



## Only 31% of College Students Believe the 2020 Election Will Be A Fair and Free Process

*Despite the distrust in the electoral system, 73% of college students plan to vote*

**October 13, 2020 (Seattle, WA)** - A new survey from BestColleges revealed that less than one in three (31%) college students between the ages of 18 and 23 believe that the upcoming 2020 presidential election will be fair and free. Click below for more information:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/survey-college-student-voters-2020-election/>

Among the 1,002 college students surveyed, 81% responded that they are registered to vote. Of those 812 students who are registered to vote, only 67% intend to vote in the 2020 presidential election. There are many factors contributing to this. For example, just over half (54%) of respondents feel their education has prepared them to cast an informed vote.

"It's striking that half of all college students feel as though they lack the necessary education to vote," said Melissa Venable, Ph.D., a college instructor and online education advisor for BestColleges. "This shows a lack of voter confidence, particularly when it comes to the actual process of voting."

In addition, only one in four (26%) college students reports trusting the U.S. political system, and only 36% feel represented in national elections. Furthermore, less than half (41%) of respondents feel the current presidential candidates represent their political beliefs.

These feelings of underrepresentation are even more prominent among racial and ethnic minority groups. Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx college students are 10% less likely to agree that there is a presidential candidate who represents their political beliefs. In line with these notions, the survey found that, compared to white students, all other racial and ethnic groups are 10% less likely to vote in the 2020 election.

"These demographic differences could reveal important disparities in civic education in the United States, either at the K-12 or collegiate level," Venable suggested. "It's especially disappointing to see that this problem is more pronounced among certain demographics of college students."

Although many college students are not confident in the electoral process or the 2020 presidential candidates, 73% of all respondents — both registered and unregistered — plan to vote.

"While this figure may seem encouraging, actual turnout could be significantly lower, as evident by the limited participation of youth voters in the 2016 election. Colleges around the country may need to think about how they can encourage students to become active participants in the voting process," Venable added.

## **Methodology**

The survey was conducted from 9/10/2020 - 9/15/2020. All respondents were fielded by Lucid, LLC. Survey participants included 1002 college students nationwide. Respondents were 18-23 years of age, attending a community college, trade/ technical school, or college/ university, and pursuing an associates, bachelors, or trade/ technical degree.

## **About BestColleges**

BestColleges empowers students to make smarter educational decisions and find schools that best fit their needs through proprietary research, user-friendly guides, and hundreds of unique college rankings. As a trusted education advisor, they also provide a wide array of college planning, financial aid, and career resources to help students realize life goals and overcome educational challenges as they prepare for careers after college.