

MARISTPOLL

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POLL MUST BE SOURCED:

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll*

Growing Support for Anthem Protests

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This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll Reports:

Marking a noteworthy shift in public opinion, a slim majority of Americans, 51%, now say professional sports leagues, such as the NFL, should *not* require their athletes to stand during the national anthem while 47% say they should. When this question was last reported in September 2016, public opinion tilted in the opposite direction. At that time, 52% of Americans thought players *should be* required to stand while 43% thought they should not be forced to do so.

Majorities of residents in the Northeast, 52% up from 45% last year, and West, 58% up from 53%, do not think athletes should be required to rise during the national anthem. Residents in the Midwest and South divide. In the Midwest, 50% believe this should be a requisite for playing while 47% disagree. In the South, 50% say it should be mandated that players stand during the national anthem while 48% do not think this should be a requirement. Of note, in the South and Midwest, the issue has become more divided. In September, residents in these regions were more likely to say that players must stand.

Differences exist along racial lines. African Americans, 76% up from 48% previously, say athletes should not be made to stand for the national anthem. A majority of Latino residents, 56%, agree. However, a majority of white residents, 54%, say professional athletes should rise when the anthem is played. The views of white and Latino Americans are consistent with the findings in 2016.

While a majority of Americans believe these protests should be allowed, they divide about

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll"

whether or not these protests are respectful. 49% of Americans say these demonstrations are disrespectful to the freedoms the anthem represents while 46% believe it demonstrates the anthem's freedoms. There has been little change on this question since a previous survey released last year.

A majority of Americans, 57%, describe the national anthem as more of a symbol of Americans' rights and freedoms. 34%, though, consider the anthem to be more a symbol of the sacrifice of the U.S. military. 10% are unsure. When this question was reported last year, 65% of Americans thought the national anthem to be a symbol of the rights afforded citizens while 27% said it is a symbol of the sacrifices of the U.S. military. Eight percent, at that time, were unsure.

A majority of Americans value the right of professional athletes to protest racial inequality by kneeling or locking arms during the performance of the national anthem before a game. 52% of residents nationally think the athletes did the right thing by carrying out this protest. 41% say they did the wrong thing.

However, more than two in three Americans, 68%, believe President Donald Trump did the wrong thing when he criticized and called for the firing of NFL players who took a knee during the anthem. 28% think his response was correct. Residents divide about whether Vice President Mike Pence did the right thing, 47%, or wrong thing, 47%, when he walked out of an NFL game when some of the players kneeled in protest during the national anthem.

Football viewership has remained steady. Today, 69% of U.S. adults say they watch or follow the sport at least a little. Of note, when Marist first started tracking this question in August 2009, when Michael Vick was returning to the NFL after serving time for his involvement in a dog fighting ring, only 56% of Americans said they followed the game at least a little.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll of 1,093 National Adults

