



Independence Day: Seventeen Seventy When?

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

This Marist Poll Reports:

Just in time for the July 4th weekend, the Marist Poll has asked Americans in which year the United States declared its independence. And, the result is many Americans need to brush up on their American history.

Only 58% of residents know that the United States declared its independence in 1776. 26% are unsure, and 16% mentioned another date.

There are age differences on this question. Younger Americans are the least likely to know the correct answer. Only 31% of adults younger than 30 say that 1776 is the year in which the United States broke away from Great Britain. 59% of residents between 30 and 44 report the same. Americans 45 to 59 -- 75% -- are the age group most likely to have the correct answer. Among those 60 and older, 60% report that 1776 is the year in which the United States declared its independence.

When it comes to gender, men -- 65% -- are more likely to respond with 1776 than are women -- 52%.

And, for the second year, about one in four Americans doesn't know from which *country* the United States declared its independence. While 76% correctly cite Great Britain, 19% are unsure, and 5% mention another country.

A comparable proportion of Americans were similarly informed at this time last year. At that time, 74% thought the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, 20% were unsure, and 6% mentioned another country.

80% of those 60 and older, 77% of those 45 to 59, and 77% of those between 30 and 44 report the nation's founding fathers revolted against Great Britain. This compares with 67% of those under the age of 30 who say the same.

Men -- 83% -- are more likely than women -- 68% -- to know that the United States declared its independence from Great Britain.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,003 Adults

This survey of 1,003 adults was conducted on June 15th through June 23rd, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - National Adults		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Registered Voters		80%
Region	Northeast	19%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	51%
	\$50,000 or more	49%
Race	White	67%
	African American	10%
	Latino	11%
	Other	11%
Race	White	67%
	Non-white	33%
Age	Under 45	42%
	45 or older	58%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	21%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	33%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	21%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	74%
	Cell Phone	26%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=1003 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Year in which U.S. Declared Its Independence

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: In which year did the United States declare its independence?

		National Adults		
		In which year did the United States declare its independence?		
		1776	Unsure	Other dates mentioned
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		58%	26%	16%
Region	Northeast	64%	22%	13%
	Midwest	56%	24%	20%
	South	55%	30%	15%
	West	61%	22%	17%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	32%	17%
	\$50,000 or more	71%	16%	13%
Education	Not college graduate	50%	31%	19%
	College graduate	73%	14%	13%
Age	Under 45	46%	31%	23%
	45 or older	67%	21%	11%
Age	18 to 29	31%	41%	27%
	30 to 44	59%	22%	19%
	45 to 59	75%	15%	10%
	60 or older	60%	27%	13%
Race	White	67%	19%	13%
	Non-white	39%	39%	22%
Gender	Men	65%	19%	17%
	Women	52%	32%	16%
Interview Type	Landline	64%	23%	13%
	Cell Phone	42%	33%	25%

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Country from which U.S. Declared Its Independence

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: On July 4th we celebrate Independence Day. From which country did the United States win its independence?

		National Adults		
		On July 4th we celebrate Independence Day. From which country did the United States win its independence?		
		Great Britain	Unsure	Other countries mentioned
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		76%	19%	5%
Region	Northeast	80%	16%	3%
	Midwest	75%	20%	4%
	South	70%	23%	7%
	West	81%	14%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	70%	22%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	87%	11%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	68%	25%	8%
	College graduate	89%	9%	2%
Age	Under 45	72%	22%	6%
	45 or older	78%	17%	5%
Age	18 to 29	67%	27%	6%
	30 to 44	77%	17%	6%
	45 to 59	77%	18%	5%
	60 or older	80%	15%	5%
Race	White	82%	14%	4%
	Non-white	62%	31%	7%
Gender	Men	83%	12%	4%
	Women	68%	25%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	79%	15%	6%
	Cell Phone	66%	31%	3%

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