PRRI

*The*Atlantic

PRRI/The Atlantic 2018 Civic Engagement Survey
Total = 1,811
August 24 – September 13, 2018[1]

Q.1   When you think about what's going on in the country today do you generally feel…
        [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]

17	Hopeful
20	Angry
29	Sad
20	Fearful
6	Content
7	Other [SPECIFY]
1	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ROTATE Q2 AND Q3

Q.2   These days, do you feel optimistic that AMERICANS who hold different political
        views can still come together and solve the country's problems, or are you
        pessimistic that Americans can do that now? **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

36	Optimistic
62	Pessimistic
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

And…

Q.3   These days, do you feel optimistic that PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY who hold
        different political views can still come together and solve the country's problems, or
        are you pessimistic that people in your community can do that now? **[ROTATE
        OPTIONS]**

56	Optimistic
42	Pessimistic
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

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[1] This survey was run concurrently with the PRRI September 2018 Survey.

Q.4   How often would you say you vote? **[LIST IN ORDER]**

Sept. 2018	Sept. 2016	
42	48	Always
25	22	Nearly always
10	9	In about half of elections
9	8	Seldom
13	12	Never
1	*	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Regardless of how often you typically vote…

Q.5   How would you rate your chances of voting in the 2018 congressional election in November? Would you say you are… **[READ IN ORDER]**

Sept. 2018	June 2018	
55	50	Absolutely certain to vote
16	16	Probably will vote
9	11	Chances are 50-50
6	9	Less than 50-50 chance
12	12	Definitely not voting
1	2	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.6   Regardless of whether you plan on voting, how many of your close friends do you think will vote in the 2018 congressional election?

Sept. 2018	June 2018	
12	12	All of them
46	42	Most of them
22	22	About half of them
13	16	Few of them
6	5	None of them
2	2	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.7   Now, suppose the 2018 congressional election was being held TODAY. If you had to choose between **[READ AND ROTATE]** in your election district, who would you vote for?

Sept. 2018	June 2018	Mar. 2018	Oct. 2017	
40	41	36	35	The Republican candidate
55	53	42	43	The Democratic candidate
-	-	5	6	Other/Third Party candidate (VOL.)
-	-	3	-	Not going to vote (VOL.)
5	6	14	16	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

Q.8   Which of the following best describes you? **[LIST IN ORDER]**

75	I have voted in elections before 2016
7	I voted for the first time in the 2016 presidential election
12	I'm eligible to vote but have never voted in a national election
5	I'm not eligible to vote
1	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.9   The following issues may be important to some people, but not others. How important are the following issues to YOU personally? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Abortion

Sept. 2018	Oct. 2015	Feb. 2014	
29	34	31	Critical issue
40	38	35	One among many important issues
28	27	30	Not that important an issue
2	1	4	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

b. Gun policy

46	Critical issue
37	One among many important issues
15	Not that important an issue
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Climate change

Sept. 2018	Oct. 2015	
38	34	Critical issue
33	39	One among many important issues
26	27	Not that important an issue
2	1	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

d. Immigration

Sept. 2018	Sept. 2016	May 2016	Oct. 2015	Dec. 2013	
46	44	43	46	34	Critical issue
40	43	44	40	39	One among many important issues
12	12	12	13	24	Not that important an issue
2	1	*	1	2	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	100	Total

e. Racial inequality

35	Critical issue
41	One among many important issues
22	Not that important an issue
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. Cost of higher education

Sept. 2018	April 2017	
33	38	Critical issue
49	49	One among many important issues
16	12	Not that important an issue
2	1	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

g. Health care

Sept. 2018	April 2017	Oct. 2015	Dec. 2013	
58	65	63	57	Critical issue
35	31	32	31	One among many important issues
6	4	4	10	Not that important an issue
2	*	1	2	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

h. Gender equality

23	Critical issue
44	One among many important issues
31	Not that important an issue
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

i. Growing gap between rich and poor

Sept. 2018	Sept. 2016	May 2016	Oct. 2015	
38	52	43	48	Critical issue
38	36	41	38	One among many important issues
21	12	15	13	Not that important an issue
2	*	1	1	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

j. LGBT rights

17	Critical issue
36	One among many important issues
45	Not that important an issue
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.10   What is the most effective thing YOU can do to bring about change on the issues you care about? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