This survey of 1,093 adults was conducted October 15th through October 17th, 2017 by The Marist Poll, sponsored and funded in partnership with HBO Real Sports. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the contiguous United States were contacted on landline or mobile numbers and interviewed in English by telephone using live interviewers. Mobile telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from Survey Sampling International. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Mobile phones are treated as individual devices. After validation of age, personal ownership, and non-business-use of the mobile phone, interviews are typically conducted with the person answering the phone. To increase coverage, this mobile sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of landline phone numbers from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. Within each landline household, a single respondent is selected through a random selection process to increase the representativeness of traditionally under-covered survey populations. Assistance was provided by Luce Research for data collection. The 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 ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 928 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.2 percentage points. There are 712 football fans. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.7 percentage points. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	Football Fans	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%		
Football Fans		69%	100%	68%
National Registered Voters		85%	86%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	n/a	35%
	Republican	n/a	n/a	26%
	Independent	n/a	n/a	36%
	Other	n/a	n/a	2%
Gender	Men	49%	52%	48%
	Women	51%	48%	52%
Age	Under 45	47%	49%	42%
	45 or older	53%	51%	58%
Age	18 to 29	22%	22%	18%
	30 to 44	25%	27%	24%
	45 to 59	26%	26%	29%
	60 or older	26%	25%	29%
Race	White	62%	60%	65%
	African American	11%	13%	12%
	Latino	14%	13%	13%
	Other	12%	14%	11%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%	19%
	Midwest	21%	22%	20%
	South	37%	37%	39%
	West	24%	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	44%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	56%	56%
Education	Not college graduate	58%	57%	56%
	College graduate	42%	43%	44%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	36%	33%	36%
	White - College Graduate	27%	28%	30%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	22%	24%	20%
	Non-White - College Graduate	14%	15%	14%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	13%	12%	13%
	No	87%	88%	87%
Interview Type	Landline	37%	36%	40%
	Cell phone	63%	64%	60%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted October 15th through October 17th, 2017, n=1093 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. National Football Fans: n=712 MOE +/- 3.7 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think professional sports leagues, such as the NFL, should require their athletes to stand for the National Anthem or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		47%	51%	2%
Football Fans		43%	55%	1%
National Registered Voters		48%	50%	2%
Party Identification^	Democrat	27%	71%	2%
	Republican	82%	18%	1%
	Independent	44%	54%	3%
Trump Supporters		84%	15%	2%
Region	Northeast	46%	52%	2%
	Midwest	50%	47%	3%
	South	50%	48%	2%
	West	40%	58%	1%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	49%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	55%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	52%	45%	3%
	College graduate	38%	61%	1%
Race	White	54%	44%	2%
	African American	19%	76%	5%
	Latino	43%	56%	1%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	62%	35%	3%
	White - College Graduate	40%	59%	1%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	35%	62%	3%
	Non-White - College Graduate	34%	65%	1%
Age	18 to 29	29%	70%	1%
	30 to 44	42%	57%	1%
	45 to 59	55%	42%	3%
	60 or older	58%	38%	3%
Age	Under 45	35%	64%	1%
	45 or older	57%	40%	3%
Gender	Men	47%	51%	2%
	Women	47%	51%	2%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	53%	45%	2%
	No	46%	52%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	42%	3%
	Cell phone	42%	56%	2%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted October 15th through October 17th, 2017, n=1093 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

National Adults			
Do you think professional sports leagues, such as the NFL, should require their athletes to stand for the national anthem or not?			
	Yes	No	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
October 2017	47%	51%	2%
September 2016	52%	43%	5%

Marist Poll National Adults

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think the National Anthem is:		
		More a symbol of Americans' rights and freedoms	More a symbol of the military sacrifice of the U.S.	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		57%	34%	10%
Football Fans		59%	33%	8%
National Registered Voters		58%	33%	9%
Party Identification^	Democrat	67%	24%	9%
	Republican	45%	47%	8%
	Independent	62%	30%	8%
Trump Supporters		43%	46%	10%
Region	Northeast	58%	35%	7%
	Midwest	49%	40%	11%
	South	58%	34%	9%
	West	61%	26%	13%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	54%	36%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	62%	31%	7%
Education	Not college graduate	53%	38%	9%
	College graduate	65%	26%	9%
Race	White	58%	33%	9%
	African American	46%	41%	13%
	Latino	51%	40%	10%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	53%	38%	10%
	White - College Graduate	67%	26%	7%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	54%	38%	8%
	Non-White - College Graduate	60%	26%	14%
Age	18 to 29	54%	37%	9%
	30 to 44	55%	38%	7%
	45 to 59	56%	35%	9%
	60 or older	61%	25%	14%
Age	Under 45	54%	38%	8%
	45 or older	59%	30%	12%
Gender	Men	55%	33%	11%
	Women	58%	34%	8%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	50%	35%	15%
	No	59%	32%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	59%	29%	13%
	Cell phone	55%	36%	8%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted October 15th through October 17th, 2017, n=1093 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

National Adults			
Do you think the National Anthem is:			
	More a symbol of Americans' rights and freedoms	More a symbol of the sacrifice of the US military	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
October 2017	57%	34%	10%
September 2016	65%	27%	8%

