on abortion?”

Responses

- Undecided
- Pro-life with exceptions
- Pro-life
- Pro-choice till first trimester
- Pro-choice

Number of Respondents

0 30 60 90
Abortion and Political Outlook

The chart illustrates the political outlook on abortion across different ideological groups:

- **Very Liberal**
- **Liberal**
- **Centrist**
- **Conservative**

The chart shows the percentage distribution of views on abortion based on the categories of pro-choice, pro-choice until first trimester, pro-life with exceptions, pro-life, and undecided.
Question XXII

“Should the government require mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations?”

A. Yes
B. No, but I will still get vaccinated/I have gotten vaccinated
C. No, and I will not get my vaccine
D. Undecided
Vaccines

53% of CMC respondents said no, vaccines should not be mandated by the government but I will still get vaccinated/I have gotten vaccinated

44% of CMC respondents said yes, the government should require mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations

2% of CMC respondents were undecided
Vaccines and Abortions: A Comparative Look

90% of CMC respondents who support vaccine mandates are also pro-choice or pro-choice with exceptions

89% of CMC respondents who oppose vaccine mandates are also pro-choice or pro-choice with exceptions on abortion
Question XIII

“How should the government balance conflict between religious liberty and anti-discrimination legislation that protects traits such as gender and sexual orientation in public accommodations?”

A. The government should prioritize protections on religious liberty over anti-discrimination laws in public accommodations
B. The government should prioritize anti-discrimination laws over protections on religious liberty in public accommodations
C. The government should attempt to balance religious liberty protections and anti-discrimination law in public accommodations
D. Undecided
Religious Liberty and Anti-Discrimination

How should the government balance conflict between religious liberty and anti-discrimination legislation that protects traits such as gender and sexual orientation in public accommodations? (CMC)
Politics of Religious Liberty and Anti-discrimination

22% of conservative respondents support prioritizing protections on religious liberty

33% of conservative respondents support prioritizing anti-discrimination laws

58% of liberal respondents support prioritizing anti-discrimination laws

3% of liberal respondents support prioritizing protections on religious liberty
Section III: Guns, Marijuana, and Immigration
“Should there be more restrictions on purchasing guns?”

A. Yes
B. No
C. Yes, and ban guns from public use
D. Yes, but only for assault weapons
E. Undecided
Results

89% of CMC respondents think that United States place more restrictions on purchasing guns in some capacity.

8.5% of CMC respondents think the gun purchasing laws should not be more restrictive.

3.5% of CMC respondents are on the fence about whether the United States should implement tighter restrictions.
Results

Should there be more restrictions on purchasing guns?

- Yes, but only for assault weapons
- Yes, and ban guns from public use
- Yes
- Undecided
- No

Number of Respondents (CMC)

party
- Democrat
- Independent
- Republican

54% of CMC respondents democrats think there should be more restriction on purchasing guns
“Do you support marijuana legalization at the federal level?”

A. Yes
B. No
C. No, it should only be legalized for medical purposes
D. Yes, and most other drugs should also be legalized
E. Undecided
Results

- **61%** of CMC respondents think that marijuana should be legal federally
- **3%** of CMC respondents are against federal legalization
- **1%** of CMC respondents are on the fence about whether the United States should legalize marijuana at the federal level
“Should the government grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants currently living in the US?”

A. Yes
B. No
C. Yes, and the government should implement a path to citizenship
D. No, and the government should deport all undocumented immigrants
E. Undecided
84% of CMC respondents think that the government should grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S.

9% of CMC respondents are against amnesty for undocumented immigrants

6% of CMC respondents are on the fence about whether the United States should legalize marijuana at the federal level
A Comparative Look at Views on Immigration

Should the government grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants currently living in the US?

- Yes, and the government should implement a path to citizenship
- Yes
- Undecided
- No, and the government should deport all undocumented immigrants

Number of Respondents (CMC)
Immigration and Party Affiliation

Should the government grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants currently living in the US?

- Yes, and the government should implement a path to citizenship
- Yes
- Undecided
- No, and the government should deport all undocumented immigrants

Number of Respondents (CMC)

party
- Democrat
- Independent
- Republican
Section IV: Climate Change and Policing
“What are your thoughts on climate change?”

A. Climate change exists, and humans are major contributors
B. Climate change exists, but humans are not major contributors
C. Climate change does not exist
D. We currently do not know whether climate change exists, or not
Results

What are your thoughts on climate change?