3	Participate in a public rally or demonstration
9	Contact an elected official
12	Volunteer for a group or cause
3	Donate money to a civic organization or political group
64	Vote regularly in elections
5	Be active on social media on issues that I care about
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.11   Thinking about our current election system, how much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

a. Outside interference or influence from foreign governments

Sept. 2018	June 2018	
54	45	Major problem
29	35	Minor problem
14	17	Not a problem
2	4	Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

b. Gerrymandering, purposefully drawing election districts to favor one political party

59	Major problem
29	Minor problem
9	Not a problem
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. The removal of eligible voters from voter registration lists

56	Major problem
26	Minor problem
15	Not a problem
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

People engage in social, civic and political activity in different ways...

Q.12   Over the past 12 months, have you done any of the following in support of a group, cause, or campaign you care about, or not? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Signed an online petition

      28   Yes, within the last 12 months
      15   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
      55   No, haven't done it
       2   Refused (VOL.)
     100   Total

b. Attended a public rally or demonstration

       8   Yes, within the last 12 months
      12   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
      77   No, haven't done it
       2   Refused (VOL.)
     100   Total

c. Liked or followed a campaign or organization online

      22   Yes, within the last 12 months
       9   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
      67   No, haven't done it
       2   Refused (VOL.)
     100   Total

d. Volunteered for a group or cause

      14   Yes, within the last 12 months
      16   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
      68   No, haven't done it
       2   Refused (VOL.)
     100   Total

e. Donated money to a campaign or cause

      19   Yes, within the last 12 months
      13   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
      67   No, haven't done it
       2   Refused (VOL.)
     100   Total

f. Contacted an elected official

19   Yes, within the last 12 months
13   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
66   No, haven't done it
 2   Refused (VOL.)
100   Total

g. Posted on social media about an issue that matters to you

23   Yes, within the last 12 months
 8   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
66   No, haven't done it
 2   Refused (VOL.)
100   Total

h. Avoided buying something or purposefully bought something in order to register a protest or send a message

25   Yes, within the last 12 months
11   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
62   No, haven't done it
 2   Refused (VOL.)
100   Total

i. Attended a community meeting such as school board or city council

12   Yes, within the last 12 months
13   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
72   No, haven't done it
 2   Refused (VOL.)
100   Total

j. Encouraged others to be politically active on Facebook, Twitter or other social media

13   Yes, within the last 12 months
 7   Yes, but not within the last 12 months
78   No, haven't done it
 2   Refused (VOL.)
100   Total

Q.13   In the last two years, have you become more or less likely to do any of the following?
        [RANDOMIZE LIST]

a. Engage in civic or political activities

20	More likely
30	Less likely
48	About the same
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Consider running for public office

6	More likely
42	Less likely
50	About the same
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Consider a career in government service

6	More likely
42	Less likely
49	About the same
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

QUESTION 14 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
Q.15   In the last two years, have any of the following people encouraged you to get more
        involved in civic or political activities? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Teacher

6	Yes, have
92	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Religious leader

8	Yes, have
90	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Parent

9	Yes, have
89	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Close friend

19	Yes, have
79	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Celebrity, athlete or social media figure

9	Yes, have
89	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. Sibling

8	Yes, have
90	No, have not
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.16 Here is a list of reasons that some people give for why they choose not to get involved in particular campaigns or causes. Please indicate whether any of these reasons apply to you. **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. There aren't any issues or causes that I really care about

15	Yes, does apply
83	No, does not apply
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. I don't think my actions will make a difference

    39   Yes, does apply
    59   No, does not apply
    <u>2</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

c. I don't feel like I know enough about the issues

    39   Yes, does apply
    59   No, does not apply
    <u>2</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

d. I don't want to be criticized

    20   Yes, does apply
    78   No, does not apply
    <u>2</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

Q.17   Would you say your overall opinion of each of the following is...? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Donald Trump