Marist Poll National Adults

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		In general, if a professional athlete or team protests an issue by not standing for the National Anthem, do you think that protest:		
		Is disrespectful to the freedoms the anthem represents	Demonstrates the freedoms the anthem represents	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		49%	46%	5%
Football Fans		46%	50%	4%
National Registered Voters		50%	46%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	25%	70%	6%
	Republican	83%	15%	2%
	Independent	47%	49%	4%
Trump Supporters		85%	12%	3%
Region	Northeast	46%	49%	5%
	Midwest	56%	40%	4%
	South	48%	47%	4%
	West	45%	48%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	46%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	50%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	54%	42%	4%
	College graduate	40%	55%	5%
Race	White	55%	41%	4%
	African American	21%	74%	5%
	Latino	47%	42%	11%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	64%	32%	4%
	White - College Graduate	43%	54%	3%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	38%	57%	5%
	Non-White - College Graduate	32%	59%	8%
Age	18 to 29	34%	61%	5%
	30 to 44	46%	51%	3%
	45 to 59	57%	39%	4%
	60 or older	54%	38%	8%
Age	Under 45	41%	55%	4%
	45 or older	55%	39%	6%
Gender	Men	52%	42%	6%
	Women	46%	50%	4%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	55%	38%	7%
	No	47%	49%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	54%	40%	6%
	Cell phone	46%	50%	4%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted October 15th through October 17th, 2017, n=1093 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

National Adults			
In general, if a professional athlete or team protests an issue by not standing for the National Anthem, do you think that protest:			
	Is disrespectful to the freedoms the anthem represents	Demonstrates the freedoms the anthem represents	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
October 2017	49%	46%	5%
September 2016	50%	46%	5%

Marist Poll National Adults

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following did the right thing or the wrong thing: President Trump when he criticized and wanted fired National Football League athletes who protested by kneeling during the National Anthem?		
		Right thing	Wrong thing	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		28%	68%	4%
Football Fans		26%	71%	3%
National Registered Voters		27%	69%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	9%	89%	2%
	Republican	54%	41%	4%
	Independent	23%	73%	4%
Trump Supporters		58%	37%	5%
Region	Northeast	29%	70%	1%
	Midwest	35%	62%	4%
	South	29%	66%	5%
	West	20%	77%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	29%	67%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	25%	73%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	33%	65%	3%
	College graduate	20%	75%	5%
Race	White	34%	63%	3%
	African American	8%	91%	1%
	Latino	24%	74%	2%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	41%	55%	4%
	White - College Graduate	23%	74%	3%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	18%	81%	1%
	Non-White - College Graduate	16%	77%	8%
Age	18 to 29	15%	82%	2%
	30 to 44	25%	72%	3%
	45 to 59	33%	64%	3%
	60 or older	35%	59%	6%
Age	Under 45	21%	77%	3%
	45 or older	34%	62%	4%
Gender	Men	32%	64%	4%
	Women	24%	73%	3%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	34%	62%	4%
	No	26%	70%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	31%	64%	5%
	Cell phone	26%	71%	3%

