

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 + Phone 845.575.5050 + Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

POLL MUST BE SOURCED: McClatchy-Marist Poll*

A Nation Still Divided: The Confederate Flag

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff

Barbara L. Carvalho Mary E. Griffith Marist College 845.575.5050

This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

Americans divide about whether or not the confederate flag should be removed from government buildings. While 49% favor such a measure, 43% oppose it. When looking at Americans' perceptions of the Civil War, a majority, 53%, believes slavery was the main reason for the conflict. Regional differences exist with those in the South dividing about whether or not slavery was at the center of the Civil War. Should schools teach that slavery was the driving force of the Civil War? A majority of Americans believes that children should be taught this lesson in the classroom. More than 150 years after the start of the Civil War, a plurality of Americans, 44%, thinks race relations in the United States are getting worse, and fewer than one in five, 18%, says they are improving.

Confederate Flag Controversy

The court of public opinion is still out on whether or not the confederate flag should be removed from government buildings. Racial and partisan differences exist. **Poll points:**

- 49% of residents either strongly favor, 23%, or favor, 26%, taking down the confederate flag from government buildings. 43% either oppose, 27%, or strongly oppose, 16%, removing the flag.
- Democrats, 69%, and independents, 52%, are more likely than Republicans, 38%, to support removing the flag from official buildings.

The Impetus of the Civil War

Majorities of Americans think slavery was the main reason for the Civil War and assert that schoolchildren should be taught that lesson.

Poll points:

- 53% of residents say slavery led the nation into civil war. 41% disagree.
- While 62% of Democrats and 53% of independents cite slavery as **the main** reason for the Civil War, Republicans divide.

^{*}All references to the survey must be sourced as "McClatchy-Marist Poll"

- Regional differences exist. At least half of residents in the Northeast, 50%, Midwest, 56%, and West, 67%, say slavery caused the Civil War. However, Southerners divide. 49% report it was *not* the main reason for the conflict. 45% say slavery was at the heart of the Civil War.
- A majority of Americans, 55%, say schools should teach children that slavery was the main reason for the Civil War.
- Democrats, 62%, and independents, 52%, are more likely than the GOP to want students to learn that the Civil War began, mainly, because of slavery. Members of the GOP divide.
- At least a majority of residents in the West, 66%, Northeast, 55%, and Midwest, 54%, believe schools' curricula should include that slavery spurred the Civil War. Southerners divide with 49% saying it should be instructed and 45% reporting it should not.

Plurality of Americans Say Race Relations in the U.S. are Getting Worse More than four in ten Americans, 44%, think race relations in the United States are deteriorating while only 18% believe they are getting better. 37% say race relations are status quo.

Poll points:

More than six in ten Republicans, 61%, and a plurality of independents, 47%, say
racial strife is on the rise. A plurality of Democrats, 41%, thinks race relations are the
same as they have been. About one-third, 34%, believe racial tensions are
worsening.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist Poll of 1,249 National Adults

This survey of 1,249 adults was conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015 by The Marist Poll sponsored and funded in partnership with the McClatchy News Service. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed in English or Spanish by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ±2.8 percentage points. There are 964 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ±3.2 percentage points. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		77%	100%
Party Identification^	Democrat	n/a	33%
	Republican	n/a	25%
	Independent	n/a	40%
	Other	n/a	3%
Party Identification^	Strong Democrats	n/a	21%
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	12%
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	15%
	Just Independents	n/a	12%
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	12%
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	12%
	Strong Republicans	n/a	13%
	Other	n/a	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal	n/a	8%
	Liberal	n/a	20%
	Moderate	n/a	32%
	Conservative	n/a	31%
	Very conservative	n/a	10%
Tea Party Supporters^		n/a	19%
Gender	Men	49%	47%
	Women	51%	53%
Age	Under 45	46%	39%
	45 or older	54%	61%
\ge	18 to 29	21%	16%
	30 to 44	25%	23%
	45 to 59	26%	29%
	60 or older	27%	32%
Race	White	64%	69%
	African American	11%	12%
	Latino	14%	10%
	Other	10%	9%
Region	Northeast	17%	17%
	Midwest	21%	22%
	South	38%	37%
	West	24%	24%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	41%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	59%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	58%
	College graduate	38%	42%
Marital Status	Married	48%	53%
	Not married	52%	47%
Interview Type	Landline	52%	59%
	Cell phone	48%	41%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015, n=1249 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. ^National Registered Voters: n=964 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

National Adults

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose the removal of the confederate flag from government buildings?

		Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		23%	26%	27%	16%	8%
National Registered Vo	oters	26%	25%	27%	15%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	45%	24%	20%	8%	3%
	Republican	17%	21%	31%	19%	12%
	Independent	23%	29%	29%	14%	4%
Tea Party Supporters^		5%	22%	36%	26%	11%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	49%	25%	14%	10%	2%
	Moderate	25%	30%	26%	12%	7%
	Conservative-Very conservative	16%	22%	33%	21%	8%
Region	Northeast	26%	31%	24%	11%	9%
	Midwest	21%	22%	28%	21%	8%
	South	24%	22%	31%	17%	7%
	West	23%	32%	23%	14%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	18%	26%	27%	23%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	29%	25%	27%	12%	7%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	26%	30%	21%	7%
	College graduate	34%	26%	23%	9%	7%
Race	White	21%	25%	27%	19%	8%
	Non-white	27%	26%	29%	11%	6%
Age	18 to 29	18%	20%	36%	20%	6%
	30 to 44	17%	31%	31%	17%	4%
	45 to 59	30%	27%	19%	14%	10%
	60 or older	26%	26%	24%	15%	10%
Age	Under 45	18%	26%	33%	18%	5%
	45 or older	28%	26%	22%	14%	10%
Gender	Men	18%	30%	26%	19%	7%
	Women	29%	21%	29%	13%	8%
Marital Status	Married	24%	28%	25%	15%	7%
	Not married	23%	24%	29%	17%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	25%	24%	16%	9%
	Cell phone	19%	27%	31%	17%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015, n=598 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters: n=457 MOE +/- 4.6 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

