
FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 20, 2023

**WHO IS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVISIONS IN THE U.S.?
SOCIAL MEDIA RANKS #1 AMONG YOUNG VOTERS,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;
TABLE THE TALK ABOUT POLITICS AT THANKSGIVING, SAY VOTERS**

Given a list of four options and asked which they hold most responsible for divisions among Americans, voters say social media (35 percent), political leaders (32 percent), cable news channels (28 percent), and other countries (1 percent), according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national poll of registered voters released today.

The group that holds social media most responsible for divisions among Americans is voters 18 – 34 years old. Forty-five percent of voters 18 – 34 years old hold social media the most responsible, followed by cable news (27 percent) and political leaders (26 percent).

“When it comes to the source of the angry white noise of discord and division, the segment of the population most connected to it is the age group most critical of it,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

THANKSGIVING & POLITICS

As Americans get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, voters agree they would rather not talk about politics while visiting with family or friends.

Roughly 6 out of 10 voters (61 percent) say they are hoping to avoid discussing politics while visiting with family or friends this Thanksgiving, while 29 percent say they are looking forward to discussing politics. Answers were similar across all listed groups.

“A healthy dose of ‘zip it’ will be on the menu as voters acknowledge that if they plan on ‘talking turkey’ over the big meal, it will be about the food and not about politics,” added Malloy.

Nearly 6 out of 10 voters (59 percent) say politics in the United States over the last year has not changed how they feel about discussing politics with family and friends, while 30 percent say it has changed for the worse, and 9 percent say it has changed for the better.

1,574 self-identified registered voters nationwide were surveyed from November 9th – 13th with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are

based on random samples of adults using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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26. If you are visiting with family or friends this Thanksgiving, are you looking forward to discussing politics, or are you hoping to avoid discussing politics?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Looking forward	29%	32%	29%	27%	30%	28%	38%	23%
Hoping to avoid	61	57	64	63	60	62	57	65
NOT VISITING (VOL)	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	3
NEITHER (VOL)	6	6	5	7	6	6	4	7
DK/NA	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Looking forward	28%	32%	29%	27%	31%	27%	29%	37%	26%
Hoping to avoid	63	58	63	62	60	63	62	58	64
NOT VISITING (VOL)	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2
NEITHER (VOL)	4	8	5	6	6	6	6	2	5
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	3

27. Have politics in the United States over the last year changed how you feel about discussing politics with your family and friends for the better, for the worse, or not changed how you feel about discussing politics?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
For the better	9%	13%	12%	3%	9%	9%	7%	7%
For the worse	30	25	28	40	24	35	31	31
Not changed	59	61	58	55	64	54	61	60
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
For the better	15%	9%	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	18%	14%
For the worse	29	27	35	31	25	37	31	25	26
Not changed	56	64	57	57	65	55	60	54	58
DK/NA	-	1	1	4	2	-	1	2	2

28. In thinking about divisions among Americans, which of the following do you hold most responsible for those divisions: political leaders, cable news channels, social media, or other countries?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							4 YR COLL DEG	Yes
Political leaders	32%	28%	39%	31%	29%	36%	37%	30%
Cable news	28	29	24	29	32	24	28	30
Social media	35	37	34	33	34	35	32	34
Other countries	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
OTHER (VOL)	2	2	1	4	2	3	2	2
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	3

AGE IN YRS..... WHITE.....

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Political leaders	26%	33%	35%	35%	32%	34%	33%	35%	32%
Cable news	27	26	30	26	31	27	29	24	21
Social media	45	37	30	32	32	34	33	36	42
Other countries	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
OTHER (VOL)	-	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	1
DK/NA	1	-	2	3	2	2	2	-	2