	Very favorable	Mostly favorable	Mostly unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Have not heard of (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Sept. 2018	13	22	13	49	-	3=100
July 2018	16	25	17	36	*	5=100
June 2018	14	23	19	41	-	2=100
Mar. 2018	13	29	18	36	*	3=100
Jan. 2018	14	23	17	42	*	5=100
Oct. 2017	15	26	18	37	*	3=100
Aug. 2017	18	20	15	41	1	5=100
Feb. 2017	16	27	16	34	*	6=100
Jan. 2017	17	26	17	35	1	5=100
Sept. 2016	10	23	15	50	2	1=100
May 2016	10	18	16	53	1	1=100
April 2016	8	16	18	52	*	6=100
Jan. 2016	12	19	22	42	*	5=100
Nov. 2015	11	16	21	44	2	6=100
Oct. 2015	9	21	21	45	3	1=100

b. The Republican Party

	Very favorable	Mostly favorable	Mostly unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Have not heard of	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Sept. 2018	9	28	25	34	-	3=100
Sept. 2016	7	29	31	29	3	2=100
May 2016	7	28	29	30	3	2=100
Aug. 2015	9	27	34	21	1	9=100
Aug. 2014	11	33	29	19	*	7=100
Oct. 2013	7	28	27	28	5	4=100
Sept. 2012	14	30	25	25	*	5=100
Aug. 2012	11	33	26	23	-	7=100

c. The Democratic Party

	Very favorable	Mostly favorable	Mostly unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Have not heard of	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Sept. 2018	11	36	25	25	-	3=100
Sept. 2016	13	36	23	25	3	1=100
May 2016	15	35	22	23	3	2=100
Aug. 2015	17	32	26	18	*	7=100
Aug. 2014	16	34	26	18	*	6=100
Oct. 2013	13	31	25	22	5	4=100
Sept. 2012	19	34	22	21	*	5=100
Aug. 2012	17	34	23	20	-	6=100

Thinking about when you were growing up…
Q.18   Did you ever do any of the following with your parents growing up? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Attended a public rally or demonstration

    12   Yes
    86   No
     3   Refused (VOL.)
    100   Total

b. Attending a community meeting such as school board or city council

    23   Yes
    75   No
     3   Refused (VOL.)
    100   Total

c. Volunteered with your church or religious congregation

42	Yes
56	No
2	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Talked about social problems or political issues at home

50	Yes
47	No
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Went with one or both of your parents to vote on Election Day

34	Yes
63	No
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.19   How well, if at all, do you believe the following groups represent your interests and values in public debates? **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Religious leaders

8	Very well
34	Somewhat well
30	Not too well
24	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Business leaders

3	Very well
31	Somewhat well
41	Not too well
22	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Elected officials at the national level

2	Very well
26	Somewhat well
42	Not too well
25	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Elected officials at the state or local level

3	Very well
43	Somewhat well
33	Not too well
17	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Nonprofit groups advocating change on issues I care about

13	Very well
49	Somewhat well
21	Not too well
14	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. The Republican Party

7	Very well
28	Somewhat well
22	Not too well
39	Not at all well
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

g. The Democratic Party

10	Very well
34	Somewhat well
22	Not too well
31	Not at all well
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

h. Labor unions

6	Very well
31	Somewhat well
30	Not too well
29	Not at all well
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.20   Now, please read the following statements on a few different topics and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one. **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**.

a. The voting age should be lowered to 16

5	Completely agree
11	Mostly agree
27	Mostly disagree
54	Completely disagree
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. These days, I often feel like I need a break from the news

35	Completely agree
37	Mostly agree
17	Mostly disagree
7	Completely disagree
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. To make change happen, it's generally more important to be active on local issues than national issues

12	Completely agree
50	Mostly agree
27	Mostly disagree
8	Completely disagree
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. When religious groups or leaders become involved in political issues, it causes more problems than it solves

  21   Completely agree
  36   Mostly agree
  28   Mostly disagree
  11   Completely disagree
  <u>4</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

e. I don't have much in common with people who own guns

  15   Completely agree
  21   Mostly agree
  31   Mostly disagree
  29   Completely disagree
  <u>4</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

f. Owning a gun is an important part of my culture

  21   Completely agree
  21   Mostly agree
  21   Mostly disagree
  34   Completely disagree
  <u>4</u>   Refused (VOL.)
  100   Total

Q.21   What worries you more, public officials who don't pay enough attention to religion or public officials who are too close to religious leaders?