- 99% of Respondents Believe that Climate Change Exists and Humans Are Responsible
- 0.93% Undecided
- 0.47% Thinks that Climate Change Exists But Humans Are Not Responsible
“What are your attitudes towards the American police?”

A. Police forces should not be changed
B. We should put less money into police forces
C. We should put more money into community services and less money into police forces
D. We should abolish the police force
Results

What are your attitudes towards the American police?

- 63% Students Believe that More Money Should Be Invested Into Community Services Rather Than Police
- 13% Students Believe the Police Force Should Be Abolished
- 8% Students Believe Police Should Not Be Changed
- 0% Students Believe More Money into Community Service, Less into Police
CMC Data

What are your attitudes towards the American police?

- **54%** of CMC Respondents Want More Money Into Community Services and Less Into Police
- **10%** of CMC Respondents Think Police Forces Should Not Be Changed
- **5%** of CMC Respondents Think the Police Force Should Be Abolished
Comparing Scripps to CMC

What are your attitudes towards the American police?

- We should put less money into police forces
- We should abolish the police force
- Undecided
- Other (please specify)
- More money into community service, less into police

53% of Scripps Respondents, More Money Into Community Services, Less Into Police

25% of Scripps Respondents, Abolish Police Force
CMC Political Outlook

Breakdown of “Want More Money Into Community Services:”

- **2%** Conservatives
- **21%** Centrists
- **53%** Liberal
- **24%** Very Liberal

Breakdown of “Police Forces Should Not Be Changed:”

- **18%** Conservative
- **53%** Centrist
- **29%** Liberal
Among Scripps Respondents Who Want More Money Into Community Services and Less Into Police:

- **15%** Centrist
- **51%** Liberal
- **34%** Very Liberal
SECTION V: Elections
Election Security

“Should the United States implement greater election security measures?”

A. Yes, but the 2020 election results were completely legitimate
B. Yes, and the 2020 election results were compromised
C. No, and the 2020 election results were completely legitimate
D. No, but the 2020 election results were compromised
E. Undecided
57% of CMC respondents think that United States should implement greater security measures

3% of CMC respondents think that election results were compromised

7% of CMC respondents are on the fence about whether the United States should implement greater security measures or believe that the election results were compromised
“Should the electoral college system be removed and be replaced with a direct popular vote for the presidency?”

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don’t know how the electoral college system works
D. Unsure
Results

Should the electoral college system be removed and be replaced with a direct popular vote for the presidency?

- IDK how electoral college works: 5 responses
- No: 15 responses
- Unsure: 10 responses
- Yes: 70 responses
Results

Should the electoral college system be removed and be replaced with a direct popular vote for the presidency?

Number of Responses (Scripps)

Number of Respondents (CMC)

IDK how electoral college works | No | Unsure | Yes

0 | 0 | 0 | 0
99% of CMC respondents claim to know how the electoral college system works.

57% of CMC respondents support removal of electoral college while 78% of Scripps respondents support removal of electoral college!

17% of CMC respondents who support removal of electoral college think that other party is open to some compromise.

24% of CMC respondents who oppose removal of electoral college think that other party is open to some compromise.
SECTION VI: Changes Since 2016
Demographic Differences

The 2016 survey included only CMC students, while the 2022 survey included respondents from other colleges. For the sake of congruency, we only compared the 2016 results with the 2022 results from CMC.

12% increase in the number of CMC respondents who identified as international students from 2016 to 2022 (from 5% to 17%)
The Leap Leftward

10% increase in the number of CMC respondents who identify as Democrats from 2016 to 2022 (from 52% to 69%)

15% decrease in the number of CMC respondents who identify Republicans from 2016 to 2022 (from 21% to 5%)

1% increase in the number of CMC respondents who identify Independents from 2016 to 2022 (from 25% to 26%)
14% increase in the number of CMC respondents who say that the government should ban guns from public use from 2016 to 2022 (from 15% to 29%)

16% increase in the number of CMC respondents who say that the government should legalize most drugs from 2016 to 2022 (from 11% to 27%)

29% increase in the number of CMC respondents who say that the electoral college system be removed and be replaced with a direct popular vote for the presidency from 2016 to 2022 (from 27% to 56%)
Campus Culture

Even though more CMC students identify as Democrats, 8% fewer CMC respondents describe the political outlook of CMC as liberal or very liberal from 2016 to 2022 (from 59% to 51%)
Ideas for Future Improvements

Attempt to survey a random sample—or at least a larger proportion of the student body

Include more questions about demography

Include more questions related to economic issues

Provide more party affiliation options (e.g. Libertarian, Green, Constitution)
Thank you for listening!

Questions?