National Adults

Do you think race relations in the U.S. are getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

		Getting better	Getting worse	Staying the same	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		18%	44%	37%	2%
National Registered Vo	ters	16%	47%	35%	2%
Party Identification^	Democrat	23%	34%	41%	1%
	Republican	10%	61%	25%	3%
	Independent	15%	47%	37%	1%
Tea Party Supporters^		11%	63%	24%	2%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	20%	35%	45%	1%
	Moderate	17%	46%	36%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	14%	55%	30%	2%
Region	Northeast	19%	43%	36%	2%
	Midwest	16%	47%	35%	2%
	South	17%	46%	36%	1%
	West	19%	37%	41%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	18%	41%	40%	0%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	48%	33%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	17%	45%	36%	1%
	College graduate	19%	41%	38%	2%
Race	White	16%	46%	36%	2%
	Non-white	22%	39%	39%	0%
Age	18 to 29	23%	39%	36%	2%
	30 to 44	19%	40%	40%	1%
	45 to 59	15%	50%	33%	2%
	60 or older	15%	46%	38%	2%
Age	Under 45	21%	39%	38%	2%
	45 or older	15%	48%	36%	2%
Gender	Men	20%	42%	35%	2%
	Women	15%	45%	39%	1%
Marital Status	Married	16%	46%	37%	1%
	Not married	20%	42%	36%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	14%	48%	36%	2%
	Cell phone	22%	39%	38%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015, n=598 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters: n=457 MOE +/- 4.6 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		Was slavery the main reason for the Civil War, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		53%	41%	6%
National Registered Vo	oters	54%	41%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	62%	33%	5%
	Republican	49%	45%	5%
	Independent	53%	43%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	63%	31%	6%
	Soft Democrats	61%	36%	3%
	Just Independents	45%	47%	9%
	Soft Republicans	49%	46%	5%
	Strong Republicans	49%	47%	4%
Tea Party Supporters^		43%	52%	5%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	67%	30%	3%
	Moderate	55%	41%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	47%	47%	6%
Region	Northeast	50%	43%	6%
	Midwest	56%	39%	5%
	South	45%	49%	5%
	West	67%	27%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	54%	38%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	54%	42%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	51%	41%	8%
	College graduate	59%	40%	1%
Race	White	52%	42%	6%
	African American	61%	30%	9%
	Latino	54%	41%	5%
Race	White	52%	42%	6%
	Non-white	57%	37%	5%
Age	18 to 29	57%	42%	1%
	30 to 44	54%	42%	4%
	45 to 59	54%	39%	7%
	60 or older	50%	41%	9%
Age	Under 45	55%	42%	3%
	45 or older	52%	40%	8%
Gender	Men	51%	44%	5%
	Women	56%	38%	6%
Marital Status	Married	52%	42%	6%
	Not married	55%	39%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	51%	41%	8%
)r ·	Cell phone	56%	41%	3%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015, n=1249 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points

[^]National Registered Voters: n=964 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

National Adults

Do you think schools should or should not teach that slavery was the main reason for the Civil War?

		the main reason for the Civil War?			
		Should	Should not	Unsure	
		Row %	Row %	Row %	
National Adults		55%	37%	7%	
National Registered Vo	oters	54%	38%	7%	
Party Identification^	Democrat	62%	29%	9%	
	Republican	48%	45%	6%	
	Independent	52%	41%	6%	
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	61%	28%	11%	
	Soft Democrats	63%	33%	4%	
	Just Independents	45%	40%	14%	
	Soft Republicans	47%	48%	5%	
	Strong Republicans	47%	46%	7%	
Cea Party Supporters^		45%	48%	7%	
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	64%	29%	7%	
	Moderate	54%	39%	7%	
	Conservative-Very conservative	49%	44%	7%	
Region	Northeast	55%	38%	6%	
	Midwest	54%	36%	10%	
	South	49%	45%	6%	
	West	66%	27%	7%	
Iousehold Income	Less than \$50,000	56%	36%	7%	
	\$50,000 or more	56%	38%	6%	
Education	Not college graduate	54%	38%	8%	
	College graduate	58%	36%	6%	
Race	White	52%	40%	7%	
	African American	63%	25%	12%	
	Latino	73%	24%	3%	
Race	White	52%	40%	7%	
	Non-white	63%	30%	7%	
Age	18 to 29	60%	38%	1%	
	30 to 44	57%	36%	7%	
	45 to 59	56%	35%	10%	
	60 or older	49%	41%	9%	
Age	Under 45	59%	37%	5%	
	45 or older	52%	38%	9%	
Gender	Men	53%	41%	6%	
	Women	57%	34%	9%	
Marital Status	Married	55%	38%	7%	
	Not married	56%	37%	7%	
nterview Type	Landline	51%	39%	9%	
	Cell phone	60%	35%	5%	

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 22nd through July 28th, 2015, n=1249 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters: n=964 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.