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^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following did the right thing or the wrong thing: Vice President Pence when he walked out of a National Football League game when some players were kneeling in protest during the National Anthem?		
		Right thing	Wrong thing	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		47%	47%	5%
Football Fans		45%	51%	4%
National Registered Voters		49%	46%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	23%	70%	7%
	Republican	83%	16%	1%
	Independent	45%	49%	6%
Trump Supporters		83%	14%	3%
Region	Northeast	45%	52%	3%
	Midwest	53%	43%	4%
	South	48%	46%	6%
	West	44%	49%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	47%	49%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	44%	51%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	49%	47%	4%
	College graduate	45%	49%	6%
Race	White	53%	43%	4%
	African American	20%	78%	2%
	Latino	41%	53%	6%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	58%	38%	4%
	White - College Graduate	46%	49%	5%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	35%	62%	4%
	Non-White - College Graduate	43%	48%	9%
Age	18 to 29	44%	53%	3%
	30 to 44	43%	50%	7%
	45 to 59	50%	46%	4%
	60 or older	50%	43%	7%
Age	Under 45	44%	52%	5%
	45 or older	50%	44%	5%
Gender	Men	51%	44%	4%
	Women	43%	50%	6%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	59%	36%	5%
	No	46%	49%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	50%	42%	8%
	Cell phone	46%	51%	4%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following did the right thing or the wrong thing: Professional athletes who protested racial inequality by kneeling or locking arms during the National Anthem?		
		Right thing	Wrong thing	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		52%	41%	7%
Football Fans		54%	39%	7%
National Registered Voters		50%	43%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	75%	19%	6%
	Republican	15%	77%	7%
	Independent	54%	39%	7%
Trump Supporters		16%	77%	7%
Region	Northeast	53%	41%	7%
	Midwest	49%	41%	11%
	South	48%	47%	6%
	West	59%	35%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	55%	39%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	43%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	49%	43%	8%
	College graduate	56%	39%	5%
Race	White	43%	51%	6%
	African American	88%	10%	3%
	Latino	62%	30%	8%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	36%	56%	8%
	White - College Graduate	53%	44%	3%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	69%	23%	8%
Age	Non-White - College Graduate	63%	28%	9%
	18 to 29	72%	22%	6%
	30 to 44	55%	39%	6%
	45 to 59	44%	49%	6%
Age	60 or older	39%	52%	9%
	Under 45	63%	31%	6%
Gender	45 or older	42%	51%	8%
	Men	49%	44%	7%
U.S. Military Veteran	Women	54%	39%	7%
	Yes	45%	50%	5%
Interview Type	No	53%	40%	7%
	Landline	44%	47%	9%
	Cell phone	56%	38%	6%

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^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		Do you watch or follow professional football a great deal, a good amount, a little, or not at all?			
		A great deal	A good amount	A little	Not at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		20%	17%	32%	32%
National Registered Voters		21%	18%	29%	31%
Party Identification^	Democrat	23%	17%	35%	25%
	Republican	21%	20%	22%	37%
	Independent	19%	18%	31%	32%
Trump Supporters		19%	19%	25%	37%
Region	Northeast	24%	14%	30%	31%
	Midwest	18%	20%	34%	27%
	South	21%	17%	28%	33%
	West	17%	14%	36%	33%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	17%	15%	32%	36%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	17%	33%	28%
Education	Not college graduate	18%	15%	33%	33%
	College graduate	22%	18%	30%	29%
Race	White	16%	16%	33%	34%
	African American	41%	20%	22%	17%
	Latino	18%	15%	27%	40%
Education by Race	White - Not College Graduate	13%	14%	35%	38%
	White - College Graduate	19%	19%	32%	30%
	Non-White - Not College Graduate	25%	16%	32%	26%
	Non-White - College Graduate	29%	16%	27%	29%
Age	18 to 29	14%	18%	35%	33%
	30 to 44	26%	17%	31%	27%
	45 to 59	24%	15%	28%	33%
	60 or older	16%	16%	33%	35%
Age	Under 45	20%	17%	33%	30%
	45 or older	20%	15%	30%	34%
Gender	Men	25%	19%	28%	28%
	Women	15%	14%	35%	36%
U.S. Military Veteran	Yes	20%	16%	28%	36%
	No	20%	16%	33%	31%
Interview Type	Landline	19%	15%	32%	34%
	Cell phone	21%	17%	31%	30%

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^National Registered Voters: n=928 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

National Adults				
Do you watch or follow professional football a great deal, a good amount, a little, or not at all?				
	A great deal	A good amount	A little	Not at all
	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
October 24, 2017	20%	17%	32%	32%
October 2, 2017	18%	15%	32%	36%
September 2014	17%	22%	32%	29%
September 2011	22%	17%	28%	34%
November 2010	18%	15%	35%	32%
September 2010	20%	16%	32%	32%
December 2009	19%	15%	28%	38%
October 2009	21%	17%	28%	34%
August 2009	18%	13%	25%	44%

Marist Poll National Adults