Sept. 2018	Nov. 2012	
45	39	Not enough attention
51	51	Too close
<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

ASK ALL:

ATTEND   Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

8	More than once a week
19	Once a week
8	Once or twice a month
14	A few times a year
22	Seldom
27	Never
1	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.22   In general, how often, if at all, do you participate in a non-religious activity group, such as a sports team, book club, PTA or neighborhood association... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

Sept. 2018	Oct. 2016	April 2016	
4	9	12	More than once a week
7	11	10	Once a week
11	18	20	Once or twice a month
14	15	17	A few times a year
26	17	18	Seldom
37	30	22	Never
1	*	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

Q.23   All in all, do you favor or oppose the following... **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Universal, comprehensive background checks for all gun buyers

68	Strongly favor
20	Favor
5	Oppose
4	Strongly oppose
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. A ban on semi-automatic assault rifles

45	Strongly favor
20	Favor
15	Oppose
16	Strongly oppose
3	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Survey Methodology

The PRRI/The Atlantic 2018 Civic Engagement Survey was conducted by PRRI in partnership with The Atlantic among a random sample of adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States and who are part of GfK's Knowledge Panel. The survey included a national sample (N=1,011) representing all 50 states, in addition to an over-sample of Americans ages 18-29 (800), totaling to N=1,811. The survey also over-sampled those living in Ohio (507), Illinois (499), Michigan (474), Wisconsin (435), and Minnesota (422). Interviews were conducted online in both English and Spanish between August 24 and September 13, 2018. The survey was made possible by generous grants from The Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and The McKnight Foundation.

Respondents are recruited to the KnowledgePanel using an addressed-based sampling methodology from the Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery addresses in the U.S. As such, it covers all households regardless of their phone status, providing a representative online sample. Unlike opt-in panels, households are not permitted to "self-select" into the panel; and are generally limited to how many surveys they can take within a given time period.

The initial sample drawn from the KnowledgePanel was adjusted using pre-stratification weights so that it approximates the adult U.S. population defined by the latest Current Population Survey. Next, a probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling scheme was used to select a representative sample. Once assigned to the survey, panel participants received additional email notification reminders on August 26, August 29, September 4, and September 10 to complete the survey.

To reduce the effects of any non-response bias, a post-stratification adjustment was applied based on demographic distributions from the most recent Current Population Survey (CPS). The post-stratification weight rebalanced the sample based on the following benchmarks: age, race and ethnicity, gender, Census division, metro area, education and income. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. In addition to an overall national weight, separate weights were computed for each state to ensure that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the national survey is +/- 2.97 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.7. Table 1 includes margin of error information for the state samples. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

Table 1. State Sample Sizes and Margins of Error		
State	Sample Size	Margin of Error
Ohio	N=507	+/- 5.7
Illinois	N=499	+/- 5.7
Michigan	N=474	+/- 5.9
Wisconsin	N=435	+/- 6.1
Minnesota	N=422	+/- 6.2

Additional details about the KnowledgePanel can be found on the GfK website:
https://www.gfk.com/products-a-z/us/knowledgepanel-united-states/

Appendix

Table 2. Demographic, Political, Religious, and Geographic Subgroup Sample Sizes
(All figures are unweighted)

	N=
Total Sample	1,811
Male	823
Female	988
Republican	431
Independent	732
Leans Republican	*264*
No Lean	*101*
Leans Democrat	*367*
Democrat	611
White, non-Hispanic	1,215
Black, non-Hispanic	178
Hispanic	274
Age 18-29	969
30-49	278
50-64	334
65+	230
White evangelical Protestant	254
White mainline Protestant	277
Black Protestant	119
Catholic	339
White Catholic	*195*
Hispanic Catholic	*114*
Religiously unaffiliated	440